

# Italy

February 2022

In the first days following the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine at the end of February, **3,840 Ukrainian citizens arrived in Italy** including via the northern borders with Austria and Slovenia.

Since the start of the emergency, **UNHCR teams have been present at the borders** in northern Italy providing information to new Ukrainian arrivals, while continuing to pursue activities in landing points in southern Italy.

In February, **2,439 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. An additional **392 persons arrived by land** from Slovenia. On 28 February, **99 vulnerable refugees were evacuated from Libya** to Italy.

## KEY INDICATORS (FEBRUARY 2022)

**3,840**

**Ukrainian arrivals** to Italy since the start of the emergency (As of 1 March. Source: Ministry of Interior)

**2,439**

**Total sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different sites across the country (Source: Ministry of Interior)

**1,907**

**Sea arrivals assisted** and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation (Source: UNHCR)

**125**

Individuals received **medical assistance and psychosocial counselling** from UNHCR partners (Source: MEDU and LHIVE)

## Sea arrivals in 2022 by disembarkation site



## Sea arrivals

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

5,474

5,033

Jan-Feb 2022

Jan-Feb 2021

Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land arrivals and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals, as per official figures provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior.

## Sea arrivals by gender and age

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

**12%**

Children Unaccompanied

**3%**

Children Accompanied

**5%**

Women

**79%**  
Men

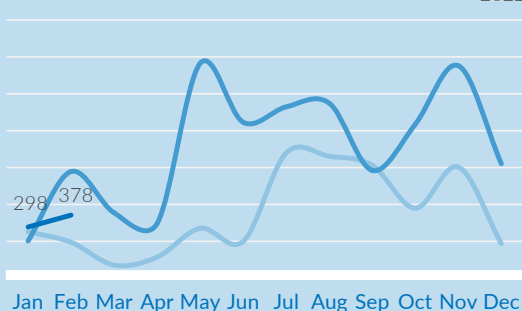
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly.

Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land arrivals and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals, as per official figures provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

## Sea arrivals of UASC

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

— 2020  
— 2021  
— 2022



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

- **Access to territory (land arrivals).**<sup>1</sup> Since the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine at the end of February 2022, **3,840 Ukrainian nationals were registered as having entered Italy** as of 1 March. Most arrivals were women and children (1,890 and 1,380, respectively).<sup>1</sup> Many arrived from Slovenia and Austria via the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points in the northern Friuli Venezia-Giulia region, travelling primarily by bus or private vehicles and intending to join relatives or friends in other locations across Italy. **UNHCR staff was deployed to the Ferneti crossing point at the Italy-Slovenia border** providing new arrivals with relevant information and contributing to the distribution of food and non-food items together with the authorities. Arrivals of Ukrainian citizens have continued unabated in the following weeks. A state of emergency was declared at the end of February until 31 December 2022, to provide relief and assistance to Ukrainians. On 28 February, a law decree was approved expanding reception capacity in both first-line and second-line facilities and providing that Ukrainians can access the 5,000 places in second-line facilities that had been reserved for persons evacuated from Afghanistan after the Taliban took power in August 2021. Since late February, **UNHCR has been liaising with authorities, other UN agencies and civil society to coordinate the response** to Ukrainian arrivals. Updates on the Ukraine situation and on UNHCR response in Ukraine and neighbouring countries can be found [here](#). Information in Ukrainian for refugees and asylum-seekers in Italy can be found on the UNHCR Italy [help page](#).



Refugees fleeing Ukraine cross the border from Slovenia into Italy  
 ©UNHCR/Dario Bosio

- **An additional 392 refugees and migrants also entered Italy by land from Slovenia** in February 2022, mainly originating from Bangladesh (94), Pakistan (51) and Afghanistan (39). Year to date, 663 persons arrived by land via Slovenia. Significant numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers were also reported in areas near the Italy-France border, who intend to cross into France and move onwards to other European countries. In Ventimiglia, an increase of single, young women was observed, many coming from Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. In the first half of February, some 150 refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, Morocco, Gambia, Iran and Mali transited through Val di Susa intending to reach France and received assistance from the local Red Cross. **Push-backs at the Italy-France border** continued to be reported, affecting also vulnerable individuals.



