

# Italy

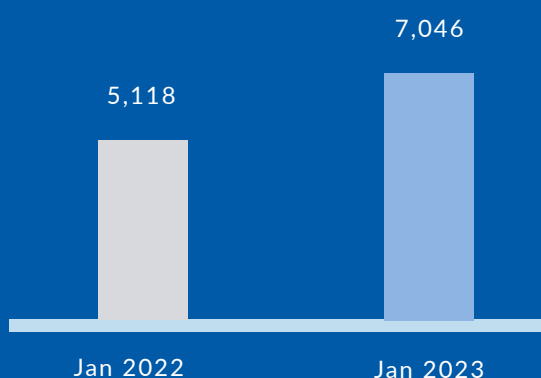
January 2023

In January, **4,963 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. They mostly originated from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Pakistan. One out of five was a child. Additional arrivals came **via land and air**.

In January, the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees**, Filippo Grandi, and the UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe were on **mission to Italy**, meeting with the Government and other counterparts.

The **Quality Unit** of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum was officially presented. It will monitor and support the quality of the decision making process of the Italian **Refugee Status Determination system**.

## TOTAL ARRIVALS



Source: Ministry of Interior for arrivals by sea. UNHCR estimates for arrivals by land and air. Please note that arrivals from Ukraine are not included in the chart above.

## KEY FIGURES

# 4,963

**Sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different sites across the country in January 2023. 4,555 (92% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

# 169,663

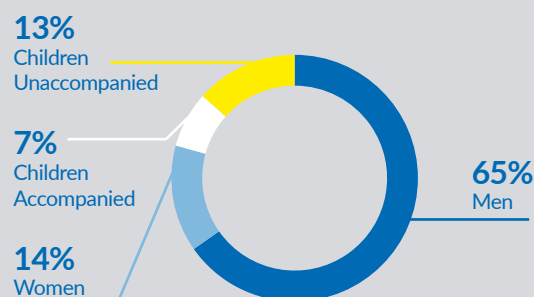
**Temporary protection applications** of people fleeing Ukraine as end of January 2023. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

## SEA ARRIVALS BY MONTH



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.

## SEA ARRIVALS BY GENDER AND AGE



Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly.

Source: Ministry of Interior. Please note that the chart refers to the latest cumulative data available.



## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In January, Italy continued to receive a significant number of refugees and migrants via the Mediterranean Sea. During this month, **4,963 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, an increase of 64% compared to the same period in 2022. January arrivals more than halved compared to December. People arriving by sea during the month mainly originated from **Côte d'Ivoire** (17%), followed by **Guinea** (13%) and **Pakistan** (8%). Ivorians and Guineans typically embarked in Tunisia, while Pakistanis mostly departed from Libya. The vast majority of people arriving in January disembarked in **Sicily** (76%), followed by Calabria, Liguria, Marche and other Italian regions. More than half of arrivals were adult men, while one out of five was a child.<sup>1</sup> In January, 61 persons resulted dead or missing along the Central Mediterranean route. UNHCR staff continued to be present at traditional **disembarkation sites**, and also attended SAR NGOs disembarkations in central Italy. In January, 4,555 persons, representing **92% of all new arrivals, received relevant information on procedures to seek protection in Italy** by UNHCR staff.
- Access to territory (land arrivals).** In addition to persons reaching shore in southern Italy, **around 890 land arrivals were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in January**. In the same period in 2022, less than 300 arrivals were recorded. Refugees and migrants arrived in Italy travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. **Reception facilities** in the Friuli-Venezia region reached full capacity in January, and some 100 persons were sleeping rough in formal and informal reception centers, reportedly waiting to receive an accommodation for two months. UNHCR staff regularly conducted **outreach activities** in the area, collecting testimonies from new arrivals and informing them on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.
- Ukraine situation.** As of 27 January, **169,663 refugees from Ukraine** had applied for temporary protection in Italy since the start of the emergency.<sup>2</sup> UNHCR conducted a **profiling exercise of Ukrainian refugees** in Rome, Milan and Naples, reaching around 1,500 Ukrainian refugees. The objective was to capture individual socio-economic profiles, possible integration pathways and individual intentions, as well as to have a clearer picture of the specific needs of the Ukrainian refugee population in the three cities. The aggregated data have been recently published and are accessible at this [link](#). Outreach activities, community engagement and assistance continue to be available through the digital component of the [Blue Dots](#) and through [Telegram](#).



UNHCR staff assisting an asylum seeker from Sudan in preparation of the evacuation flight to Italy. ©UNHCR/Mohamed Alalem

<sup>1</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

<sup>2</sup> For further information, see also Civil Protection, [Mappe e dashboards Ucraina](#) (last access 24 February 2023).



## Policy developments

- On 28 December, the Council of Ministers approved a **Law Decree on NGOs conducting search and rescue (SAR) operations**, establishing conditions for SAR operations under the coordination of Italian maritime authorities with penalties in case of non-compliance. The Decree **entered into force on 3 January 2023** and was shared with the Italian Parliament to be debated before its conversion into Law. Among other provisions, the decree includes a requirement to immediately request a port of disembarkation after first rescue, and to reach the port without delay, and a request to inform persons on board on the possibility to apply for international protection and collect relevant data to be made available to the authorities. The Representative was heard before the Committee for Constitutional Affairs and the Committee for Transports of the Chamber of Deputies. UNHCR underline that Decree should be interpreted in light of the [UNHCR's Legal considerations on the roles and responsibilities of States in relation to rescue at sea, non-refoulement, and access to asylum](#) published in 2022. Moreover, it advocates for States to address the possible limitation of NGOs' rescue capacity and welcomes the activities regarding info-provision and data collection, as long as they do not preclude comprehensive protection briefing after disembarkation and the expression of a desire to apply for asylum at a later stage.



