

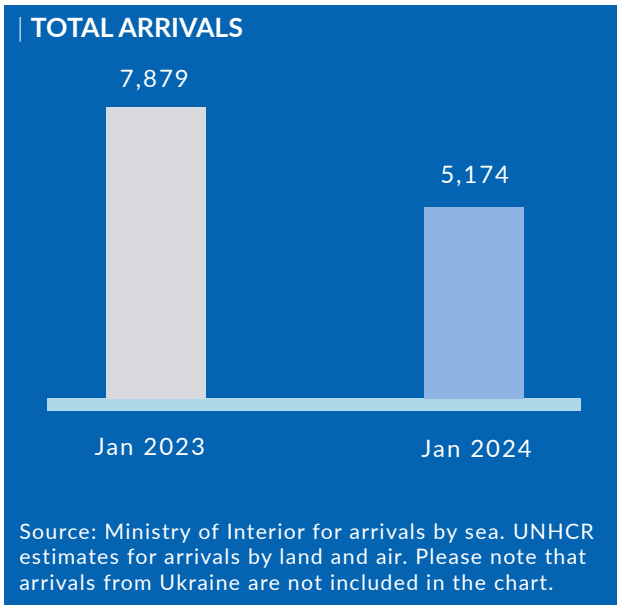
# Italy

## January 2024

In January, **2,258 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (26%), Tunisia (22%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (18%). **18 per cent were children**. Additional arrivals reached Italy via land and air.

On 29-30 January, the **Italy-Africa Summit** took place in Rome in which UNHCR AHC-O participated to present and advocate for the **route-based approach**, providing protection and solutions for refugees and migrants *en route*.

On 25 January, in cooperation with the Adecco Foundation, the **Welcome-in-one-click** platform was launched, facilitating online/digital access to employment and free vocational training opportunities for refugees.



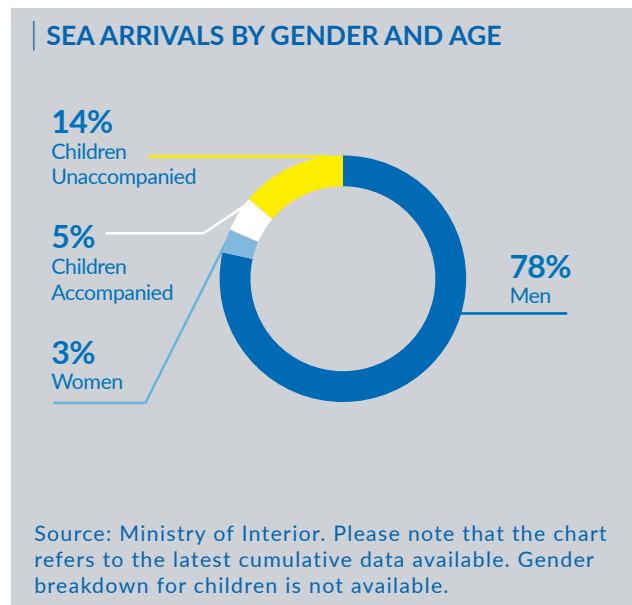
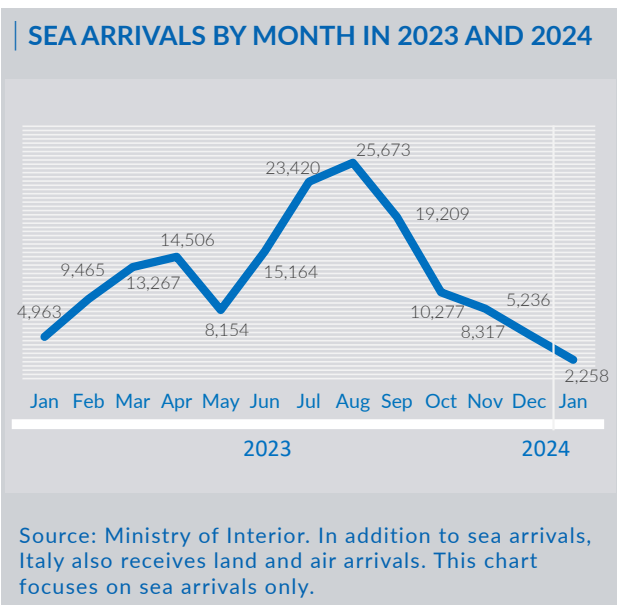
### KEY FIGURES

