

# Italy

## February 2024

In February, **2,301 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (27%), the Syrian Arab Republic (15%) and Egypt (14%). **16 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 2 and 29 February, the **Municipalities of Genoa and Bologna** respectively signed the **Charter of Integration** to strengthen integration of beneficiaries of international protection and cooperation between cities around this.

On 6 February, a **MoU for the training of 100 female refugees and asylum seekers in driving** was signed between the Municipality of Naples, the Directorate General for the South of Italy of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, UNHCR, UNASCA and CONFARCA.



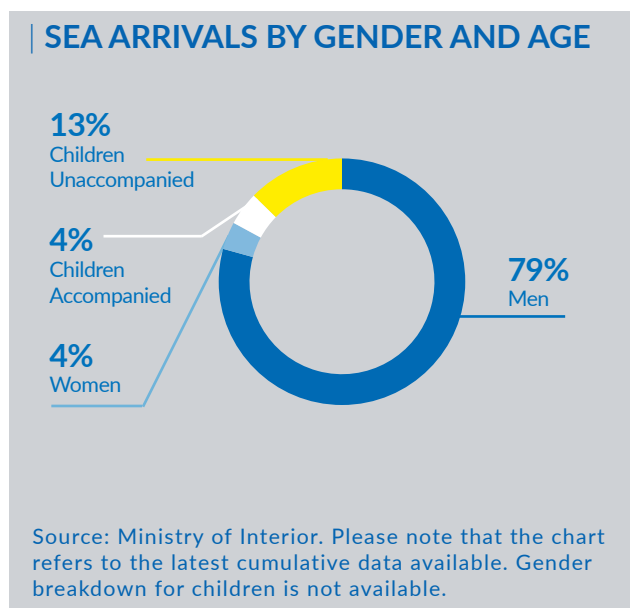
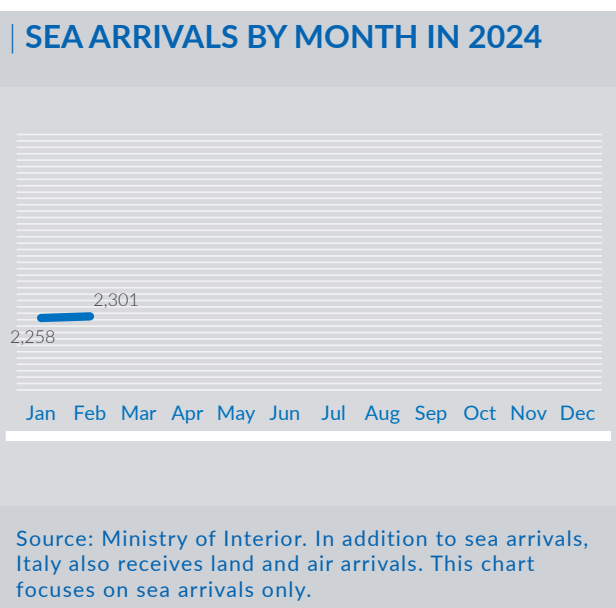
### KEY FIGURES

**4,559**

**Sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-February 2024. 3,575 (78%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

**186,888**

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





## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In February, the number of refugees and migrants arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea remained in line with the previous month. In February, **2,301 people reached the Italian shores** in 58 disembarkations, a 75 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. Among arrivals, **16 per cent were children**. Twenty-seven per cent originated from **Bangladesh** (26% in January), followed by 15 per cent from **the Syrian Arab Republic** (18% in January) and 14 per cent from **Egypt** (9% in January). Other nationalities of sea arrivals were Eritrean and Tunisian (9% each), Ethiopian (6%), Pakistani (5%), Guinean, Burkinabé and Sudanese (2% each). Differently from the previous month, more than half of February sea crossings (60%) departed from Libya, followed by 31 per cent from Tunisia and by 9 per cent from Algeria. In February, almost two third of the people arriving by sea (63%, eq. to 1,440 people) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search and Rescue (SAR)** operations.
- In February, a **new hotspot was opened and became operational in Porto Empedocle**, in the province of Agrigento, with a capacity of 500 people. This can be increased up to 1,000, in case of mass arrivals to relieve the hotspot in Lampedusa.
- In February, tragically, **97 people have died or gone missing** in the Central Mediterranean, bringing the total estimated number of dead and missing since the beginning of 2024 to 215.<sup>1</sup>
- Access to territory (land arrivals).** In February, some **500 people who had arrived by land** were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia. Since the beginning of 2024, more than 1,100 arrivals were reported in this area. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, Morocco, Türkiye**, the **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Afghanistan**. Arrivals reported systematic ill-treatment and pushbacks by the Bulgarian, Croatian and Serbian Police. UNHCR staff continued conducting outreach activities, informing arrivals on their rights and on how to apply for international protection in Italy and collecting testimonies.