Police stop a bus carrying refugees from Ukraine at the Ferneti border crossing between Slovenia and Italy ©UNHCR/Dario Bosio

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).**<sup>1</sup> In February 2022, **2,439 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, a decrease compared to 3,035 reaching shore in January. The numbers of children travelling on their own in February (378) was much higher than the one recorded in January (195). The vast majority of monthly sea

<sup>1</sup> Data as of 1 March. For further information, see Ministry of Interior, [Colloquio telefonico tra Lamorgese e omologo ucraino: solidarietà e impegno ad accogliere i profughi](#) (in Italian, last access 22 March 2022)

<sup>2</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

arrivals (63%) embarked in Libya, while fewer departed from Tunisia (19%) and Turkey (18%). Year to date, 5,474 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, including 676 children travelling on their own. This compares to 5,033 and 2,553 in the same period in 2021 and 2020, respectively (+9% and +114% respectively). **One in four sea arrivals in the first two months of 2022**, i.e. 25%, **originated from Egypt**, followed by Bangladesh (23%), Tunisia (13%), Afghanistan (6%), Eritrea (6%), Côte d'Ivoire (5%), Syria (5%), Guinea (3%), Sudan (2%) and Cameroon (2%). At the end of February, some 1,400 sea arrivals were observing COVID-19 quarantine in Italy on offshore ferries and in onshore facilities, waiting for transfer to reception facilities. With the COVID-19 state of emergency coming to an end on 31 March 2022, the **quarantine requirement for persons arriving from non-EU countries will cease to apply**.

- **Resettlement and complementary pathways.** On 28 February 2022, **99 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees were evacuated from Libya to Italy**. This was the first evacuation taking place in 2022, the result of cooperation between UNHCR, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (INMP). The group of evacuees included both individuals who were recently released from detention and persons who were living in urban settings in Libya. **UNHCR staff welcomed new arrivals at Fiumicino airport in Rome, providing information and support**. New arrivals were made to undergo COVID-19 quarantine prior to being transferred to second-line reception facilities, mostly in southern Italy. **Since 2017, over 1,100 refugees were safely evacuated from Libya** to Italy avoiding perilous journeys and finding protection here. The group evacuated on 28 February was the second to arrive pursuant to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNHCR with Italian authorities in April 2021.<sup>3</sup>



- **Reception.** As of 28 February 2022, **76,967 persons were accommodated in reception facilities** across Italy, of whom 50,358 in first-line reception facilities, 26,528 in second-line facilities and 81 in hotspots.<sup>4</sup> UNHCR staff regularly conducts visits to reception facilities across Italy paying attention, in particular, to reception conditions and provision of services. In January, UNHCR visited reception facilities in Campania.
- **Solutions.** On 18 February, the **Integration Charter** signed by six Italian municipalities and developed together with UNHCR was presented to the public.<sup>5</sup> By joining the Charter, the six cities - **Bari, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin** - committed to step up their efforts to ensure refugee inclusion through participation, policies and programmes that value refugees' contribution. They also committed to increase their collaboration with regard to initiatives to promote refugee integration by exchanging good practices and tools. These tools include the **establishment of one-stop-shops**, namely facilities providing basic services aimed at the integration of refugees, such as access to documents and individualized pathways to favour access to housing and employment. The Integration Charter also aims to strengthen the reception system by promoting dispersed accommodation in small groups as well as family-based accommodation. Finally, healthcare, more specifically with regard


<sup>3</sup> For further information, see also UNHCR, *Arrivati in Italia 99 rifugiati e richiedenti asilo evacuati dalla Libia*, 1 March 2022 (in Italian, last access 21 March 2022).

