

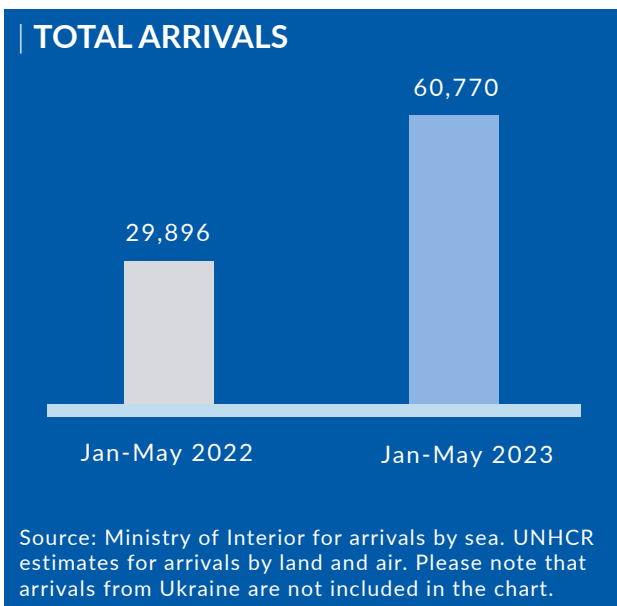
Italy

May 2023

In May, **8,154 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Egypt, Bangladesh and Pakistan. 15% were children. Additional arrivals reached Italy **via land and air**.

The Department of Civil Protection presented a risk mitigation **Guide**, developed with UNHCR and UNICEF, addressing **risks for women and children** in the widespread reception system.

UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* aimed at **improving the statelessness determination procedure** through joint technical cooperation.



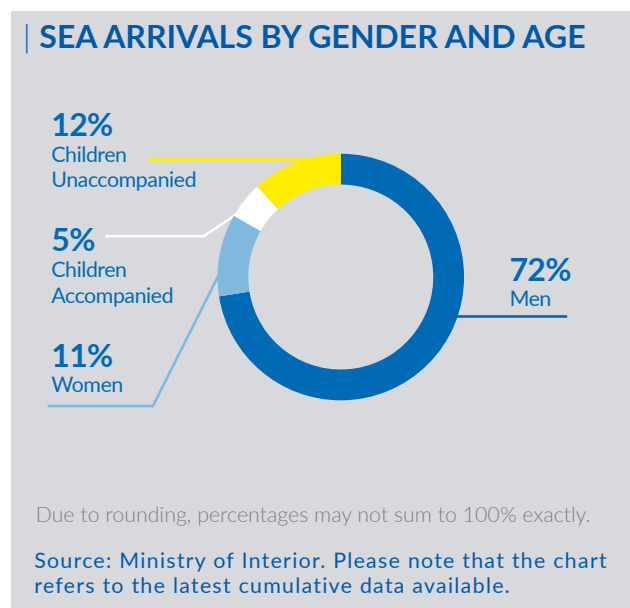
KEY FIGURES

50,355

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-May 2023. 42,041 (83% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