**26 February marked the first anniversary of the tragic shipwreck** in which 94 refugees and migrants tragically lost their lives off the coast of **Steccato di Cutro** in Calabria. UNHCR participated in the commemoration event held in Steccato di Cutro together with local actors, civil society and other UN agencies. In a [joint press release](#), UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM reiterated the importance of strengthening safe and legal pathways, along with developing long-term strategies to deliver concrete humanitarian responses, safeguarding the human rights of migrants and refugees, and combating criminal human trafficking networks.<sup>2</sup>

"The Mediterranean continues to be a very dangerous sea. Greater sharing of responsibility and a coordinated approach at European level for the rescue at sea are needed to prevent suffering and loss of life. Rescue is only one aspect, albeit a very important one of an overall framework of solutions to manage migration flows in a humane and effective way. **Safe and legal pathways**, including humanitarian and labour corridors, **need to be strengthened** to prevent people on the move from falling into the hands of unscrupulous traffickers and to ensure their safe passage," said the UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti.



Commemoration of the victims of the Steccato di Cutro shipwreck on 26 February 2023, together with family members, civil society and others.  
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<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, [Migranti/Cutro: UNHCR, UNICEF e OIM unite nel ricordo delle vittime nel naufragio, 24 February 2024](#).



## Integration and legal pathways

- In the reporting month, the [Municipality of Genoa](#) (2 February) and the [Municipality of Bologna](#) (29 February) signed the [Charter for Integration](#), which had already been signed by six Italian Municipalities i.e., Bari, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin. The Charter aims **to strengthen cooperation between cities** on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection, **promote integration pathways** through the development of services available in the territory and the **exchange of experiences, practices and tools with other Italian cities**, including through the involvement of the civil society. In Genoa, the Charter was signed in the presence of the Councilor for Social Policies, Lorenza Rosso, and UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti. In Bologna, a press conference was also organized at Palazzo d'Accursio, in the presence of the Councilor for Social Affairs, Luca Rizzo Nervo, and the UNHCR Representative.
- On 6 February, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** "*Donne: una patente per l'accoglienza*" was signed which aims at **training 100 female refugees and asylum seekers, to enable them to obtain an A1 or B category driving license**. The MoU was signed by the Municipality of Naples, the Directorate General for the South of Italy of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, UNHCR and the professional associations UNASCA and CONFARCA. Naples Mayor, Gaetano Manfredi, stated "The project represents an **important contribution to the reception and integration system**. The Municipality of Naples is working in synergy with institutional actors, third-sector organizations and civil society to offer services and new opportunities to the most vulnerable people." UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti added "UNHCR's goal is to enhance the capacities and aspirations of refugee women, helping them to reach their full potential. We are grateful to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, the Municipality of Naples, and all partners for their teamwork in promoting the inclusion of refugees in Italy." The training courses will first be conducted within the [Spazio Comune](#), a multifunctional centre providing refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons with essential services for inclusion into the Italian social fabric.
- In the framework of the [Welcome-in-one-click](#) platform, launched by UNHCR and Adecco Foundation in January, a digital platform aimed at facilitating the integration of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons into the Italian labor market under the [Welcome. Working for refugee integration](#) programme, UNHCR conducted various **training sessions for companies and interested individuals**. These sessions were designed to enable them to effectively complete their profiles. This also involved demonstrating how to create online CVs, access job and vocational training opportunities, respond to advertisements, and co-design inclusion processes for companies.



