

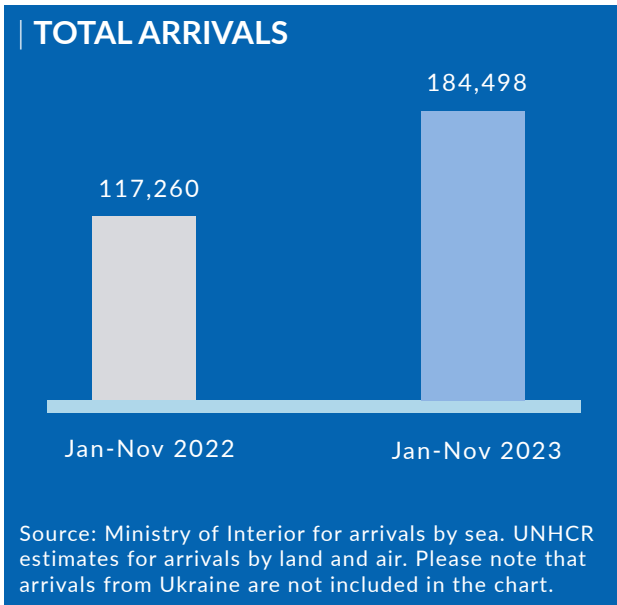
# Italy

## November 2023

In November, **8,317 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt and Pakistan. 18% were children. Additional arrivals reached Italy **via land and air**.

On **World Children's Day**, UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino recalled that the protection of children, especially those who arrive in Italy unaccompanied, must remain an absolute priority.

On 15-16 November, the **Director of UNHCR's Regional Office for Europe** visited Turin, engaging with various authorities and partners, notably to discuss integration initiatives and durable solutions.



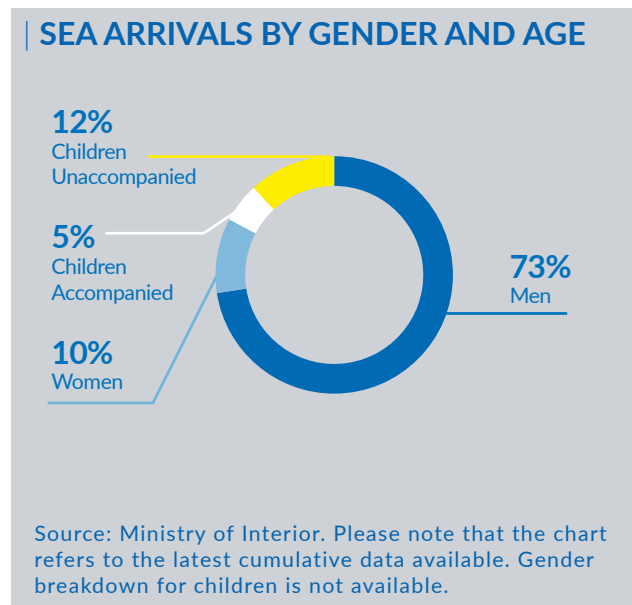
### KEY FIGURES

# 152,415

**Sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-November 2023. 132,332 (87% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

# 183,781

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





## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In November, the number of refugees and migrants arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea decreased compared to October, likely due to adverse weather conditions. During the month, **8,317 people reached the Italian shores**, in 129 disembarkations, a 19% decrease compared to the previous month. Among total arrivals, **18% were children**. New arrivals mainly originated from **Bangladesh** (23%), the **Syrian Arab Republic** (17%), **Egypt** and **Pakistan** (8% each). Other nationalities were Sudanese (7%), Guineans and Gambians (5% each), Malians (4%) and Eritreans and Tunisians (3% each). The vast majority departed from Libya, accounting for around 64% of monthly arrivals (compared to 69% in October), followed by 34% from Tunisia (compared to 18% in October) and 2% from Türkiye (compared to 12% in October). Almost 3,993 people (48% of the total arrivals) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search And Rescue (SAR) operations**.
- In November, the situation at the **Lampedusa hotspot** remained under control and within the centre's maximum reception capacity. Rapid transfers of persons within 48 hours were carried out during the month. In November, three loss-of-life situations occurred at sea. On 10 and 11 November, the incidents involved two boats departing from Sfax, with only Tunisian nationals on board. The first boat overturned, causing two people to fall into the sea and go missing, including an adult and an accompanied child, while in the second incident, an adult man died during rescue operations by the *Guardia di Finanza* off the coast of Lampedusa. On 21 November, an iron boat also capsized a few meters from the shore in Lampedusa. Despite rescue efforts, a newborn baby girl died and eight people, including two small children, went missing. From January to November 2023, nearly **1,700 people have died or gone missing** in the Central Mediterranean due to several shipwrecks.<sup>1</sup>
- Access to territory (land arrivals). Some 1,300 land arrivals were also intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in November.** Since the beginning of 2023, more than 11,000 new arrivals were reported in this area. Those travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. New arrivals reported **systematic ill-treatment and pushbacks** by the Bulgarian, Croatian and Turkish Police. UNHCR staff continued to conduct outreach activities, collecting testimonies and informing new arrivals on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.



