

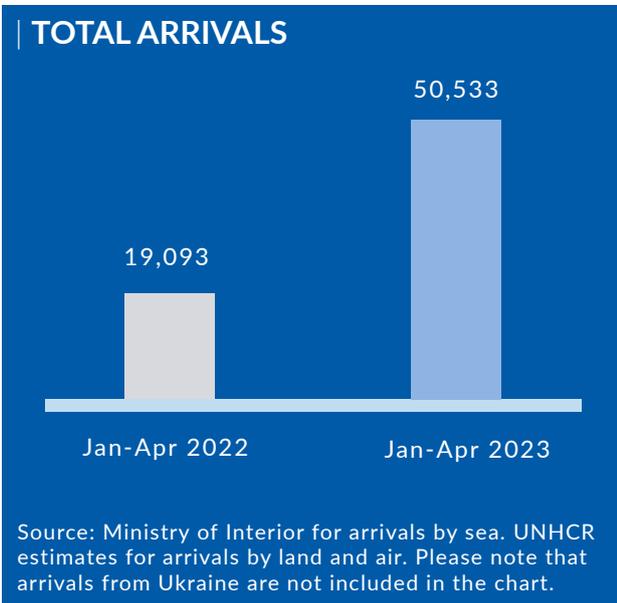
Italy

April 2023

In April, **14,506 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and Guinea. 17% were children. Additional arrivals came **via land and air**.

The fifth edition of the **UNICORE – University Corridors for Refugees project** was launched. 34 Universities will give 60 refugees the opportunity to continue their studies in Italy.

UNHCR Italy organized a series of three **webinars** on the topic of **'protection of people with disabilities in forced displacement'** aimed at strengthening awareness among actors on disabilities.



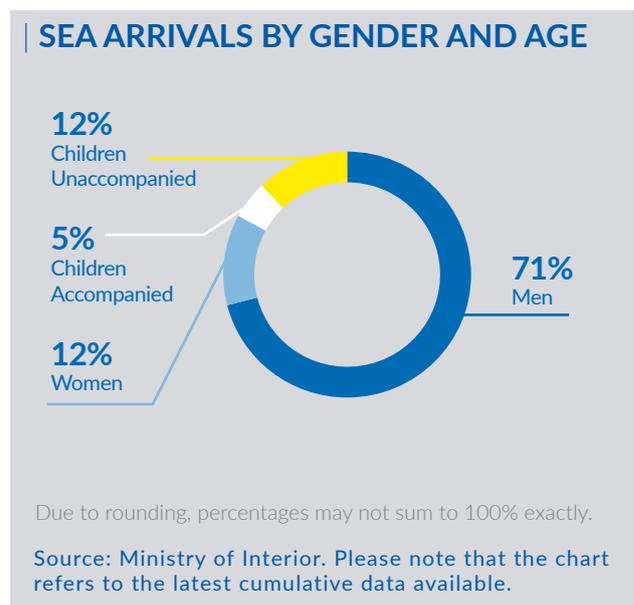
KEY FIGURES

42,201

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-April 2023. 34,853 (83% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

175,107

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



Policy developments

- **Declaration of State of Emergency.** On 11 April, the Council of Ministers declared the state of emergency in relation to the exceptional increase in flows of people entering the national territory via the Mediterranean routes. The declaration applies to the whole national territory and will last for six months. The Civil Protection is entrusted to coordinate the implementation of a wide list of interventions, including the decongestion of the Lampedusa hotspot and the creation of new facilities dedicated to both reception, identification and return of those not found to be in need of protection. The Government appointed Prefect Valenti as Commissioner for the Emergency. He is already head of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Minister of Interior. A budget of five million euros was also approved for the foreseen activities.¹
- **Conversion into law of the Temporary Protection measures for people fleeing Ukraine.** On 18 April, the Senate approved the conversion of the decree 16/2023 into law. Some of the main provisions included in the decree relate to: i) the extension of reception and support measures for people fleeing Ukraine until 31 December 2023; ii) the extension of permits of stay for Temporary Protection expiring on 4 March until 31 December 2023; iii) the extension of a limited number of staff resources for a definite period of time for the National Commission; iv) the extension of the declaration of 'international state of emergency' until 31 December 2023, which allows the Civil Protection to coordinate the implementation of activities in support of the Ukrainian population providing humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, as well as in neighbouring countries; v) the extension of the possibility for Ukrainian health and socio-sanitary professionals living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 to work in Italy by submitting the EQPR until 31 December 2023 and without the need to undergo through a process of recognition of their academic qualifications.²

Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In April, Italy continued to receive a significant number of refugees and migrants via the Mediterranean Sea. During the month, **14,506 persons reached the shores in Italy** - an increase of 9% compared to March - confirming an upward trend since the beginning of the year. New arrivals were mainly originating from **Côte d'Ivoire** (15%), **Egypt** (15%) and **Guinea** (13%). Other nationalities which recorded high numbers of sea arrivals were Bangladeshi, Tunisian and Syrian. In April, 57% of migrants and refugees departed from **Tunisia** (230 disembarkations), 41% from **Libya** (33 disembarkations) and around 2% from Türkiye. 28% of new arrivals recorded in April were **children and women**. As in previous months, several shipwrecks occurred in the Mediterranean Sea. 392 **people died or went missing** along the Central Mediterranean route, and 879 since the beginning of the year. More than 9,000 people, amounting to 62% of the total, were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search And Rescue (SAR) operations**.³ Conditions in the



¹ For further information, please refer to the [Gazzetta Ufficiale](#) website.

² For further information, please refer to the [Gazzetta Ufficiale](#) website.

³ For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

Lampedusa hotspot remained dire during the month, with peaks of more than 3,000 persons. During the reporting period, more than **12,500 people** (around 82% of monthly sea arrivals) were assisted and **informed about asylum procedures** by UNHCR staff following disembarkation. In view of the increased flows of arrivals and in light of the needs assessment recently conducted, UNHCR Italy is **increasing operational activities** in southern regions such as Sicily, including Lampedusa, and Calabria.

- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** In addition to arrivals via sea, **some 980 land arrivals were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in April**. Since the beginning of the year, more than 3,600 new arrivals were reported in this area. Those travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. Many reported about ill-treatments received along the Balkan route. In addition, the arrival of **Kurdish families** originating from the areas affected by the earthquake in Türkiye continued to be recorded in April. Several of them reported to be heading towards Germany. **Reception issues** continued affecting land arrivals during the month, in both the Trieste and the Gorizia province. Despite some transfers to other Italian regions, dozens of people were reportedly sleeping rough in informal settings. UNHCR staff continued to conduct **outreach activities**, collecting testimonies from new arrivals and informing them on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.
- **Ukraine situation.** As of 21 April, **175,107 refugees from Ukraine** had applied for temporary protection in Italy since the start of the emergency.⁴ UNHCR has recently published a [report](#) analysing the protection of Ukrainian refugees at European level.



Resettlement and complementary pathways

- On 4 April, the fifth edition of the **UNICORE – University Corridors for Refugees project** was launched. 34 different Universities will participate in this edition giving the opportunity to **60 refugees**, chosen on the basis of their academic results and motivation, **to receive scholarships and continue their university studies in Italy**.⁵ The project is realized in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli, Banca Etica, Gandhi Charity and a network of local partners. In the last five years, UNICORE has offered more than 200 scholarships. The [story of a student](#) participating in the programme was featured on UNHCR Youtube site.



