

Italy

August 2022

Year to date, **58,251 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, an increase of 48% over last year. An additional estimated **167,704 refugees fleeing Ukraine** arrived in Italy by the end of August.

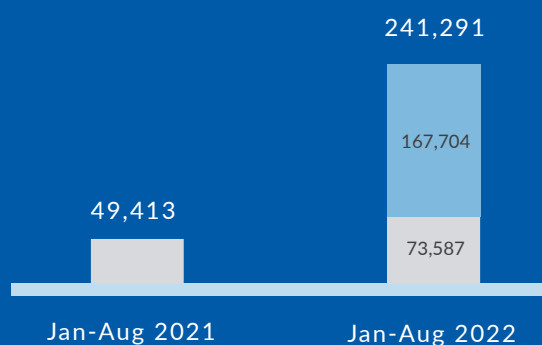
Safe Spaces opened in Lampedusa and Crotone to provide gender sensitive assistance to new arrivals. UNHCR also launched **new partnerships** to strengthen the response to gender-based violence in Italy.

In early August, UNHCR was on a **joint mission to Sudan with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, meeting with refugees, authorities and civil society to discuss the situation of persons fleeing the Horn of Africa.

TOTAL ARRIVALS

Arrivals to Italy

■ Other arrivals ■ People fleeing Ukr



Source: Ministry of Interior for arrivals by sea and from Ukraine. UNHCR estimates for arrivals by land and air.

KEY FIGURES (AUGUST 2022)

10,395

Arrivals from Ukraine to Italy by land, air and train (Source: Ministry of Interior, as of 31 August)

16,816

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different sites across the country (Source: Ministry of Interior)

7,302

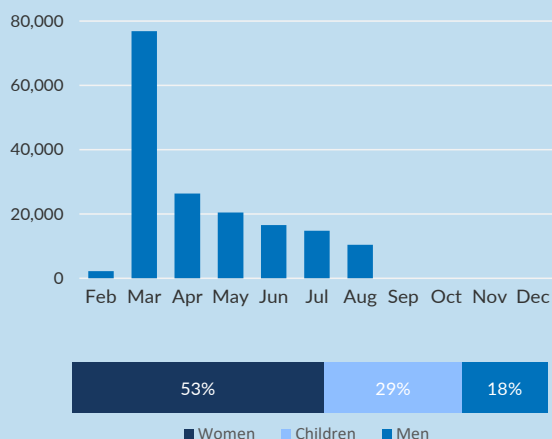
People fleeing Ukraine informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff at Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points (Source: UNHCR, as of 31 August)

14,138

Sea arrivals assisted and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation (Source: UNHCR)

UKRAINE

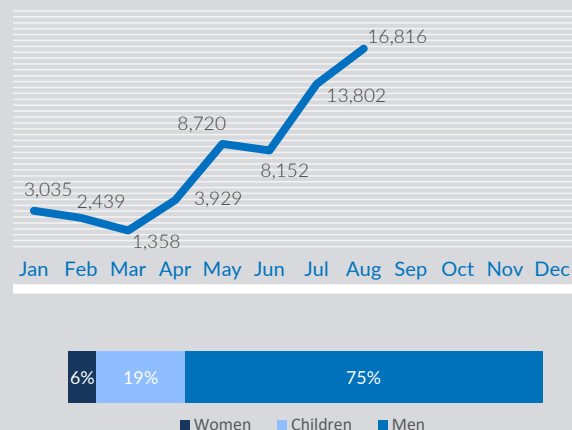
People fleeing Ukraine to Italy



Source: Ministry of Interior. Data refers to monthly air, land and train arrivals since 28 February 2022. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

SEA ARRIVALS

Sea arrivals to Italy



Source: Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals only. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