176,844

Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of May 2023. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In May, Italy continued to receive a significant number of refugees and migrants via the Mediterranean Sea. During the month, **8,154 persons reached the shores in Italy**, a decrease of 44% compared to April. 15% of them were **children**. New arrivals mainly originated from **Egypt** (22%), **Bangladesh** (19%) and **Pakistan** (15%). Other nationalities arriving during the month were Syrian, Afghan and Tunisian. In May, departures from Tunisia dropped. Indeed, **72% of migrants and refugees departed from Libya** (47 disembarkations), 18% from Tunisia (51 disembarkations), 10% from Türkiye and less than 1% from Algeria. Over the month, almost 7,000 people (85% of the total) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search And Rescue (SAR) operations**. Due to multiple shipwrecks, **920 people died or went missing** along the Central Mediterranean route since the beginning of the year.¹ Several transfers were operated out of **Lampedusa** and towards other destinations. Moreover, the Government of Italy appointed the Italian Red Cross as new managing entity of the hotspot. During the reporting period, almost **7,200 people** (around 88% of monthly sea arrivals) were assisted and **informed about asylum procedures** by UNHCR staff following disembarkation.
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** In addition to arrivals via sea, **some 900 land arrivals were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in May**. Since the beginning of the year, more than 4,500 new arrivals were reported in this area. Those travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from **Afghanistan**, **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. New arrivals continued reporting **systematic ill treatments and pushbacks** by the Turkish, Bulgarian and Croatian Border Police. **Reception issues** continued affecting land arrivals during the month, in both the Trieste and the Gorizia province. Dozens of people were reportedly sleeping rough in informal settings in May. UNHCR staff continued to conduct **outreach activities**, collecting testimonies from new arrivals and informing them on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.



Policy developments

- **Cutro decree.** On 5 May, following the approval of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, the Law Decree 20/2023 was converted into Law 50/2023.² UNHCR shared a **technical note**³ welcoming some of the measures introduced by the law, such as the possibility for Prefects to appoint *ad hoc* commissioners for the management of reception facilities; the enhancement of transfers from hotspots; and the provision of a legal entry quota specifically devoted to refugees. In parallel, UNHCR Italy underlined potentially concerning provisions, already highlighted during the parliamentary conversion, such as the need of an initial screening to identify manifestly unfounded applications; the reduction of basic services provided in temporary and government-managed reception facilities; and the measures in relation to detention, revocation of international protection and reiterated applications.

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

² For further information, please refer to the [Gazzetta Ufficiale](#) website.

³ See UNHCR, *Nota tecnica dell'UNHCR sulle disposizioni in materia di asilo contenute nella Legge 5 maggio 2023 n. 50*.



Gender-based violence

- On 9 May, the Department of Civil Protection presented the ‘Practical Guide on Mitigating the Risk of Gender-Based Violence and Mechanisms for Protecting Minor Persons in the Widespread Reception System’, developed with UNHCR and UNICEF.⁴ The Guide aims at providing a **framework of standards and tools** to mainstream the **risk mitigation of gender-based violence** and the **prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse**. It addresses both family and community-based hosting solutions, as well as the Civil Protection and civil society organizations as managing entities of widespread reception facilities for people fleeing Ukraine. The initiative also includes awareness raising and capacity building activities addressed to the entities in charge of the management widespread reception facilities. Four dedicated webinars and seminars were jointly delivered by UNHCR and UNICEF, reaching around 35 people from 13 different organizations.



Statelessness

- On 16 May, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior - involving both the Central Directorate for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities and the National Commission for Asylum - signed a *Memorandum of Understanding*, aiming at **improving the statelessness determination procedure** through joint technical cooperation. The collaboration also aims at exploring the **opportunity to set up referral mechanisms** between the asylum and the statelessness procedures.



Asylum system

- On 24-26 May, UNHCR participated in the joint EUAA-SSM (Scuola Superiore della Magistratura, Superior School of Magistrates) “**Conference for the Italian Judiciary on Political Opinion and Country guidance in the context of International Protection**” held in Naples. UNHCR staff delivered a presentation on “non-state actors of persecution in political opinion-based claims” and **facilitated two working groups** discussing case studies on political persecution. Around 70 Italian magistrates, mostly from international protection divisions, participated in the event. Consistently with its guidelines, UNHCR aimed at promoting a better understanding and consistency among the legal community in the application of the “political-opinion” concept, one of the reasons leading individuals to flee their country fearing persecution.