## Asylum system

- On 24 January, the **Quality Unit** of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum was officially presented to the Presidents and members of all 41 Territorial Commissions for the Recognition of International Protection. The Quality Unit is a **tripartite body** composed by quality experts of the National Commission, UNHCR and EUAA, and it is in charge of **monitoring and supporting the quality of the decision making process of the Italian Refugee Status Determination (RSD) system**. During the event the Quality Unit presented the activities carried out in 2022 and those planned for 2023.



## External engagement

- In January, as part of UNHCR's regular engagement with Government and political counterparts, and in preparation of the High Commissioner's visit to Italy on 30-31 January, the Representative had meetings with counterparts at the Mol and at the MFA. In addition, she met Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Italy's development bank. The Representative discussed several issues with the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy to Italy and with the UK Ambassador to Italy. Concerning the MCO's engagement with the Holy See, the Representative had a meeting with Cardinal Gambetti, President of the Fratelli Tutti Foundation. As part of the broader open dialogue established, UNHCR staff met also with representatives of SAR NGOs active in the Central Mediterranean and with those of development CSOs.



UNHCR Representative for Italy meeting the US Embassy to Italy and IOM. ©UNHCR



## Fundraising

- In January, UNHCR raised **3.3 million Euros from private donors** in Italy. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR activities this month was Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai.

## UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe on mission to Italy

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees paid an official visit to Italy on 30 and 31 January.<sup>3</sup> Among institutional counterparts, the High Commissioner met the President of the Italian Republic, the [President of the Council of Ministers](#), the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Minister of Interior. The High Commissioner welcomed assurances by the new Italian Government that the country will maintain its commitment to protect and find durable solutions for refugees amid continued migratory pressure at sea and land borders. In addition, the High Commissioner agreed with the new Government on the need to strategically invest in humanitarian aid and development cooperation in origin and transit countries, and called for greater international support for countries of first asylum and transit to stabilize refugee populations and the communities that host them, ensuring adequate opportunities for economic and social growth. Linked to this, the High Commissioner had a meeting with the President of Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, the Italian development bank, and also met the President of Assolavoro, which offers labour inclusion pathways to refugees and asylum seekers. The High Commissioner had the opportunity to meet the Civil Protection Head of Department, and representatives of the [Italian civil society](#). Lastly, for what concerns [UNHCR engagement with the Holy See](#), the High Commissioner had a [private audience with the Pope](#), followed by [meetings](#) with the Secretary of State of the Holy See.

The agenda of the UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe also included field visits to Lampedusa, Milan and Turin. In Lampedusa, the Director met with relevant institutions and counterparts. In Milan,

besides institutional meetings, time was dedicated to the Welcome project and the Community Outreach Volunteers programme, whose main partners and stakeholders were met. In Turin, the focus was devoted to the experience of the Multifunctional centre that UNHCR contributed to launch in 2022, while the Director also met with some of the refugee-led organizations from the PartecipAzione project.

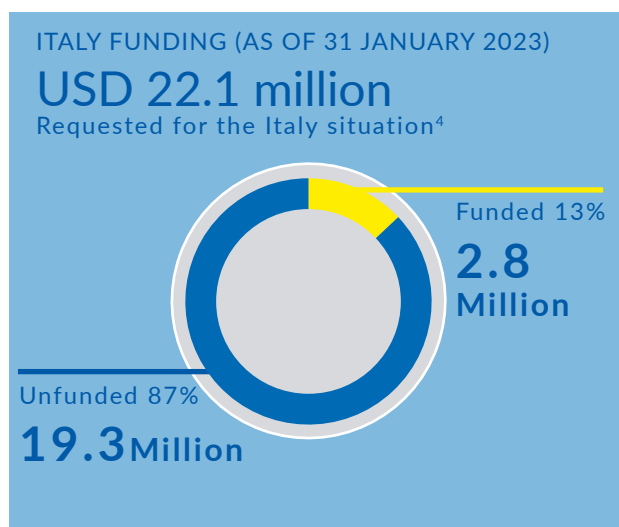


The Italian President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella, meets the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. @Quirinale



The Pope meets the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe and UNHCR Representative for Italy. @Holy See

<sup>3</sup> See also UNHCR, [L'Alto Commissario per i rifugiati Filippo Grandi in sintonia con l'Italia per il suo impegno volto a proteggere e trovare soluzioni per i rifugiati](#), 1 February 2023 (in Italian, last access 22 February 2023).

**Financial information**

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

**European Union**

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, including Italy, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>5</sup>

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**LINKS**

[UNHCR data portal](#) - [UNHCR Italy](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Global Focus](#)

<sup>4</sup> Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

<sup>5</sup> 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; Denmark; Netherlands; Germany; Switzerland; Belgium; Ireland. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors USA.