

# Italy

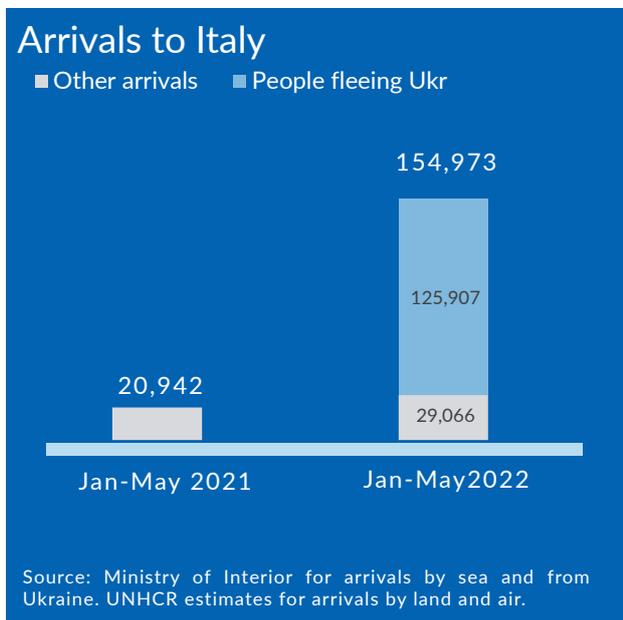
May 2022

As of the end of May, **125,907 refugees fleeing Ukraine** arrived in Italy, of whom some 20,500 entered the country this month. **UNHCR staff assist new arrivals at border crossing points.**

UNHCR took part in a **joint mission to Moldova**, together with **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, journalists, and private sector**, to strengthen a multi-stakeholder response to the situation in the country.

**Monthly sea arrivals** in May reached the **year-to-date peak** of 8,720, placing considerable pressure on disembarkation locations in southern Italy, particularly in **Lampedusa** and **Calabria**.

## TOTAL ARRIVALS



## KEY FIGURES (MAY 2022)

**20,490**

**Arrivals from Ukraine** to Italy by land, air and train (Source: Ministry of Interior, as of 31 May)

**8,720**

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

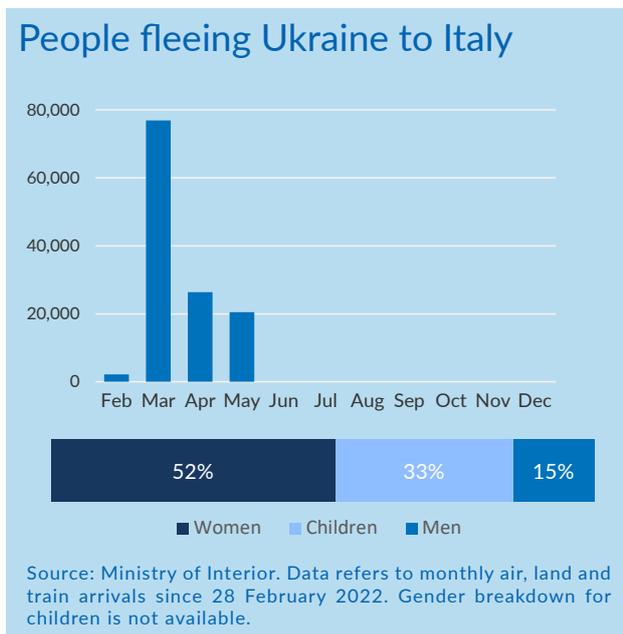
**4,886**

**People fleeing Ukraine informed** about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff at Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points (Source: UNHCR, as of 30 April)

**5,817**

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

## UKRAINE



## SEA ARRIVALS



- **Ukraine emergency.** As of the end of May, **125,907 refugees from Ukraine arrived in Italy** since the outbreak of conflict. New arrivals from Ukraine continue to most commonly enter the country through the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points in the north-eastern Italy. Almost 20,500 persons arrived in the month of May. New arrivals include visibly distressed individuals from areas of Ukraine that were severely affected by the conflict. Some reported fleeing the country after an initial period of internal displacement due to the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation. Access to Italian territory continued to be regularly granted to Ukrainian citizens as well as non-Ukrainian nationals who resided in Ukraine and left due to the conflict.
  
