

# Italy

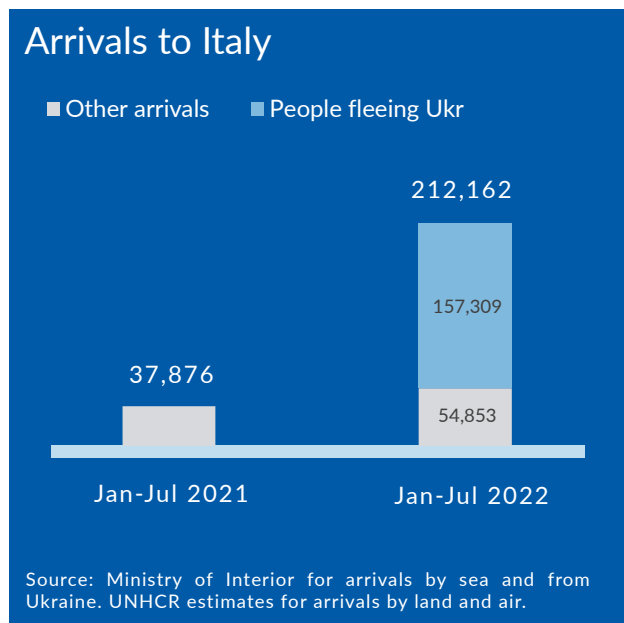
July 2022

Year to date, Italy registered **157,309 arrivals from Ukraine** fleeing the ongoing conflict, as well as **41,434 refugee and migrant arrivals by sea**, a 42% increase compared to the same period last year.

Increasing arrivals put **significant pressure on reception facilities** near land borders and in disembarkation locations. **UNHCR increased its staff presence** at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points and in Lampedusa.

In July, 270 Afghan nationals arrived in Italy through the **first humanitarian corridors from Iran and Pakistan**. Another 85 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees arrived through an evacuation flight from Libya.

## TOTAL ARRIVALS



## KEY FIGURES (JULY 2022)

**14,815**

**Arrivals from Ukraine** to Italy by land, air and train (Source: Ministry of Interior)

**13,801**

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

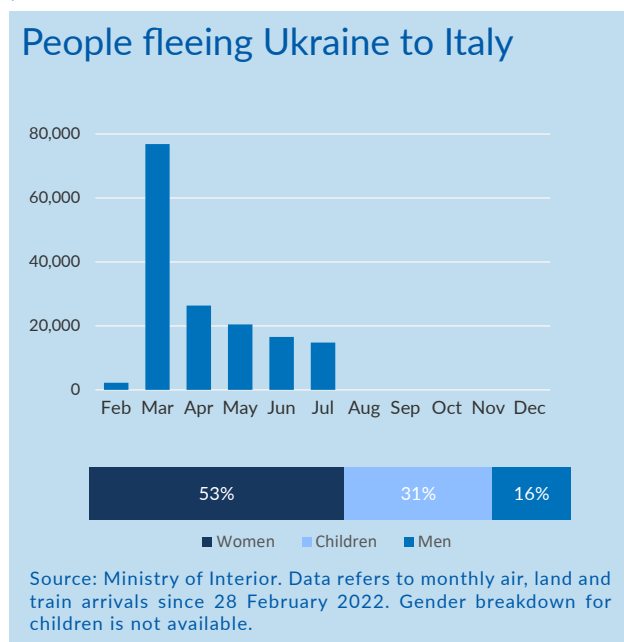
**6,705**

**People fleeing Ukraine informed** about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff at Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points (Source: UNHCR)