- **Access to territory (Ukraine emergency).** As of 31 August, it is estimated that **167,704 refugees from Ukraine arrived in Italy** since the start of the emergency in late February. An estimated 10,395 persons reached Italy in August, fleeing conflict-torn areas and often joining relatives or acquaintances who were already in Italy. New arrivals continued to predominantly travel by land, crossing into Italy from Slovenia and Austria, through the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points, respectively. **UNHCR staff were present at north-eastern Italy's land borders throughout the month of August**, ensuring that new arrivals from Ukraine were provided with information on relevant procedures to seek protection and supporting the authorities in identifying vulnerable persons requiring specific assistance, such as children travelling on their own, individuals who survived trauma, or persons with disabilities. By the end of August, **46,477 persons had been provided with basic information** about services and registration procedures by UNHCR staff working at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points. Furthermore, by the end of the month, **over 7,800 persons - both adults and children - had accessed the Blue Dots** at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points, receiving assistance by UNHCR staff, in close cooperation with UNICEF and in partnership with ARCI, D.i.RE., Save the Children and Stella Polare.¹ Since the start of the emergency, UNHCR also provided **individual counselling** on international protection, child protection, access to reception, health and other services **to almost 1,000 persons**, both remotely and through the toll-free helpline and walk-in desk in Rome, managed by partner ARCI.
- After their entry into the Italian territory, refugees from Ukraine generally travel to major Italian cities, such as Rome, Milan, Bologna and Naples. Throughout the country, they can access both private accommodation, including through family housing schemes, and the national reception system for asylum-seekers and refugees. Before entering the national reception system many are initially accommodated in facilities run by the Civil Protection, the national authority tasked with the overall coordination of the Ukraine emergency at country level. In August, UNHCR, in collaboration with partner Intersos and in close cooperation with the Civil Protection as well as the Red Cross, started a **profiling exercise of refugees from Ukraine who are temporarily accommodated in Civil Protection-run facilities in the Abruzzo region**. Through individual interviews with a relevant sample, the exercise aims at collecting information on the profiles of the Ukrainian refugee population in Italy and on their major concerns, to raise awareness on their priority needs and support the authorities in identifying adequate solutions.
- **Access to territory (other arrivals).** In August 2022, **16,816 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, outnumbering this year's previous monthly peak of 13,802 arrivals recorded in July. Year-to-date, 58,251 persons reached Italian shores, an increase of 48% and 201% compared to the same period in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Most sea arrivals disembarking in Italy in August originated from Tunisia followed by Egypt, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Syria. Some 46% of monthly arrivals departed from Libya, followed by Tunisia (31%), Türkiye (21%), Algeria (2%) Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus.² Notably, the second and third departures from Syria this year were recorded in August, relating to groups of Syrian nationals rescued close to Italian shores. **Departures from eastern Libya** continued to be



UNHCR staff provide information to refugees from Ukraine arriving by bus through land borders in north-eastern Italy. ©UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

¹ This [video](#) explains what Blue Dots are. See also the [Digital Blue Dot](#) page and the [Digital Blue Dot Country Hub for Italy](#) page

² For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

recorded in August, confirming the upward trend observed in recent months. Persons embarking from eastern Libya were mainly Egyptian nationals, including a high number of unaccompanied children, and often travelled aboard large fishing vessels. In August, some of these vessels were rescued by the Italian Coast Guard and, due to limited reception capacity near disembarkation sites, refugees and migrants on board were divided in different groups and disembarked in different locations. **UNHCR staff supported the authorities to facilitate the reunification of families that were separated aboard the rescued vessels.** This month, a group of 38 asylum-seekers who disembarked in Italy left to France in the first relocation to occur in the context of the new **Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism** implementing the political agreement reached during the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting of 10 June 2022.³

- Over 6,500 persons reaching Italian shores in August disembarked on the small island of **Lampedusa**. As a result of increasing arrivals, the island's hotspot continued to function beyond capacity. Following also **UNHCR's close consultations with the Ministry of Interior**, transfers of new arrivals out of the island picked up in early August, allowing swifter processing of new arrivals. However, with new arrivals peaking during the month, conditions at the port and at the hotspot remain concerning, severely impacting on protection standards for recently disembarked persons. In August, thanks to a partnership with the biggest national network of anti-violence centres D.i.RE., **UNHCR opened so-called Safe Spaces in Lampedusa and Crotone**, to provide new arrivals with specialized and gender-sensitive information on gender-based violence, while ensuring early identification of violent situations and timely referrals to anti-violence centres across Italy.



UNHCR staff support authorities receiving refugees and migrants who disembark from a rescue vessel at the Augusta port. ©UNHCR/Alessio Mamo

- In August, **almost 2,000 (non Ukrainian) land arrivals** were reported through the Italy-Slovenia border, bringing year-to-date arrivals from Slovenia to over 6,370. Persons travelling through South-East Europe mainly originate from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, though an increase of persons of Burundian origins was recently observed. Increasing land arrivals in August compared to previous months led to delays in the registration of asylum applications in the Trieste area and further **strained the already stretched capacity of the local reception system**, leaving many new arrivals without accommodation. **UNHCR raised the situation with authorities** at both local and central levels. With a view to transferring new arrivals from the northern Friuli Venezia-Giulia region, at the end of August the Ministry of Interior identified available places in reception facilities across the country that were originally meant to accommodate Ukrainian families and children.
- Integration.** The National Association of Domestic Workers Employers (Domina) launched **three free training courses for refugees in collaboration with UNHCR and ILO**, taking place in Genoa, Milan and Rome starting in September. The courses aim at training caregivers and babysitters, with a view to providing refugees with integration opportunities through employment.⁴
- Working with partners.** In August, UNHCR launched new partnerships with **Differenza Donna**, to improve identification and access to services for gender-based violence survivors in Latium, and with **CUAMM**, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in informal settlements in Apulia. A new project with **Arcigay Palermo** is also aimed at mitigating the risks of gender-based violence, with a particular focus

³ See also Ministry of Interior, [First relocations in France with the new Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism](#), 25 August 2022, and European Commission, [Migration and Asylum: Commission welcomes today's progress in the Council on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), 22 June 2022 (last access 1 September 2022). According to the 10 June 2022 agreement, approximately 10,000 refugees arriving in southern Europe, mainly as a result of search and rescue operations at sea, will be relocated to 18 Member States and three Associated States of the European Union.

⁴ See also UNHCR, [Lavoro domestico, avvio della formazione per rifugiati](#), 2 August 2022 (in Italian, last access 1 September 2022)

on LGBTIQ+ persons. CUAMM will work to also ensure timely access of LGBTIQ+ persons to legal, sexual health services mental health and psychosocial support in the Palermo area. Finally, a new partnership was launched with **Centro Astalli** in both Rome and Trento, to provide refugees with health services, counselling on sexual and reproductive health, legal assistance and integration services.

- **Fundraising.** In August, UNHCR raised **3 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 46.9 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR response to the Ukraine emergency this month were Banca d'Italia and Fondazione Roma Cares Onlus.



Photo: ©UNHCR/Béla Szandelszky

Joint mission to Sudan

From 2 to 5 August, UNHCR took part in a joint mission to Sudan together **with senior officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. The delegation met with refugees, local authorities and civil society organizations to discuss the situation of persons fleeing the Horn of Africa who found protection in Sudan, including refugees who fled the recent conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray.

UNHCR staff and Ministry officials were joined by the Italian Ambassador to Sudan and by Khartoum-based staff of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The **delegation visited the Um Rakuba and Tunaybah refugee camps**, which cumulatively accommodate over 40,000 refugees.

Thanks to support by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the so-called Migration Fund and the commitment of the Agency for Development Cooperation, **UNHCR provides life-saving assistance in eastern Sudan**, specifically aiming at improving refugees' living conditions by developing activities for young persons and building permanent and sustainable housing solutions.

The mission is the second to take place in the context of UNHCR's enhanced engagement with institutional stakeholders to jointly address the need for responses to global refugee crises.

A first mission took place in Moldova last May. A **"whole-of-society" engagement** is essential to comprehensively and sustainably respond to refugee situations across the globe and to promote sustainable development and peace, consistent with the principles enshrined in the Global Compact for Refugees.

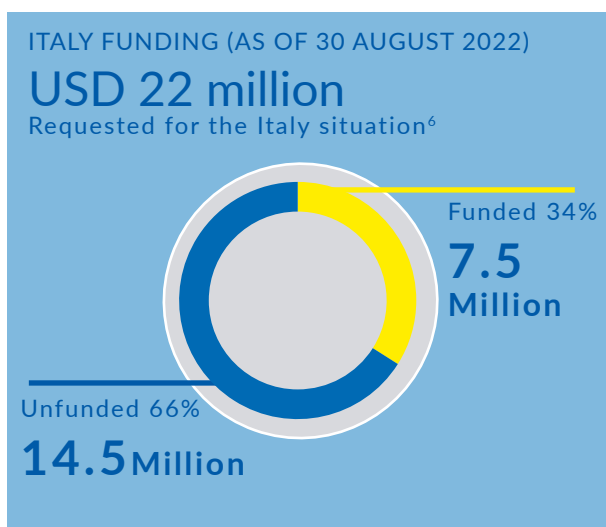
Read UNHCR's [press release](#) for more information.⁶



UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti and Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies, Minister Luigi Vignali, meet with local UNHCR staff at a refugee camp in Sudan. ©UNHCR

⁵ See also, *inter alia*, Vatican News, [UNHCR/MAECI joint mission brings aid to refugees in Sudan](#), 5 August 2022; Adnkronos, [Italy a 'key partner' for UNHCR](#), 3 August 2022; Adnkronos, [Vignali, UNHCR's Cardoletti in Sudan visit](#), 2 August 2022.

Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Italy operation:

Government of Italy (Presidency of the Council of Ministers) | Istituto Buddhista Italiano Soka Gakkai | Enel Cuore Onlus | Intesa Sanpaolo | Autostrade per l'Italia S.p.A. | European Union | Other private donors

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, including Italy, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.⁷

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LINKS

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⁷ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

⁸ Unearmarked contributions are without restrictions on their use, allowing UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk globally. Softly earmarked contributions allow UNHCR to use them across the range of countries, activities or themes in a given region or situation in accordance with identified priorities; softly earmarked contributions can potentially be used for the Italy operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region. Donors of unearmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Sweden; Norway; Private donors Spain; United Kingdom; Netherlands; Denmark; Private donors Japan; Germany; Private donors Republic of Korea; Japan; Private donors USA; France; Switzerland; Private donors Italy; Belgium; Ireland; Private donors Canada; Italy. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors Japan; Private donors Sweden; Germany; Private donors USA; Private donors Bahamas; United States of America; Private donors United Kingdom; Private donors Germany; United Kingdom; Private donors Italy; Private donors Netherlands; Private donors France; Private donors Spain; Private donors Switzerland; France; Norway; Private donors Australia; Private donors Czech Republic.