- **UNHCR staff continued to be present at north-eastern border crossing points** providing new arrivals with information on relevant procedures in Italy and supporting the authorities in identifying vulnerable persons, including children travelling on their own. By the end of May, **26,354 persons had been provided with basic information** about services and registration procedures by UNHCR staff at the border. In close cooperation with UNICEF and in partnership with ARCI, D.i.RE., Save the Children and Stella Polare, UNHCR also assists new arrivals through the two **Blue Dots** that have been operational at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points since April. Blue Dots enable new arrivals requiring extra care, such as children travelling on their own, women with young children, persons with disabilities and survivors of sexual violence, to access a safe space finding respite, important information and relevant services. By the end of May, **1,827 persons - both adults and children - have access the Blue Dots.**<sup>1</sup>
  
- In addition to counselling new arrivals from Ukraine at the border, UNHCR and partners provide information through a front desk in Rome and a toll-free helpline run by partner ARCI. Between the start of the emergency and the end of May, **some 830 persons accessed in-person and over-the-telephone counselling.**
  
- In May, UNHCR continued to develop **targeted information sessions** for the Ukrainian community, addressing their specific information needs.<sup>2</sup> UNHCR has also established thematic dialogues with the Ukrainian community through WhatsApp trees, and arranged events with pilot communities in Rome to disseminate information on available activities and services.
  
- As of the end of May, **over 113,000 arrivals from Ukraine had applied for temporary**



One of the Blue Dots at the north-eastern border crossing points, run by UNHCR and UNICEF in partnership with ARCI, D.i.RE., Save the Children and Stella Polare. ©UNHCR/Marco Albertini



New arrivals from Ukraine access the Blue Dots in Italy's north-eastern borders. ©UNHCR/Marco Albertini

<sup>1</sup> For further information, see UNHCR, [Emergenza Ucraina: UNHCR e UNICEF attivano due blue dots in Friuli Venezia Giulia per fornire informativa e supporto ai rifugiati in fuga dall'Ucraina in arrivo in Italia](#) 21 April, (in Italian, last access 23 March 2022). This [video](#) also explains what Blue Dots are.

<sup>2</sup> The video of the information session on unaccompanied children is available [here](#) (last access 23 June 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons, provided for in 2001 by Council Directive 2001/55/EC. Its application was triggered for the first time by the Council of the European Union in 2022 in response to the Ukrainian emergency. For further information on temporary protection, see also European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#) and Protezione Civile, [Protezione temporanea in Italia: opuscolo informativo](#) (last access 23 May 2022).

**protection** in Italy.<sup>3</sup> UNHCR is monitoring the implementation of temporary protection in Italy, focusing also on delays in submitting applications and issuing permits of stay. Processing delays, in fact, impact on refugees' access to services, including cash assistance.<sup>4</sup> Persons who are not entitled to apply for temporary protection, e.g. Ukrainian nationals who left the country prior to the outbreak of conflict who may fear returning home, can submit a request for asylum. Between the start of the emergency and the end of May, **almost 1,600 Ukrainians applied for asylum** in Italy. **UNHCR staff working in Territorial Commissions monitor trends with regard to asylum applications and decisions**, providing also advice and support to authorities assessing individuals claims.

- **Access to territory (other arrivals).** In May 2022, **8,720 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, the highest number of monthly sea arrivals in 2022 so far. Year-to-date, 19,481 persons arrived in Italy by sea, an increase of 33% and 281% compared to the numbers of persons reaching shore in the January-May period in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Most sea arrivals disembarking in Italy in May originate from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Egypt. Over half of monthly arrivals departed from Libya, followed by Türkiye (28%), Tunisia (17%) and Algeria (1%).<sup>5</sup> New arrivals from Libya this month included persons with evident torture marks confirming increased **brutality of tortures in Libya**.