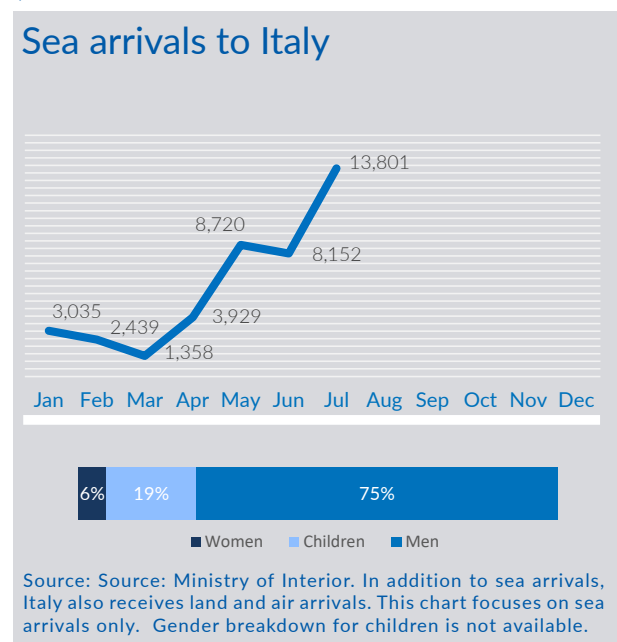
**11,836**

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

## UKRAINE



## SEA ARRIVALS



- Ukraine emergency.** As of 31 July, **157,309 refugees from Ukraine arrived in Italy** since the start of the emergency in late February this year. Over 14,815 persons arrived in July, mainly travelling by bus or private vehicles and entering Italy through the two main border crossing points in the north, namely Ferneti and Tarvisio. Starting in the second half of July and thanks to generous funding by the Government of Italy (Presidency of the Council of Ministers), **UNHCR strengthened its presence in both locations with staff present from 6 am to midnight seven days a week**, assisting new arrivals with information on how to seek protection in Italy and supporting the authorities with the identification of vulnerable persons, including children travelling on their own. By the end of July, **39,175 persons had been provided with basic information** about services and registration procedures by UNHCR staff working at Italy's north-eastern borders. Also, two Blue Dots are operational in Ferneti and Tarvisio, run by UNHCR and UNICEF in partnership with ARCI, D.i.RE., Save the Children and Stella Polare.<sup>1</sup> Between their activation in April and the end of July, **over 5,850 persons - both adults and children - accessed the Blue Dots** finding support and information on services available in Italy, as well as counselling, psycho-social first aid, child-friendly spaces and breastfeeding spaces.



UNHCR staff provide information to refugees from Ukraine arriving at Italy's Ferneti border crossing point with Slovenia ©UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

- According to a recent **intentions survey** conducted by UNHCR in the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, **concerns around the future due to the ongoing war prevent many refugees from Ukraine from making long-term plans**. Around two thirds of the 4,900 refugees interviewed by UNHCR and partners said they expected to stay in their current host country until the security situation improves. The survey also showed that 16% were planning to return to Ukraine in the coming two months, with 15% of those only planning to stay temporarily to visit family, get supplies or help relatives to evacuate.<sup>2</sup> The intentions expressed by refugees interviewed for the survey appear consistent with the testimonies collected daily by UNHCR staff working at Italy's northern borders, who speak to new arrivals to better understand their profiles, intentions, and ultimately develop a response that better addresses their needs.



UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM staff jointly visit the Lampedusa hotspot and disembarkation site in early July ©UNHCR

- Access to territory (other arrivals).** In July 2022, **13,801 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, the highest number of monthly arrivals this year so far. The increase in arrivals may be linked to better weather conditions during the summer, but also to recent geopolitical developments in Mediterranean coastal states, including Italy. The vast majority of persons arriving by sea in July

<sup>1</sup> This [video](#) explains what Blue Dots are.

<sup>2</sup> See also UNHCR, [UNHCR survey finds refugees from Ukraine hope to go home](#), 13 July 2022 (last access 2 August 2022).

departed from Libya (55%). In particular, the recent upward trend in departures from eastern Libya continued into July, most often involving Egyptian nationals. An additional 38% of monthly sea arrivals departed from Tunisia, followed by Türkiye (4%), Algeria (1%) and Lebanon (123 persons). Notably, the first group of refugees and migrants travelling by sea from Egypt this year was recorded in July. Most sea arrivals disembarking in Italy in July originate from Tunisia, followed by Egypt, Bangladesh, Syria and Côte d'Ivoire. The significant uptick in the numbers of persons reaching Italian shores brought year-to-date sea arrivals to 41,434 a 42% increase compared to the same period last year.<sup>3</sup>

- The increase in the numbers of persons arriving by sea in July placed significant pressure in disembarkation locations, leading to overcrowding at the ports and at nearby facilities. The situation has been particularly critical in **Lampedusa**, as the small island received over 9,000 persons in July alone, making it difficult for authorities to quickly process new arrivals and operate their transfers to other locations. As a result, the **local hotspot has been operating well beyond capacity**, with overcrowding generating sub-standard reception conditions and exposing new arrivals to potential risks for their health and safety. **UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, conducted two missions to Lampedusa in July**, together with senior staff from UNICEF, IOM and the Ministry of Interior, to speak to refugees and migrants and understand their needs, assess the situation and strengthen UN agencies' joint response to support the authorities, ensuring that refugees and migrants - in particular the most vulnerable among them - can be safe and protected. In July, **UNHCR deployed additional staff** in Lampedusa, to help the authorities with pre-identification procedures and support the identification of vulnerable persons among new arrivals and their referral to services. The Ministry of Interior also deployed additional staff on the island, and worked to increase transfers from Lampedusa to other locations by means of the Navy, the Coast Guard, and private ferries. Despite these efforts, however, over 2,000 refugees and migrants were accommodated at Lampedusa hotspot by the end of July.



- In July, **1,186 (non Ukrainian) land arrivals** were reported through the Italy-Slovenia border, bringing year-to-date arrivals from Slovenia to 4,384. As reception capacity in areas bordering Slovenia has been strained by increasing arrivals from Ukraine in recent months, the system is now struggling to accommodate persons arriving following journeys by land through South-East Europe, who most commonly originate from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. **UNHCR staff based in Italy's Friuli Venezia-Giulia region regularly carry out outreach activities in border areas**, liaising with the authorities to ensure that new arrivals are provided with adequate services they need.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways.** On 26 July, **85 asylum-seekers and refugees arrived in Italy through an emergency evacuation flight from Libya**, the fourth to occur pursuant to the terms of an agreement signed in April 2021 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Ministry of Interior, UNHCR, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, FCEI and Tavola Valdese, regarding a total of 500 persons. The group arriving in late July comprised nationals of Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Syria and South Sudan, most of whom experienced human rights abuses in their countries of origin or in

<sup>3</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

Libya. Furthermore, July marked the **first arrivals of Afghan nationals through humanitarian corridors from Iran and Pakistan**. Three separate flights brought 270 Afghan nationals to safety in Italy, including human rights activists, athletes, persons working in education and women with children. The flights were operated in the context of an agreement signed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Ministry of Interior, faith-based organizations, ARCI, INMP, IOM and UNHCR in November 2021, in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover. The agreement foresees that a total of 1,200 Afghan nationals will be safely transferred to Italy within two years.