The Charter of Integration signing ceremony in Bologna. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso



The Charter of Integration signing ceremony in Genoa. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso



First lesson for refugees women in the Spazio Comune, in Naples. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso



## Specific needs

- In February, the implementation of the [Vademecum for the identification, referral and care of persons living with vulnerabilities](#), launched in March 2023 by the Ministry of Interior (Moi) and UNHCR, continued in the four pilot locations of Crotone, Rome, Agrigento and Milan. On 21 February, a workshop was held in Agrigento that was attended by over 40 stakeholders including representatives from the Moi Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, UN agencies, the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA), Save the Children and other NGOs, the Coast Guard, the health sector at the local level, the Anti-trafficking network and the Tax and Customs Police.



## Asylum system

- On 7 February, UNHCR conducted a [training for interpreters working for the Territorial Commission of Genoa](#). It was the first training event based on the new package developed by the tripartite Quality Unit of the Italian first instance asylum system, composed by the National Asylum Commission, UNHCR and EUAA.
- On 14 February, UNHCR facilitated a [training session on religion-based claims for judges and support staff of the Specialized Division of the Tribunal of Florence](#). On 29 February, UNHCR facilitated a training session for interns, students of the LUISS University, at the Territorial Commission of Rome.
- On 28 February, UNHCR took part in the in the [final event of the Anti-trafficking action system "A.s.Tr.a"](#) which aims to promote and strengthen coordination systems between actors responsible for the prevention, protection and response to trafficking in human beings and serious labour exploitation.
- On 28 February, UNHCR facilitated a [training on international protection for guardians of unaccompanied children](#) in Trieste.



## Statelessness

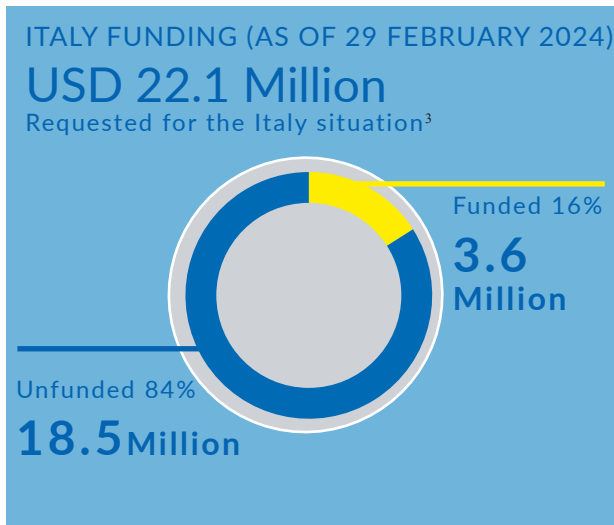
- On 29 February, UNHCR took part in a [live chat](#) with UNICEF on '[Statelessness](#)'.



## External engagement

- The UNHCR Representation to Italy, the Holy See, and San Marino organized a meeting on 28 February in Nairobi, Kenya, between Professor Corvaro, the [Special Envoy for Climate Change](#) at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the UNHCR Office for East Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss common priorities between UNHCR and the Government of Italy regarding [global climate action](#). The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 6th Conference of the [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA-6\)](#).

## Financial information



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

### European Union Other private donors

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>4</sup>

## Fundraising

- In February 2024, UNHCR raised **2.1 million euros** from private donors in Italy, bringing the total raised since the beginning of the year to 3.9 million euros. Among the private sector donors, UNHCR extends its gratitude to *Isacchi Samaja Onlus* for their February contribution.

## CONTACTS

**Giulia Manni**, Senior Reporting Assistant, [manni@unhcr.org](mailto:manni@unhcr.org)

**Maria Giovanna Pietropaolo**, External Relations Associate, [pietropa@unhcr.org](mailto:pietropa@unhcr.org)

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

<sup>3</sup> Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

<sup>4</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, Netherlands, Denmark, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Ireland, España con ACNUR, Belgium, Australia.