

# Italy

January 2022

In January, **3,035 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, while **271 arrived by land from Slovenia**. UNHCR stepped up its presence in the northern Friuli Venezia-Giulia region.

UNHCR partner MEDU launched their **report Margini**, on the condition of refugees and migrants living in **informal settlements** in Rome, building on findings during their mobile clinic outreach activities.

The **UNHCR Italy HELP page** was launched to provide asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons in Italy with information on their rights and obligations and services available to them.

## KEY INDICATORS (JANUARY 2022)

**3,035**

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

**2,460**

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

### Sea arrivals in 2022 by disembarkation site



### Sea arrivals POPULATION OF CONCERN

3,035

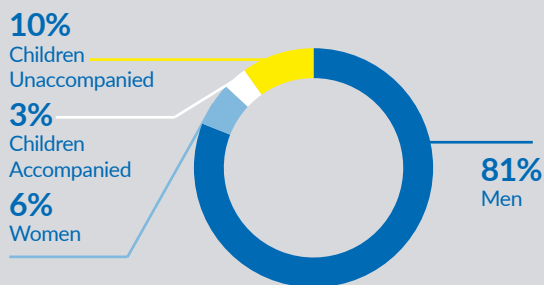
1,039

Jan 2022

Jan 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

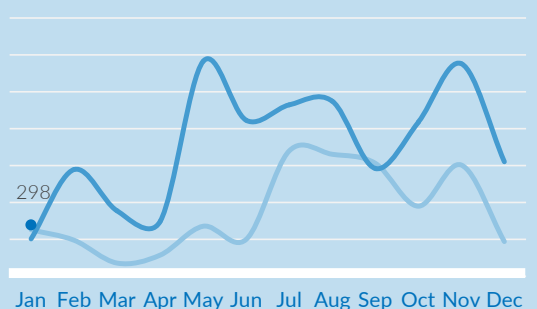


Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly.

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 (sea arrivals).**<sup>1</sup> In January 2022, **3,035 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, including 195 children travelling on their own. This represents a steep increase (+192%) compared to sea arrivals recorded in the same period last year (1,039 persons). **Three in four persons arriving by sea in January departed from Libya**, while another 20% of monthly arrivals embarked in Tunisia. Departures from Turkey and Algeria accounted for 3% and 2%, respectively. Almost half of refugees and migrants reaching Italian shores in the first month of the year originated from just three countries, namely Bangladesh, Egypt and Tunisia. UNHCR staff in disembarkation sites observed **significant numbers of vulnerable persons** among new arrivals, including families or single parents with very young children and persons who survived trauma and torture including children who were detained for years in Libya prior to embarking to Italy. Various incidents at sea were reported in the Central Mediterranean, with **at least 80 persons reported dead or missing by the end of January**, including seven Bangladeshi nationals who died of hypothermia following departure from Libya and rescue by the Italian authorities.



UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, meets with the women of the Mountain Rescue Service in Oulx, Piedmont ©UNHCR

At the end of the month, over 2,500 sea arrivals were observing COVID-19 quarantine on offshore ferries and in onshore facilities near arrival locations, prior to transfer to reception centres across the country. The **insufficiency of spaces in children reception centres** continued to delay the transfer of children from quarantine facilities to dedicated reception centres, with the result that many remained in quarantine facilities also after the end of their quarantine period. In the first half of January, delays also affected post-quarantine transfers from Lampedusa, Sicily and Sardinia to reception facilities elsewhere due to the new COVID-19 prevention requirement to have proof of vaccination to access means of transport, including ferries. Regular transfers from Lampedusa to Sicily and disembarkation from quarantine ferries in Sicily resumed in the second half of the month, following an ordonnance allowing persons to board ferries to and from Sicily without an EU Digital COVID Certificate.

- Access to territory (land arrivals).** In January, **271 refugees and migrants crossed the Italy-Slovenia border**, arriving by land in northern Italy's Gorizia, Trieste and Udine areas. The vast majority of them come from Bangladesh, followed by Pakistan, Afghanistan and, to a lesser extent, Egypt and Turkey. Decreasing numbers of land arrivals compared to recent months could be attributable to the winter cold making it more difficult for many to cross the border by foot at this time of the year. UNHCR stepped up its staff presence near the Italy-Slovenia border and regularly liaises also with NGO and civil society organizations in the area, working to ensure that new arrivals have access to territory, asylum procedures, reliable information and adequate services.



UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, meets with the staff of the Diaconia Valdese in Oulx, Piedmont ©UNHCR

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

In January, the UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, was on **mission to Val di Susa**, in north-western Italy, to gain fuller insight of the situation at the Italy-France border. In 2021, over 14,000 refugees and migrants, including increasing numbers of Afghan and Iraqi nationals are estimated to have moved through Val di Susa, compared to some 1,450 in 2020. The UNHCR Representative met with authorities as well as with civil society organizations and volunteers providing services to refugees and migrants in Oulx and Claviere. These include the Mountain Rescue Service, who provide lifesaving assistance to persons attempting to move onward to other European countries via perilous mountain trails across the Alps, and the Diaconia Valdese, who partners with the Danish Refugee Council to provide refugees and migrants moving through the area with information on asylum and other relevant procedures. **Pushbacks continue to be reported** at the Italy-France border, affecting also families travelling with children.

- **Reception.** As of 31 January 2022, **77,065 persons were accommodated in reception facilities** across Italy, of whom 50,714 in first-line reception facilities, 25,938 in second-line facilities and 423 in hotspots.<sup>2</sup> Three out of the six currently operational governmental reception facilities are now being used as quarantine facilities accommodating new arrivals. **COVID-19 vaccinations** are provided to persons hosted in reception facilities, including some of those that are being used for quarantine purposes. UNHCR staff regularly conducts visits to reception facilities across Italy paying attention, in particular, on reception conditions and provision of services. In January, UNHCR visited reception facilities in Campania.