# 2,258

**Sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January. 1,671 (74%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

# 185,220

**Temporary protection applications** of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of January 2024. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In January, the number of refugees and migrants arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea continued to decrease. During the month, **2,258 people reached the Italian shores** in 62 disembarkations, a 55 per cent decrease compared to December. Among total arrivals, **18 per cent were children**. New arrivals mainly originated from **Bangladesh** (26%, 13% in December), followed by **Tunisia** (22%, 16% in December) and the **Syrian Arab Republic** (18%, 13% in December). Other nationalities were from Egyptians (9%), Pakistanis (6%), Sudanese (5%), Guineans and Gambians (3% each), Ethiopians, Eritreans and Moroccans (2% each). In January, similarly to the previous month, almost two third of sea crossings departed from Tunisia (52%), while 48 per cent originated from Libya. Almost two third (63%, 1,432 people) of the people arriving by sea were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search And Rescue (SAR)** operations. Throughout January, favourable weather conditions facilitated the swift transfer of new arrivals off the island of Lampedusa, leaving the island's hotspot empty for long periods. On 26 January, a shipwreck occurred off the coast of Agrigento as a boat capsized, resulting in the loss of life of a Tunisian man while 60 other people onboard were rescued. Additionally, two boats, one originating from Tunisia and the other from Libya en route to Italy, carrying approximately 70 people, went missing in January. Despite extensive joint SAR efforts by the Italian and Maltese Coast Guards and FRONTEX. The vessels and their passengers remain missing. In January, tragically, **nearly 110 people have died or gone missing in the Central Mediterranean** due to several shipwrecks and incidents at sea, compared to nearly 55 in the same period in 2022.<sup>1</sup>
- Access to territory (land arrivals).** In January, some **680 people** arrived by land were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, Türkiye, the Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco and Pakistan**. The arrivals reported **systematic ill-treatment and pushbacks** by the Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Slovenian and Turkish Police. UNHCR staff continued to conduct outreach activities, collecting testimonies, and informing them on their rights and how to apply for international protection in Italy.



## Resettlement and complementary pathways

- On 18 January, the fourth meeting of the **Working Group (WG) on Labor Pathways** took place at UNHCR's premises in Italy. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of the Interior (Mol), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA), Ministry of Labor (MoL), *Caritas Italiana*, *Diaconia Valdese*, *Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigianato e della Piccola e Media Impresa*, Talent Beyond Boundaries, Federation of Protestant Churches, Refugee Welcome, *Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo*, Danish Refugee Council, International Chamber of Commerce and Pathways International. The focus was on policy updates related to the implementation of **Law 50/2023**, exploring opportunities both within the ordinary quota (specific for refugees) and an outside quota for pathways following training in countries of departure.
- On 25 January, the **Welcome-in-one-click** platform,<sup>2</sup> created by UNHCR, in cooperation with the **Adecco Foundation**, to facilitate the integration of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people into the Italian labour market, was launched. The new platform is closely linked to the **Welcome. Working for refugee integration** programme established by UNHCR in 2017, which has involved more than 700 companies to date, facilitating more than 30,000 opportunities of labour inclusion. As per the latest available data, there are over 450,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Italy, for whom employment is a crucial tool for successful integration, independence, and economic contribution.



Welcome-in-one-click is a tool to facilitate pathways to labour inclusion created within the Welcome programme. ©UNHCR/M. Ciambelli

<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, [Rifugiati: opportunità di impiego a portata di click](#), 25 January 2024; Chiara Cardoletti's [tweet](#) on X; UNHCR Italy's [tweet](#) on X.

