Italy

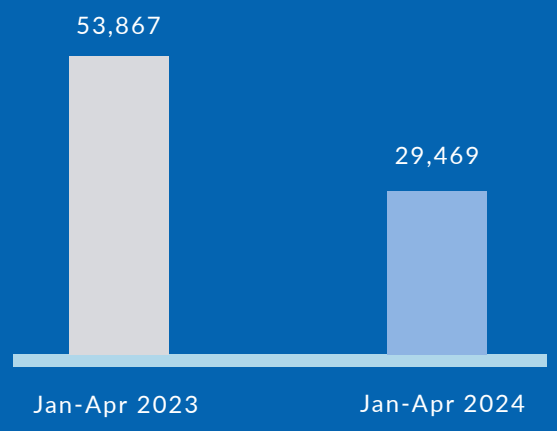
April 2024

In April, **4,721 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Tunisia (18%), Bangladesh and Guinea (16% each), and the Syrian Arab Republic (8%). **22 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 9 April, **UNHCR and CGIAR**, a global partnership uniting organization engaged in research on food security, **signed an MoU** to enhance service delivery and **strengthen the adaptive capacity of displaced and host communities using data-driven approaches**.

On 16 April, **UNHCR signed a MoU with the Prefecture and the Questura of Milan**, alongside eight civil society organisations, **to strengthen procedures for the submission of applications for international protection**.

TOTAL ARRIVALS



Source: Ministry of Interior for arrivals by sea. UNHCR estimates for arrivals by land and air. Please note that arrivals from Ukraine are not included in the chart.

KEY FIGURES

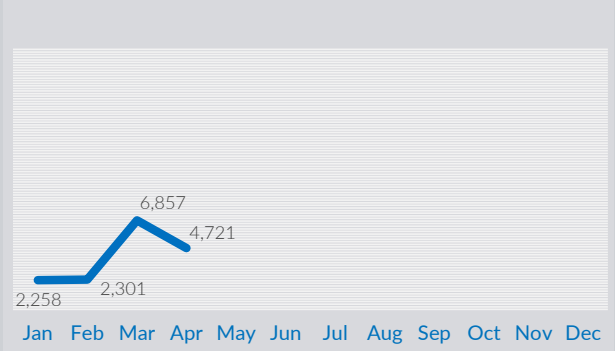
16,137

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-April 2024. 13,412 (83%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

188,109

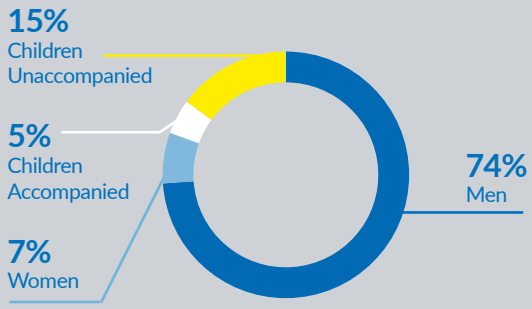
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of April 2024. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

SEA ARRIVALS BY MONTH IN 2024



Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals only.

SEA ARRIVALS BY GENDER AND AGE



Source: Ministry of Interior. Please note that the chart refers to the latest cumulative data available. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In April, **4,721 people reached the Italian shores** in 148 landings, representing a 67 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. Among arrivals, **22 per cent were children** (18% in March). Eighteen per cent originated from **Tunisia** (10% in March), followed by 16 per cent from **Bangladesh** (21% in March) and **Guinea** (11% in March) each, and 8 per cent from **the Syrian Arab Republic** (19% in March). Other nationalities of sea arrivals were Syrian (8%), Ivorian (6%), Cameroonian and Malian (5% each), Senegalese and Sudanese (4% each) and Gambian (3%). In April, almost three fourth of sea crossings departed from Tunisia (72%, 3,391 people), followed by 28 per cent from Libya (1,328 people). Almost half of the people arriving by sea (46%, 2,187 people) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**. Tragically, 116 people have died or gone missing in the Central Mediterranean, due to several shipwrecks, bringing **the total estimated number of dead and missing since the beginning of 2024 to 472**.[1]
- In April, the island of **Lampedusa** experienced a high number of arrivals, which resulted in several transfers to the mainland by special ferry and air. At various times, the hotspot hosted more than 1,000 people simultaneously (whose maximum capacity is less than 1,000).
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **600 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of arrivals to 2,300 since the beginning of the year. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh**, **Morocco**, **Türkiye**, **the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Afghanistan**. Instances of ill-treatment by the Bulgarian and Croatian Police continued being reported. UNHCR staff conducted outreach activities collecting testimonies and informed arrivals on their rights and how to apply for international protection in Italy.

External engagement

- On 9 April, Andrew Harper, UNHCR's Special Advisor on Climate Action, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CGIAR,** a global partnership of organizations focused on research on food security. The MoU, titled **'Reaching Climate Resilience Impacts at Scale',** formalizes a strategic collaboration between UNHCR and CGIAR to contribute to address the escalating challenges of climate-induced displacement. By leveraging CGIAR's extensive data and research capabilities, the partnership aims to enhance the provision of climate-resilient shelters, improve access to essential services and strengthen the adaptive capacities of displaced and host communities. The MoU signifies a critical step in integrating scientific research with humanitarian efforts, positioning UNHCR to better anticipate and

MoU signing ceremony between UNHCR and CGIAR at the CGIAR HQ in Rome ©CGIAR

Protection

- Between 3 and 4 April, the UNHCR Representative in Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, undertook a mission to **Friuli Venezia Giulia**. Here she met with various stakeholders including the Prefects of

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

[2] See also, CGIAR, Millions of refugees and displaced people to gain protection, resilience, and long-term climate solutions thanks to new CGIAR-UNHCR partnership, 9 April 2024.

[3] See also, Chiara Cardoletti's post on X, 22 April 2024.

Trieste and Udine, the Governor of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the Head of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Border Police, and the Archbishop of Trieste, to discuss the management of mixed migratory flows from the Balkan route, with particular reference to the reception of children and the most vulnerable people. Subsequently, between 11 and 12 April, the UNHCR Representative undertook a mission to **Calabria**, meeting with various stakeholders including the Prefects of Reggio Calabria and Crotone. Discussions centred on challenges related to reception and assistance for asylum-seekers, beneficiaries of international protection and migrants in the region. The mission also aimed to promote the implementation of the Vademecum for the identification, referral and care of persons living with vulnerabilities. In Crotone, the UNHCR Representative met with Cooperativa Sociale Noemi and Centro Antiviolenza Udite Agar, organizations providing support to victims of violence and exploitation.

Resettlement and complementary pathways

Participation of Chiara Cardoletti at the Sabir Festival in Prato. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

- On 12 April, Manpower organized an **online workshop on soft skills for UNICORE students**. The initiative, which is part of the Young Talent in Action programme, provides young people and students with opportunities to explore and develop their skills including through self-assessment and practical experiences. Approximately 60 refugee students participated in the workshop, expressing satisfaction and interest in the programme.
- On 18 April, the UNHCR Representative participated in a **panel session on complementary pathways** at the Sabir Festival in Prato, an annual event co-organized by several civil society organisations (CSOs), to promote the Mediterranean as a space for solidarity, justice, and cultural exchange. The UNHCR Representative provided a comprehensive update on the forced displacement globally, highlighting gaps and challenges related to legal pathways. Italy's pivotal role in this area was also emphasized, covering several initiatives from resettlement and humanitarian pathways to innovative skills-based approaches.
- On 24 April, the Accenture Foundation premises in Milan hosted the **kick-off meeting of "Ready for IT - Labour Pathways for Refugees"**, a UNHCR initiative focused on creating job opportunities for refugees under the "extra quota" of the Italian labour mobility system within the "Decreto Flussi". Eight companies, including Accenture, Experis, Aubay, SCAI Group, Reale Mutua, OverIT, MSC Tech, Btinkeeng and Valuetech, attended the meeting to discuss the details of the training programme, which aims to facilitate the arrival of around 30 refugees in Italy on work visas in November 2024.

Asylum system

MoU signing cerimony at the Questura in Milan ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

- On 16 April, UNHCR signed an **MoU with the Prefecture and the Questura of Milan**, alongside eight CSOs, **to strengthen procedures for the submission of applications for international protection**. The partnership enables CSOs to secure additional registration appointment slots at police stations in some neighbouring Municipalities potentially increasing the appointment capacity of the Milan *Questura* by up to 200 additional slots per month. This is expected to improve access to international protection procedures by reducing waiting times and streamlining the application process.