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico al 28 febbraio 2022* (in Italian, last access 21 March 2022).

<sup>5</sup> For further information, see also UNHCR, *UNHCR e sei città italiane presentano la carta per l'integrazione dei rifugiati*, 18 February 2022 (in Italian, last access 21 March 2022).

to mental health, and the engagement of refugees through volunteering and mentoring programmes are other important aspects that the signatories to the Charter want to commit to. The Integration Charter can be accessed [here](#).

- Municipalities are at the forefront of the integration of refugees: they offer safety and shelter and allow access to local services, education and employment, promoting a better future and fostering social inclusion. This message was reiterated also by the High Commissioner Filippo Grandi during his participation at the [Mediterranean Mayors' Forum](#) in Florence on 25 February.
- In February, UNHCR signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the Italian Association of Human Resources Managers (AIDP)** for them to join the Welcome programme and promote the labour inclusion of refugees through employment opportunities, workshops, trainings and other activities.
 



UNHCR Deputy Representative, Karen Whiting, signs a Memorandum of Understanding on labour inclusion of refugees with AIDP ©UNHCR
- **Partnerships.** This month UNHCR renewed its partnerships agreements with **D.i.RE. and LHIVE**, both focusing on work **to prevent and respond to gender-based violence** among refugee women and girls. Furthermore, a new partnership agreement was launched with **Save the Children**, entailing activities aimed at strengthening **psychological support to unaccompanied children** in Catania, Milan and Turin, as well as a mapping exercise to better assess practices on age assessment and voluntary guardianship in various locations.
- **Capacity development.** In mid-February, UNHCR, in cooperation with the Superior School of the Judiciary, co-delivered a **course on international protection addressing some 170 judges** from all over Italy. On 4 February, UNHCR staff also delivered a session on the non-refoulement principle to 90 students at **Sapienza University** in Rome.

### Fundraising for the Afghanistan emergency

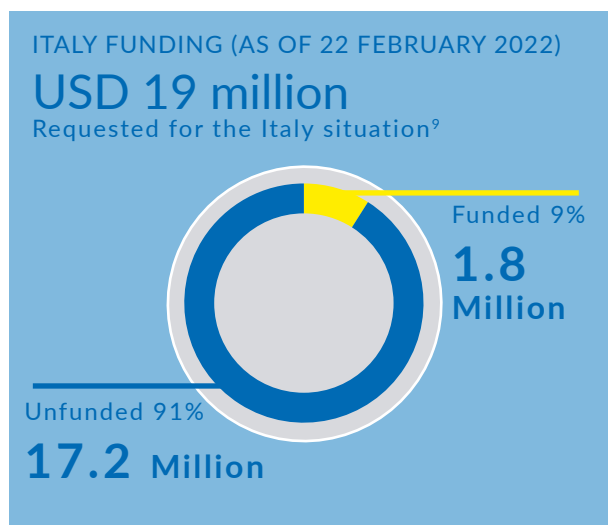
In February, UNHCR raised **2.1 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 6.8 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR operations worldwide this month were Mr. Cangini and Rigel s.r.l.

On 14 February, UNHCR launched the communications and fundraising campaign to support the Agency's intervention in response of the humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons.

The three-week-long campaign, titled "**Emergenza Afghanistan. Non lasciamoli soli**", was supported by the Italian national public broadcasting company (RAI) as well as by other channels. **Over 480,000 Euros were raised**, enabling UNHCR to provide the Afghan population with essential items including clothes, tents and blankets. Further information can be found [here](#).



# Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

## BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Norway | Private donors

## UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

**Sweden** 77.6 million | **Norway** 72.5 million | **Netherlands** 37.2 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Germany** 27.6 million | **Switzerland** 18.4 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.8 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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## LINKS

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<sup>9</sup> Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. The contributions earmarked for Italy shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking.