

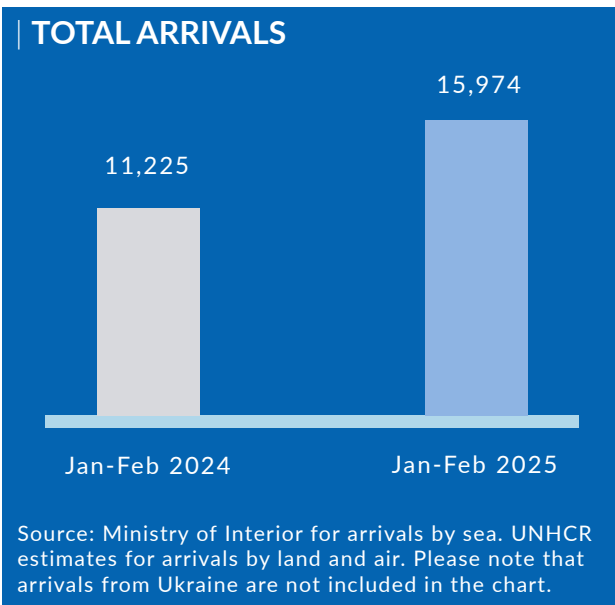
Italy

February 2025

In February, **3,329 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (42%), Pakistan (12%), and Egypt (11%). **16 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

In February, UNHCR published the **'Mapping Statelessness in Italy' report**, which highlights the challenges faced by at least 3,000 stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness in the country.

On 11 February, **139 refugees and individuals in need of international protection arrived in Italy from Libya through a humanitarian evacuation flight** in the framework of the MoU signed in December 2023 with the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and several Italian NGOs.



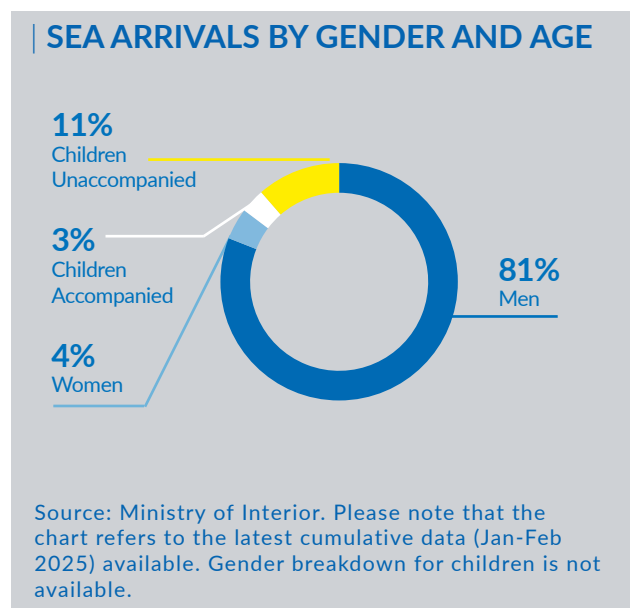
KEY FIGURES

6,808

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-February 2025. 6,213 (91%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

202,402

Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of February 2025. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In February, **3,329 people reached the Italian shores** in 72 disembarkations, a 45 per cent increase compared to the same month in 2024. Among arrivals, 16 per cent were children (14% in January). **Forty-two per cent originated from Bangladesh** (35% in January), followed by 12 per cent from Pakistan (23% in January), 11 per cent from Egypt (8% in January). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea were Syrians (6%), Eritreans (5%), Tunisians (4%) and Afghans (3%). In February, the majority **of sea crossings departed from Libya (89%, 2,968 people)**, followed by 5 per cent from Tunisia (150 people), 4 per cent from Türkiye (130 people) and 2 per cent from Algeria (81 people). In February, **around one-third of people arriving by sea (29%, 1,281 people)** were disembarked in Italy **as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.**¹
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **200 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in December by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of detected arrivals to around 700 as of February 2025. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Morocco, Pakistan, Georgia**. Instances of ill-treatment by the Police along the Western Balkan route continued being reported. UNHCR staff conducted outreach activities informing arrivals on their rights and how to apply for international protection in Italy and collecting testimonies.
- On 19 February, UNHCR partners: the Diocesan Caritas of Trieste and Donk-Humanitarian Medicine ODV opened the '**Spazio 11 - Sala d'attesa solidale**' in Trieste, a facility that offers migrants and refugees transiting through the Balkan route, a safe and covered space with seating, hot drinks, charging stations, medical assistance and legal information. As part of the project, UNHCR will provide technical support through the training of volunteers and staff working at the center, as well as information on asylum rights and procedures in Italy, with particular attention to identifying vulnerable individuals. The space will be open every day with an initial capacity of around 70 people, which could be adapted according to need.²
- On 26 February, UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM issued a **joint statement** on the occasion of the second anniversary of the **tragic shipwreck off the coast of Steccato di Cutro**, in Calabria, which claimed the lives of at least 94 people, including children. In the joint statement, UNHCR and the other UN agencies, emphasized the urgent need for strengthened responsibility-sharing and a coordinated European response to search and rescue events at sea to prevent further loss of life. The agencies also reiterated their call for the expansion of safe and legal pathways, including humanitarian and labor corridors, to provide viable alternatives to dangerous journeys and disrupt human trafficking networks.