The [Welcome-in-one-click platform](#) aims to promote and expand employment opportunities for all refugees by creating a unified digital platform for labour inclusion. This platform will enhance access to employment and vocational training opportunities also by fostering stronger partnerships between Italian companies and civil society organisations (CSOs), underscoring the significance of implementing a **whole-of-society approach**. The Secretary General of Adecco Foundation, Francesco Reale, commented: "An initiative that brings together 7 years of work alongside UNHCR on the inclusion of refugees and the valorisation of talents and diversity in companies. This initiative is capable of giving life to a digital space. Our hope is that this space can contribute to the creation of a place, this time real, that is more welcoming and equitable." Companies, refugees, asylum seekers and associations that are part of the [WelcomeNet network](#) or that are interested, can register on the Welcome-in-one-click platform, where users can create online CVs, share job opportunities, and engage in inclusion processes. Partner organizations supporting this positive initiative include **Associazione Italiana per la Direzione del Personale**, **Assolavoro**, **Confindustria** and **Global Compact Italia**, with **Accenture** and the **Intesa San Paolo Fondo Beneficienza** contributing to the platform's realization.

### Asylum system

- The English version of the joint guidelines by UNHCR and the National Commission for the Right to Asylum on "The Identification of victims of trafficking among applicants for international protection and referral procedures" has been finalized and is now accessible on the UNHCR Italy website.
- On 16 January, the last of the seven seminars of the Anti-trafficking action system "A.s.Tr.a" took place in Catanzaro. They aim to promote and strengthen coordination systems between actors responsible for the prevention, protection and response to trafficking in human beings and serious labour exploitation. UNHCR facilitated the session on the interaction between the asylum procedure and anti-trafficking programmes. The event was attended by police officers and anti-trafficking entities`

### Specific needs

- Progress was made in the implementation of the [Vademecum for the identification, referral and care of persons living with vulnerabilities](#) through workshops organized by central WGs in Rome and Crotona. Chaired by the Ministry of Interior with UNHCR support, participants included relevant local authorities, healthcare providers, social services, and civil society organizations. Discussions highlighted gaps in identifying, referring, and caring for people with specific needs, while also recognizing existing good practices and suggesting improvements. Conclusions from these sessions will guide the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which will be shared with local WGs for local completion. In February, workshops organized by the WGs in Agrigento and Milan are scheduled to take place.

## MOSAICO DI UNA FUGA - UNHCR Podcast

On 16 January, in the ongoing efforts to shed light on the different experiences of refugees and migrants, UNHCR released the podcast *Mosaico di una fuga* (Mosaic of a flight).<sup>3</sup> The podcast consists of eight episodes, each delving into the personal journeys of people seeking refuge in Italy, offering a poignant glimpse into the human aspect of displacement. Alessandro Gassmann, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, guides listeners through these compelling narratives, amplifying the voices of the refugees, asylum seekers and statelessness people.

The podcast is [available](#) on the major free audio platforms: Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Spreaker, Google Podcasts.



## Policy developments

- On 9 January, the UNHCR Representative participated in an **informal hearing before the Chamber of Deputies**, as part of the examination of [Law 1620](#), which includes provisions regarding "the ratification and implementation of the Protocol between the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Albania on cooperation in migration matters". UNHCR placed emphasis on the importance of upholding international obligations toward asylum seekers and refugees by States, notably the principle of *non-refoulement* and their responsibility to assess the asylum claims. Other concerns which would require further clarification and regulation include screening procedures particularly of vulnerable people, asylum procedures, right to defence, access to solutions and transfers, and the risks linked to the implementation of the Protocol, for instance, multiple transfers. [Here](#), the full hearing document.

## External engagement

- On 8 January, the UNHCR Representative participated in the [yearly address delivered by the Pope](#) to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See. The speech outlined the Holy See's strategic vision for 2024. Key highlights, which also resonate with UNHCR's strategy and position, encompassed the focus on the Mediterranean region, particularly on SAR operations at sea and the challenges encountered by unaccompanied children. It emphasized the rights to seek asylum and the right not to migrate, while acknowledging the link between climate change and forced migration, as well as the importance of multilateralism and ecological transition.
- On 26 January, the UNHCR Representative participated in the [Tavolo di Gestione delle Migrazioni](#) organized by the Mol, marking a significant step in bolstering collaborative efforts and concretely address the challenges of arrivals, reception and integration of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people.

## High-level mission

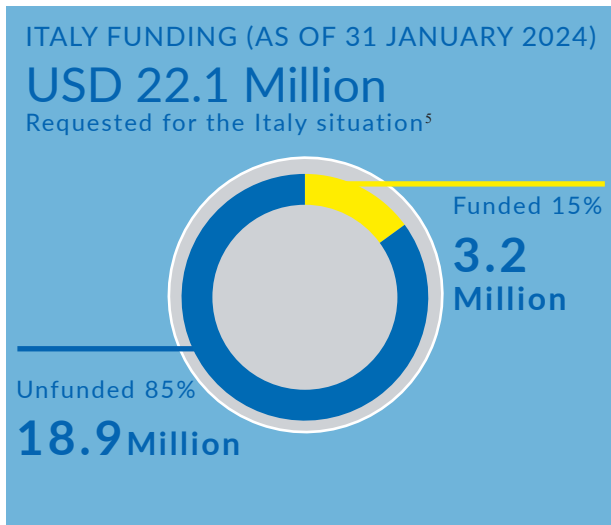
- The **Italy-Africa Summit "A Bridge for Common Growth"**, took place in Rome on 29-30 January. The summit, which was organized by the Government of Italy, marked the first international event since the start of Italy's Presidency of the G7, also demonstrating Italy's renewed commitment to engaging with stakeholders in the African continent. Representatives from 45 African countries, along with the Presidents of the African Union and its Commission, as well as the Presidents of the European Union (EU) Commission and Parliament, and of the European Council, participated in the summit. The central focus of the summit was to enhance cooperation between Italy and African countries, with a particular emphasis placed on the presentation of the **"Mattei Plan"**. UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations (AHC-O), Raouf Mazou, participated in the summit, accompanied by the UNHCR Representative in Italy. In a dedicated session on **Migration Mobility and Security Issues**, the AHC-O presented **UNHCR's perspective and response** to protection of the displaced populations in Africa, highlighting the importance of offering protection and solutions along migratory routes. During his mission to Italy, the AHC-O also held high-level meetings with officials from the MFA and the Italian Coast Guard. On 30 January, the AHC-O participated in a hearing before the Human Rights Committee of the Italian Senate, focusing on the global refugee situation, particularly with regard to Ukraine, the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa, emphasising the need for enhanced cooperation and increased attention to countries most affected by conflicts and along migration routes.<sup>4</sup>



The UNHCR AHC-O and UNHCR Representative to Italy taking part in the family photo of the "Italy-Africa: A bridge of common growth" summit at the Italian Senate.

<sup>4</sup>See also, Chiara Cardoletti's [tweet](#) on X on the Italy-Africa summit; Chiara Cardoletti's [tweet](#) on X on the meeting with the Italian Coast Guard.

 **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, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>6</sup>

 **Fundraising**

- In January 2024, UNHCR raised **2.1 million euros from private donors** in Italy. Among the private sector donors, the UNHCR extends its gratitude to *Cassa Depositi e Prestiti* Foundation and Pupa for their contribution in that month.
- On In January 2024, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation, provided **2.5 million euros** in support of UNHCR's project titled " Support refugees through secondary health care in Lebanon".

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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, the Netherlands, Denmark, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Ireland, Belgium, Australia. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Norway.