External engagement

- In May, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino intervened in the *Sabir Festival* in Trieste, talking about migration issues and the Mediterranean context. She had regular meetings with the Government and other relevant counterparts, such as the Ministry of Interior and the Holy See Dicastery for the Integral Human Development Promotion. The Representative also met the Director General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the response and delivery capacity of UNHCR in fragile countries, with

⁴ See also UNHCR, *Emergenza Ucraina: UNICEF, UNHCR e il Dipartimento della Protezione Civile presentano oggi una guida per favorire la protezione di donne e minorenni nel sistema di accoglienza diffusa*, 9 May 2023 (in italian).

a specific reference to Africa and other priority areas. The Representative also released a live interview on the broadcast TV2000. On 31 May, she was [heard before the Joint Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees of the Chamber of Deputies](#) in the context of the parliamentary process of authorization of international missions and development cooperation interventions. UNHCR Italy Deputy Representative chaired the organization's annual meeting with partners, aimed at knowledge-sharing and presenting UNHCR programmes, as well as project-related mechanisms. UNHCR staff intervened in a conference organized by the University of Naples L'Orientale, presenting the migratory situation across the Mediterranean, and addressed the impact of [climate change](#) on forced migration in a [live interview](#) broadcasted on the Barbascura eXtra Youtube channel. In May, Switzerland and UNHCR invited the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to participate in the second **Global Refugee Forum**, which will take place in Geneva on 13-15 December 2023. The event will offer the opportunity for all stakeholders to report on the pledges and initiatives announced at the first Forum held in 2019 and to announce new ones. It will also provide space for exchanging good practices. UNHCR Italy is currently supporting institutional and non-institutional actors in Italy in the development of pledges to be submitted to the Forum.



Fundraising

- In May, UNHCR raised **2.4 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 15.6 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy, contributing to UNHCR activities this month, were Fondazione Pesenti, Pirelli and Autostrade per l'Italia.

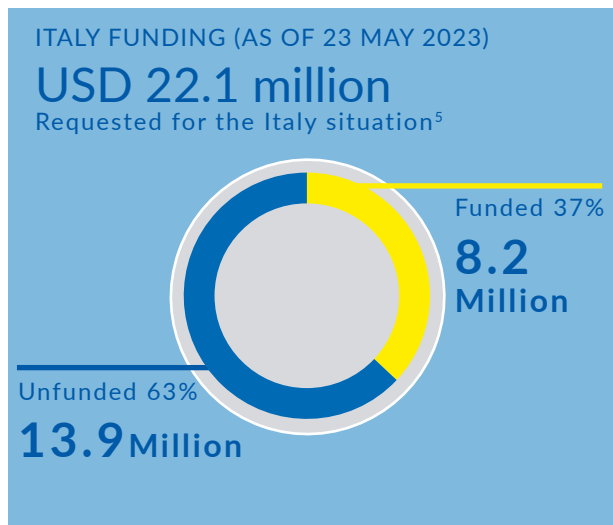
Joint initiatives

On 10 May, in the framework of the existing *Memorandum of Understanding* between the two organizations, UNHCR and IDOS co-organized a **conference in Naples**, involving the Municipality, the Prefecture, civil society organizations, refugee-led organizations and the University. The conference took place in the framework of the activities that UNHCR, with its partners, is promoting at local level, with a specific focus on fostering inclusion pathways of refugees, through job and social integration. The UNHCR intervention focused on the **whole-of-society approach** as a tool to improve migration governance.

On 30 May, UNHCR and IDOS also co-organized an **event on community leadership and outreach in Rome**, with the participation of the University Roma Tre, INTERSOS, CIAC, the Municipality of Rome and two refugees participating in the UNHCR Community Outreach Volunteers (COV) project. UNHCR presented the main findings of the recent research on community leadership, as well as the strengths of the COV project and the work in Italy.



Financial information



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

L'Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | 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.⁶

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LINKS

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

⁵ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

⁶ 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; Denmark; Netherlands; France; Private donors Spain; Germany; Switzerland; Private donors Japan; Private donors Republic of Korea; Belgium; Ireland. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors Canada; private donors Sweden.