Fatima, a 67-year-old Sudanese refugee, travelled to Italy through an evacuation flight from Libya on 26 July. ©UNHCR/MohamedAlalem

- **Integration.** On 26 July, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding launching **a new collaboration with Finanza Etica Foundation**, to support access to university education for refugee students participating in the 2022 **UNICORE - University Corridors for Refugees** programme. This month, **the fifth edition of Welcome - Working for refugee integration** programme **was also launched**. Welcome is UNHCR Italy's flagship programme promoting the job inclusion of refugees through the award of a special logo to companies that commit to include forced migrants in their workforce and to promote a really inclusive workplace. Since 2017, thanks to this programme, over 10,000 refugees benefited from job inclusion opportunities.<sup>4</sup> Finally, the third edition of Powercoders was launched in July, an IT programming academy offering specialized training to refugees as well as job inclusion opportunities in the IT sector.<sup>5</sup>
- **External engagement.** On 19 July, the **UNHCR Representative, Chiara Cardoletti, was heard before the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs and Defence Commissions**, in the context of Parliament's forthcoming decision on the continuation of international missions and of development cooperation interventions aimed at peace and stabilization. She stressed the importance of these missions, provided compliance with human rights is maintained, and highlighted difficulties for UNHCR protection delivery in some contexts. At the end of July, **Chiara Cardoletti also met with NGOs part of the Tavolo Asilo network**, to discuss their recent proposals on the reform of Italy's reception system for asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Fundraising.** In July, UNHCR raised **3.9 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 43.8 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR response to the Ukraine emergency this month were the Bolton Hope Foundation, Intesa Sanpaolo and the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation.

### UNHCR is grateful to Italy for its support to UNHCR operations worldwide.

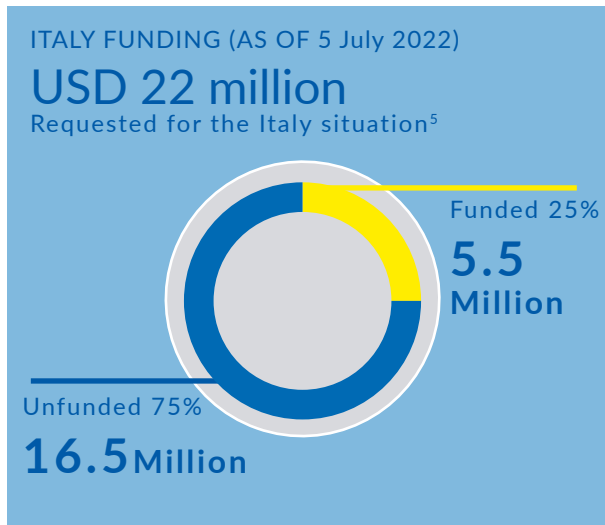
In the month of July, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies gave a contribution of **EUR 2 million** to UNHCR, for the provision of protection services to refugees in Aysita camp and emergency assistance to refugees displaced by the conflict in Afar region, Ethiopia.

In July, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies also gave a contribution of **EUR 2.3 million** to protect refugee women, girls, men and boys from risks associated with mixed movements in eastern Sudan.

<sup>4</sup> For further information, see UNHCR, [Al via la quinta edizione di Welcome. Working for refugee integration](#), 8 July 2022 (in Italian, last access 2 August 2022)

<sup>5</sup> For further information see UNHCR, [Powercoders: al via la terza edizione](#), 4 July 2022 (in Italian, last access 2 August 2022).

# Financial information



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

**Government of Italy (Presidency of the Council of Ministers) | Enel Cuore Onlus | Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | Autostrade per l'Italia S.p.A. | Fondo di Beneficienza di Intesa Sanpaolo | European Union | Other private donors**

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

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## LINKS

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<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; Netherlands; Denmark; United Kingdom; Germany; Private donors Japan; France; Switzerland; Private donors Republic of Korea; Private donors USA; Belgium; Ireland; Italy. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors Japan; Germany; Private donors Sweden; Private donors Bahamas; Private donors USA; United Kingdom; Private donors Germany; Private donors United Kingdom; Private donors Netherlands; Private donors France; Private donors Italy; Private donors Spain; Private donors Switzerland; France; Norway; USA; Japan; Private donors Czech Republic; Private donors Denmark; Italy; Canada; Private donors Australia; Australia; Private donors Canada; Spain; Private donors Republic of Korea; Austria; Ireland; Private donors China; Switzerland.