Resettlement and complementary pathways

- Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in December 2023 between the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, UNHCR, and several Italian civil society organizations (CSOs) for the evacuation of 1,500 people from Libya, **139 individuals identified as highly vulnerable and in need of international protection arrived in Italy on 11 February from Libya**. This group included 39 women and 69 minors. Upon arrival, refugees were received by authorities and CSOs, who provided initial assistance and support for their integration within the Italian reception system (SAI).³



The arrival of 139 refugees from Libya to Italy.
 ©UNHCR / Barbara Molinaro

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

² See also, [Presentato oggi SPAZIO 11 - Sala di attesa solidale, un posto coperto dove far sostare le persone migranti e rifugiate](#), 19 February 2025.

³ See also, [Libia: arrivati a fiumicino 139 rifugiati con i corridoi umanitari](#), 11 February 2025.


Integration

- On 3 February 2025, **Indeed**, an online job search platform, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, hosted the **second recruiting day in Milan**, as part of a European project by Indeed involving also France, Germany, the United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Ireland which aims to connect companies with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Italy. More than 50 Italian companies from a range of sectors, including hospitality, retail and consulting, participated in the event, offering more than 200 job opportunities. Nearly 700 jobseekers attended, resulting in over 2,000 on-the-spot interviews during the event.⁵ This initiative is part of UNHCR's broader commitment, including the Welcome programme, to facilitate access to employment for refugees and to recognize companies that contribute to labor integration.



Indeed second recruiting day fair in Milan © Masiar Pasquali


Statelessness

- In February, UNHCR launched the **Mapping Statelessness in Italy report**, which highlights the challenges faced by at least 3,000 stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness in the country. The study identifies Roma communities from former Yugoslavia as the most affected group, alongside individuals from the former USSR, Cuba, Tibet, and Palestine. While Italy has been at the forefront of statelessness protection, the report underscores the need for strengthened legal frameworks, improved data collection, and enhanced awareness among public officials. In 2023, Italy reaffirmed its commitment through a Technical Cooperation Protocol with UNHCR and a formal pledge at the Global Refugee Forum on the subject.⁶


Community-based protection

- On 26 February, as part of the **rollout of the Gender-based Violence (GBV)/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Risk Mitigation Toolkit (Nota Tecnica)**, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Prefecture of Perugia, organized a workshop on GBV risk mitigation. The event saw the participation of approximately 30 participants from managing entities of first-line reception facilities and SAI projects.


External engagement

- On 25 February, UNHCR's Representative for Italy, the Holy See, and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, was heard before the Italian Senate where she shared UNHCR's views on **Italy's three-year planning and policy document for development cooperation (2024-2026)**. UNHCR welcomed Italy's focus on several crises affecting displaced people and stressed the importance of including refugees and other forcibly displaced populations in the strategy to ensure their protection and access to essential services. UNHCR also highlighted the need to invest in stabilization efforts along key migration routes, especially in Africa and reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the Italian Government to strengthen sustainable solutions for refugees and the communities hosting them, as part of broader international cooperation efforts.⁷

⁴ See also, [Indeed, insieme a UNHCR e OIM, ha organizzato a Milano il secondo recruiting day per far incontrare aziende con migranti e rifugiati](#), 4 February 2025.

⁶ See also, [Apolidia, UNHCR: Sono circa 3.000 le persone apolidi o a rischio di apolidia nel nostro Paese](#), 27 February 2025.

⁷ See also, [Chiara Cardoletti's tweet on X](#), 25 February 2025.

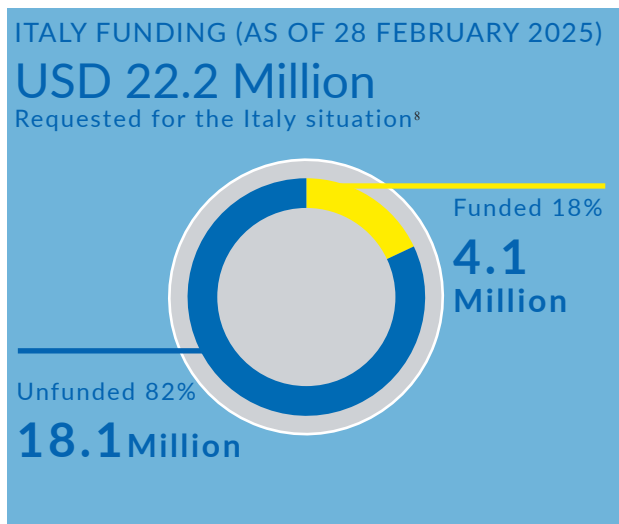


Training

- On 3 February, UNHCR co-facilitated a training session on female genital mutilation (FGM) organized by the Territorial Commission of Florence in collaboration with Nos Otras Association.
- On 4 February, UNHCR co-organized a training session with the National anti-trafficking free toll number (*Numero Verde Anti-Tratta*) to discuss the novelties introduced by the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and which saw the participation on various anti-trafficking entities.
- On 6 February, UNHCR participated and contributed to discussions at the fifth Summit on Female Genital Mutilation, organized by the Italian Society of Plastic, Reconstructive, Regenerative and Aesthetic Surgery (SICPRE) in collaboration with ActionAid, held in Milan.



Financial information



- UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to the UNHCR Multi-country office (MCO) in Italy in February, and throughout 2025, including for earmarked, softly earmarked, unearmarked and tightly earmarked contributions.⁹
- UNHCR MCO Italy is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In February, **5 million euros** was raised from private sector donors in Italy, including ACRI, COOP Italia, and Mediobanca.

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

⁸ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities. The funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Italy MCO shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to indirect support costs and carry-over.

⁹ 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, España con ACNUR, Norway, Japan for UNHCR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), France, Private donors in the Republic of Korea, Germany, Private donors in Italy, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Sweden for UNHCR, Japan, Private donors in the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Australia.