## Integration

- On 9 November, UNHCR, and ActionAid inaugurated the **Spazio Comune** in Naples, a multifunctional center dedicated to promoting the integration and inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in their host community.<sup>2</sup> The Spazio Comune is the result of a national UNHCR programme involving six Italian municipalities - Bari, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin - which, jointly with UNHCR, developed and signed the **Carta per l'integrazione dei rifugiati** in February 2022, pledging to make the cities welcoming and friendly for asylum seekers and refugees. The Spazio Comune consolidates essential integration services in one place, acting as a hub for citizens, associations, and institutions like the Prefecture, Police Headquarters, and ASL. The UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti attended the inauguration, along with the Councillor for Social Policies, the Councillor for Municipal Police and Legality, the Councilor for Immigrant Communities, the Welfare Area Manager and the President of the Immigrants' Council of the Municipality of Naples. The event also showcased arts, music and dance.



Inauguration of the Spazio Comune in Naples by UNHCR and ActionAid with the main local institutions. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

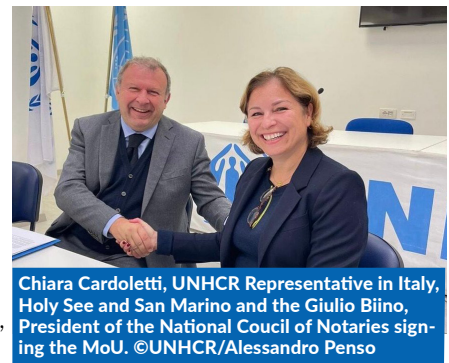
<sup>1</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

<sup>2</sup> See also, UNHCR, [Inaugurato oggi lo Spazio Comune di Napoli](#), 9 November 2023.

- On 21 and 22 November, the **City to City event** took place in Turin and Milan, along with the participation of other Italian municipalities. The event aimed to strengthen collaboration between cities on the inclusion of refugees by sharing and exchanging positive experiences, services and tools developed in the territories on the topics of reception, post-reception housing solutions, access to local welfare, rapid acquisition of documents, the promotion of health, empowerment and participation of refugees, social cohesion and sustainability.<sup>3</sup> The UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti attended the event, along with the councillors and managers of the participating cities, the Mayor of Turin, Stefano Lo Russo, the Central Director for Migration Policies - Authority of *Fondo Asilo Migrazione e Integrazione* of the Ministry of the Interior, Deputy Head of Department, Prefect Maria Forte, the Mayor of Prato and ANCI Migration Delegate, Matteo Biffoni, and Maxime Nicolas David Therien, Canadian Consul in Milan.



- On 30 November, a **Memorandum for the social and economic integration of refugees in Italy and the protection of their fundamental rights** was signed in Rome by Giulio Biino, President of the **National Council of Notaries**, and the UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti.<sup>3</sup> The Memorandum aims to provide advisory services in various fields, disseminate multilingual information material on the main areas in which Italian notaries can assist refugees in their path towards social and economic integration, and to carry out joint communication initiatives, contributing to the implementation of the **Global Compact on Refugees** in Italy. Their pledge will also be presented by the Italian delegation at the **Global Refugee Forum** in Geneva from 13 to 15 December.



## Gender-based violence

- On 15 November, as part of UNHCR's strategy to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) and the 16 Days of Activism, the UNHCR Office in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino hosted an event at *Spazio Europa* entitled "**Protecting people fleeing gender-based violence: challenges and responses in Italy**". The event was organised with *Centro Astalli*, *Differenza Donna*, D.i.Re and LHIVE, with the support of Enel Cuore, the non-profit organisation of the Enel and the Mediobanca Groups. The event, which also brought together various institutions, NGOs and service providers, aimed to develop recommendations for GBV awareness-raising, advocacy and policymaking with a focus on refugees.



## Training

- On 10 November, 70 experts attended the **first national meeting of UNHCR-designated International Protection and Human Rights Experts** in Rome. The event brought together experts working in Territorial Commissions responsible for the first instance asylum procedure, and provided a space for discussion and exchange of best practices. During the meeting, training sessions on topics relevant to the refugee status determination procedure were also

<sup>3</sup>See also, UNHCR, *CITY TO CITY: un laboratorio di inclusione dei rifugiati nelle città italiane*, 21 November 2023; UNHCR, *Notariato italiano e UNHCR firmato memorandum per inclusione sociale ed economica dei rifugiati in Italia*, 30 November 2023.