UNHCR and MEDU staff launch the Margini report at the Foreign Press Association in Rome on 17 January ©UNHCR

On 17 January, UNHCR partner MEDU launched their report **Margini** on the condition of refugees and migrants living in informal settlements in Rome. The report, highlights the numerous **criticalities faced by persons living in informal settlements**, including occupied buildings and areas surrounding the main train stations, but also describes good practices emerging during the COVID-19 pandemic, making recommendations to local and national authorities to address this vulnerable population's health needs and their access to rights.<sup>3</sup> UNHCR has been partnering with MEDU since 2019 conducting outreach activities in informal settlements through a mobile clinic, to provide vulnerable refugees and migrants with information about their rights and to promote their access to local health and social services. Over the last three years, UNHCR has also been partnering with MEDU to provide torture survivors with medical assistance and psycho-social support through the Rome-based Psychè clinic. Click [here](#) to learn more about UNHCR partnership with MEDU.

- **Asylum and statelessness.** UNHCR is closely monitoring the **potential impact on asylum-seekers and refugees of new COVID-19 prevention measures** introduced in early 2022 to address the steady increase of COVID-19 cases across Italy. In particular, the requirement to hold an EU Digital COVID certificate to access numerous services and prospectively also public offices could have a disproportionately negative effect on asylum-seekers who did not have access to vaccinations or cannot download the digital certificate due to lacking a fiscal code.

In January, the UNHCR Italy [Help page](#) was launched, providing asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons with comprehensive information to learn more about their rights, obligations and services

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Interior, [Cruscotto statistico al 31 gennaio 2022](#) (in Italian, last access 16 February 2022).

<sup>3</sup> The press conference of the report launch can be viewed [here](#). You can also listen to UNHCR staff interviewed by [Radio Radicale](#) and [Radio Vaticana](#).

available to them in Italy.

- Solutions.** In the first half of the month, UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, met with Deputy Mayor of Turin Michela Favaro to discuss ways to collaborate to strengthen integration opportunities of refugees. Since 2021, UNHCR has been enhancing its **engagement with municipalities committed to promote the integration and the empowerment of refugees**. This collaboration will continue into 2022, taking stock of the recent or forthcoming approval of the Integration Charter by the municipalities of Bari, Milan, Naples, Rome, Palermo and Turin.<sup>4</sup> In January, through the *Agorà del Sapere* partnership, UNHCR staff also delivered an online lesson to lower secondary students, focusing on the labour integration of refugees.



UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, meets Deputy Mayor of Turin, Michela Favaro ©UNHCR

- Child protection.** UNHCR contributed to developing measure 22 of the fifth **National Plan on Childhood and Adolescence**, adopted on 25 January, providing for enhanced protection for unaccompanied children, including by way of strengthening the voluntary guardianship system, promoting foster family arrangements and developing ad hoc measures for the specific needs of unaccompanied children coming of age.
- Fundraising.** In January, UNHCR raised **4.7 million Euros from private donors** in Italy. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR operations worldwide this month were Coop, Ms. Donatella Versace, Enel Cuore Onlus, Fondazione Mediolanum, Hera, Istituto Italiano Buddista Soka Gakkai, Ms. Lagetto and Pupa.

## Refugee Status Determination: towards a new role for UNHCR

UNHCR has been directly involved in refugee status determination procedures in Italy: since 2005, UNHCR staff have been working in Territorial Commissions responsible for deciding individual cases, contributing to developing the capacity of national authorities and to promoting the quality of asylum procedures.

In line with its **gradual disengagement from a decision-making role**, pursuant to the reform introduced by Legislative Decree 220/2017 in the first half of 2022 UNHCR staff working in Territorial Commissions will be gradually replaced by independent, external human rights and international protection experts, designated by UNHCR. A **call for expression of interest for the selection of experts on international protection and human rights** was launched.

UNHCR will continue to work to strengthen the Italian asylum system, supporting the authorities with **capacity development, judicial engagement and quality assurance** activities, in close coordination with the National Commission for Asylum and the EU Asylum Agency.



Call for expression of interest for the selection of Experts on International Protection and Human Rights

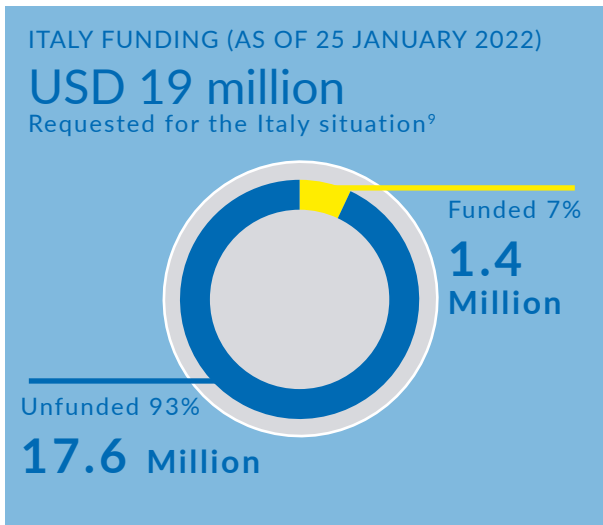
The purpose of this Call for Expression of Interest is the selection of the Experts on International Protection and Human Rights, to be deployed in Territorial Commissions.

Call for Expression of Interest for the selection of the Experts on International Protection and Human Rights:

• Detailed Instructions

<sup>4</sup> For more information on the Integration Charter, see also UNHCR, *Italy Fact Sheet - December 2021* (last access 17 February 2022)

# 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 | **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 | Qatar | Republic of Korea | 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.