Training

- On 3 April, UNHCR conducted a training focusing on **trafficking and international protection** for **LUISS University** students who are doing an internship at the Rome Territorial Commission. Additionally, on 5 April, UNHCR facilitated training sessions on **international protection procedures and persons with specific needs within the asylum procedure** at the **University of Rome La Sapienza**, as part of the Course on Refugees and Migrants.
- On 4 April, UNHCR provided a session on **gender-based violence (GBV) and international protection** during a seminar organized by **Thamaia Associazione Onlus** for local stakeholders involved in assisting asylum seekers and conducting reception activities in Catania.
- On 11 April, UNHCR facilitated an online training for the new President of the Livorno Section of the Territorial Commission. Furthermore, on 15 April, UNHCR organized a training for the Specialized Division of the Bologna Tribunal, focusing on **claims related to sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)**. Lastly, throughout the month of April, UNHCR continued to provide training for interpreters across the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) Territorial Commissions and Sections in Catania, Palermo, Rome, Trieste and Udine.
- On 12 April, UNHCR participated in a conference organized by **MEDEL (European Magistrates for Democracy and Freedom)** at the **University Roma Tre** focusing on the European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum and its relation with international refugee law.

Child protection

- On 19 April, UNHCR, alongside the **National Authority for Childhood and Adolescence (AGIA) and UNICEF**, visited the AMIF 29 "Iter" project in Marsala, Sicily. The project, which is managed by the Umana Solidarietà consortium, consists of two first-line reception centres for unaccompanied foreign children, both male and female, aged between 14 and 18. The visit was an opportunity to meet with local institutions and talk to the children hosted in the facilities and learn about their views, expectations and challenges, with a view **to promoting and strengthening their right to be heard and to participate**.

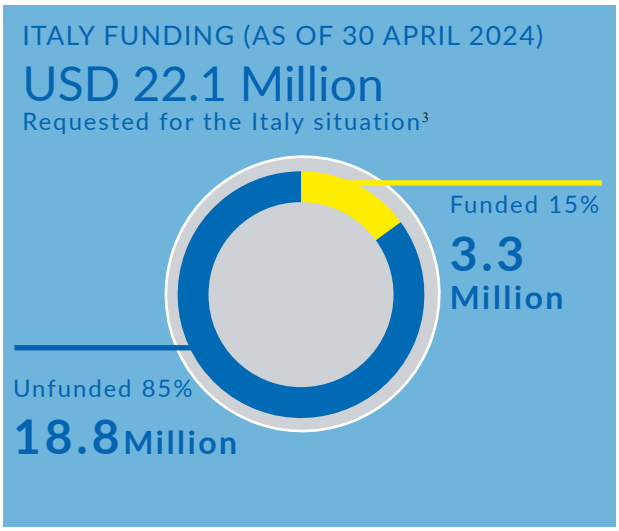
International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and its Neighbors

At the **International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and Neighboring Countries**, held on 15 April and jointly organized by France, Germany and the European Union, **UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi** delivered a speech highlighting the severe humanitarian crisis and massive displacement caused by the ongoing war in Sudan. He called for an urgent ceasefire, renewed peace efforts, and increased international funding.

The High Commissioner also acknowledged the efforts of neighboring countries in hosting Sudanese refugees. However, he expressed concern about rising migration to Europe due to the war and underscored the long-term consequences of the conflict, particularly its impact on Sudan's urban middle class—a critical segment for the country's reconstruction.[4]

[4] See also, UNHCR, Dichiarazioni dell'Alto Commissario Filippo Grandi alla conferenza umanitaria per il Sudan, di Parigi, 16 April 2024.

Financial information



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

- The 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.[4]

Fundraising

- In April 2024, UNHCR raised **2.6 million euros** from private donors in Italy. Among the private sector donors, UNHCR extends its gratitude to AS Roma, Istituto Italiano Buddista Soka Gakkai and Böninger for their contributions in April.
- In the same month, the Italian Ministry of the Interior/Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration provided UNHCR with **234,000 euros** to support monitoring activities in the management of reception facilities for Ukrainian refugees in Italy.

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LINKS UNHCR data portal - UNHCR Italy - Twitter - Facebook - LinkedIn - Global Focus

[3] Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.
[4] 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, España con ACNUR, Republic of Korea, Ireland, Belgium, Australia, Japan for UNHCR.