- given by UNHCR staff and members of civil society. Attendees included the President of the National Commission for Asylum, Prefect Ordine, and the UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti.
- On 27 November, UNHCR conducted an **in-person training for ARCI cultural mediators** (UNHCR partner). The training covered mediation within different contexts such as procedures for entering the territory, information and identification of persons with specific needs as well as information on useful “communication with communities” tools and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

## External engagement

- **International Days.** On **World Children’s Day**, 20 November, UNHCR Representative, in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, highlighted that in 2022, 20,222 children arrived in Italy by sea, 70 per cent unaccompanied. She emphasized the importance of prioritizing their needs and amplifying their voices, stressing the necessity of tailored facilities.<sup>4</sup> On the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, 25 November, Chiara Cardoletti spoke on GBV affecting refugee and asylum-seekers, emphasizing the need for cooperation to bolster responses.<sup>4</sup>
- On 15 November, in light of Italy's exposure to migratory flows due to conflicts and the climate crisis, the UNHCR Office in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino submitted a [note](#) to the Parliament concerning **Budget Law 2024 (no. 926)**. The note stressed the crucial need for investing in staff recruitment and training to ensure efficiency of Territorial Commissions and uphold quality standards in the asylum system. It emphasized allocating resources for facilities dedicated to unaccompanied children, boosting funding for the Reception and Integration System (SAI), expanding projects for foreign children and persons with specific needs and providing resources for managing first reception facilities and supporting the National Integration Plan for international protection beneficiaries.
- On 29 November, the UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, spoke at a [hearing](#) in the Senate of the Republic on the conversion of the **Law Decree of 15 November 2023 into Law no. 936**, concerning urgent provisions for the **Mattei Plan**. She stressed the importance of the Mattei Plan in tackling root causes of forced migration, supporting host countries, and providing protection and solutions from the earliest stages, to create viable alternatives and reduce perilous journeys. She also reiterated UNHCR's readiness to participate in the Plan's Steering Committee, providing support and expertise, notably on effective migration management and combating human trafficking.<sup>4</sup>

### High-level mission to Italy

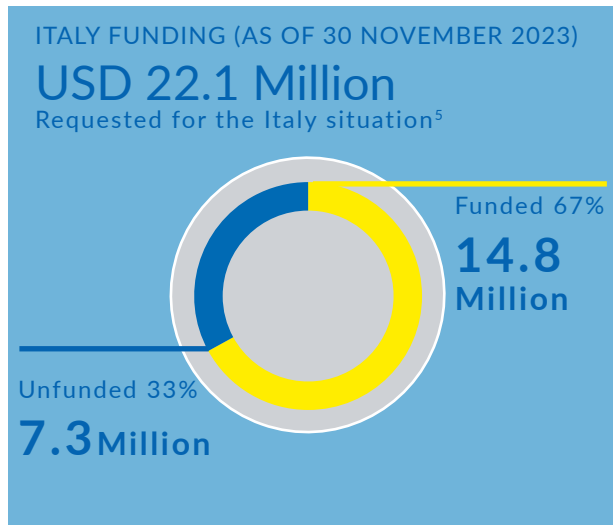
The **UNHCR Director the Bureau for Europe** visited Turin on 15-16 November, meeting the new Prefect, Donato Giovanni Cafagna, to address challenges faced by the Prefecture. Discussions covered the lack of facilities for unaccompanied children in Piedmont, assistance to people in transit to France, and reception of asylum-seekers in Prefecture-managed facilities. Philippe Leclerc toured the *Spazio Comune* premise and engaged with the **Union of Industrialists**. Representatives from Freudenberg, ITT, employed refugees, and *Diaconia Valdese*, UNHCR's partner for the University Corridors, discussed refugee integration challenges and the **Welcome project's** role in creating local business ties.



UNHCR Director for Europe visiting the Spazio Comune in Turin.  
 ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

<sup>4</sup> See also, [Twitter post from Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino](#); [Twitter post from Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino](#); [Twitter post from Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino](#).

 **Financial information**



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

**Italy | private donors in Italy | USA for UNHCR | European Union**

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>6</sup>

 **Fundraising**

In November, UNHCR raised **2.2 million euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 29.1 million euros since the beginning of the year.

In the same month, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/Directorate General for Development Cooperation provided **6.5 million euros** to UNHCR across three operations: **2 million euros** for the assistance of people in need of international protection affected by the earthquakes **in Türkiye**, **1.5 million euros** for the multi-sectoral emergency assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers **in Niger's** Maradi region, **3 million euros** for the "Protection Response for Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities **in Burkina Faso**" initiative.

Additionally, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/Directorate General for Political Affairs contributed **511,500 euros** to the UNHCR project "Capacity-Sharing Programme on the Protection of Syrian Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons, Challenges in Situations of Mixed Movements, and the Achievement of Durable Solutions", implemented in partnership with the [Sanremo International Institute of Humanitarian Law](#).

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

<sup>5</sup> Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

<sup>6</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, Private donors Spain, United Kingdom, Private donors Japan, The Netherlands, Denmark, France, Private donors Republic of Korea, Germany, Switzerland, Private donors Italy, Private donors Sweden, Belgium, Ireland, Private donors USA.