Community-based protection

- **Legal training.** On 19 April, UNHCR celebrated the closing session of the 2nd edition of the [Know Your Rights project](#), realized in cooperation with the partner DLA Piper. Know Your Rights, firstly implemented in Milan in the autumn of 2022, was replicated in Rome between March and April 2023. Up to 25 asylum seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of other types of protection participated in **eight training sessions** on various topics, ranging from access to education to labour law, family unity, access to housing and health care. Participants' feedback on the course was very positive and



⁴ For further information, see also Civil Protection, [Mappe e dashboards Ucraina](#).

⁵ See also UNHCR, [Progetto UNICORE \(university corridors for refugees\)](#), al via la quinta edizione, 4 April 2023 (in italian).

they agreed to **disseminate the information** with communities. UNHCR will explore further opportunities of collaboration with DLA Piper.

- Protection training.** UNHCR Italy organized a series of three **webinars on the 'protection of people with disabilities in forced displacement'**, in collaboration with CBM Italia - Christian Blind Mission, LEDHA - Lega per i diritti delle persone con disabilità, Special Olympics, Disabled Peoples' International and Rete Italiana Disabilità e Sviluppo.⁶ The webinars were designed in line with the UNHCR training package on the issue and aim at strengthening actors' awareness on disabilities to i) **recognize protection concerns and capacities** of people under the UNHCR mandate, and ii) apply the **principles** reflected in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UNHCR Guidance on Working with Persons with Disabilities. UNHCR is also working on the design of immediate and long-term strategies to **mitigate protection risks** and promote the **inclusion of persons with disabilities** in its programming. The learning path is addressed to the staff working in reception facilities and to other key actors involved in the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as to UNHCR partners.



Rafforzare la tutela delle persone con disabilità nel contesto delle migrazioni forzate

Modulo 1
19 aprile
14.30-16.00
Comprendere la disabilità

Modulo 2
17 maggio
14.30-16.00
La tutela delle persone rifugiate, richiedenti asilo e apoliti con disabilità secondo la normativa italiana e nel contesto del Sistema di protezione e di accoglienza

Modulo 3
15 giugno
14.30-16.00
Strategie per promuovere l'inclusione delle persone rifugiate, richiedenti asilo e apoliti con disabilità

Registrati online

Flyer of the webinar on protection of people with disabilities in forced displacement. ©UNHCR

Fundraising

- In April, UNHCR raised **2.2 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 13.3 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR activities this month were COOP, Fater, Fondazione Deloitte, Fondazione EOS, Unicredit Foundation.

External engagement

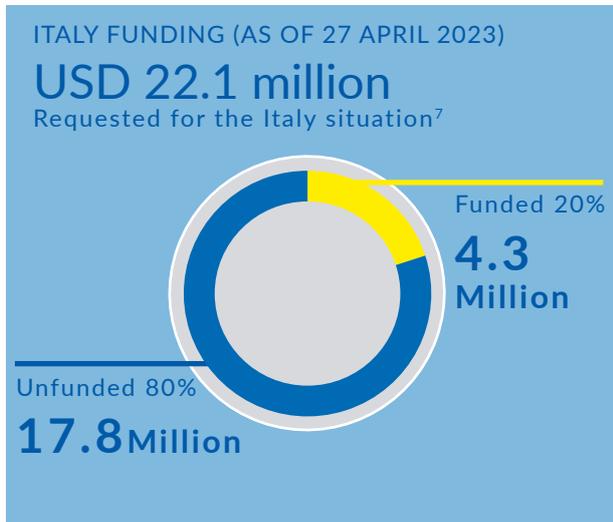
- In April, the Representative visited the south of Italy, in particular Lampedusa and other locations in Sicily and Calabria, together with Prefect Valenti, representative of the Ministry of Interior, to assess needs in light of the increased flows of sea arrivals.



⁶ See also UNHCR, *Rafforzare la tutela delle persone con disabilità nei contesti di migrazioni forzate*, 19 April 2023 (in Italian).



Financial information



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

L'Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | 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.⁸

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LINKS

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

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; Denmark; Netherlands; Germany; Switzerland; Belgium; Ireland. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors Canada; private donors Sweden.