- Increasing sea arrivals in May resulted in the **overcrowding of the Lampedusa hotspot**, with newly arrived refugees and migrants facing difficult WASH conditions, delayed assistance and enhanced gender-based violence (GBV) risks, in particular for women and children. UN agencies and NGOs working on the island advocated with relevant authorities for prompt action to be taken to ensure adequate conditions and assistance for new arrivals following disembarkation. The increase in sea arrivals has been particularly evident also in the southern region of **Calabria**, which received some 20% of year-to-date arrivals, i.e. 3,977 persons, compared to 534 in the same period last year. This put the region's **ports and reception system under significant pressure**, highlighting the need to quickly upgrade the logistical set-up and provision of assistance in order to cater for large groups, with risks of unhealthy conditions, enhanced GBV risks and delays in transfer of unaccompanied children to dedicated facilities. At the end of May, UNHCR staff **accompanied the Head of the Ministry of Interior's Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration on mission to Calabria together with** to assess the situation and identify required action and support, particularly in view of the likely increase of sea arrivals during the summer months. UNHCR staff continue to be present at disembarkation sites in southern Italy, providing new arrivals with relevant information and supporting the authorities in identifying particularly vulnerable persons.



UNHCR staff assisting new arrivals from Ukraine. ©UNHCR/Marco Albertini

- An additional **678 (non Ukrainian) land arrivals** were reported through the Italy-Slovenia border in May, mainly originating from Pakistan and Bangladesh. Year to date, 2,131 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by land from Slovenia. **UNHCR staff carry out outreach activities in border areas**, delivering information to new arrivals and connecting them with relevant services.
- **External engagement.** In May, UNHCR staff attended a number of events aiming at discussing **comprehensive and sustainable solutions to refugee situations** in Europe across the globe. Events included the course "Wounded Europe - A new agenda on migrations, peace and common future" organized by Centro Astalli and the Pontifical Gregorian University, the **European Festival of European**

<sup>4</sup> In Italy, persons applying for temporary protection and living in private accommodation are entitled to a 300 euros cash contribution, for up to three months since submitting an application. For further information on the current status of requests for cash contribution, see [Protezione Civile, Emergenza Ucraina. Dashboard contributi di sostentamento](#) (last access 23 June 2022).

<sup>5</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

Geopolitics and the **Sabir Festival**, organized yearly by ARCI together with Caritas, ACLI, CGIL, the Italian Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (ARCI) and Carta di Roma. UNHCR staff also attended a **conference organized by ASGI and Amnesty International**, attended by numerous lawyers and civil society organizations and focusing on the Memorandum of Understanding between Italy and Libya: UNHCR staff explained activities and context-related and implementation constraints in Libya. In May, UNHCR staff also delivered **awareness raising sessions to students** in Lucca and Turin and ran a workshop on writing press releases in the context of humanitarian emergencies as part of the Master in Human Rights at Sapienza University in Rome. **Training to journalists** were also delivered under UNHCR's partnership with Carta di Roma in Matera and in Treviso, reaching a total of 135 persons including 107 journalists.



UNHCR staff delivering a training session to journalists in Treviso, in partnership with Carta di Roma. ©UNHCR

- **Fundraising.** In May, UNHCR raised **5 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 36.2 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 De Longhi, Furla, Corriere della Sera and La7 through the fundraising campaign "Un Aiuto Subito - Ucraina".

### Ukraine situation - Joint mission to Moldova

In early May, UNHCR took part in a **joint mission to Moldova together with senior officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, with a view to strengthening cooperation in the response to the situation in Moldova. The delegation met with institutions assisting refugees from Ukraine and visited the MoldExpo refugee centre and the Palanca border crossing point, where hundreds of Ukrainian refugees arrive to seek protection in Moldova. The **Ministry confirmed its commitment to support and assist persons forced to flee**, including through the Migration Fund, with a particular focus on women, children and vulnerable persons.

Journalists from the national public broadcasting company **RAI (TG1)** and from major national newspapers **Corriere della Sera** and **Il Foglio** also joined the mission. In representation of the Italian private sector, which highly contributed to the Ukrainian emergency response, **Amplifon Foundation** joined the mission confirming their commitment to a long-term strategic partnership with UNHCR to support refugees, in particular those with a hearing impairment.

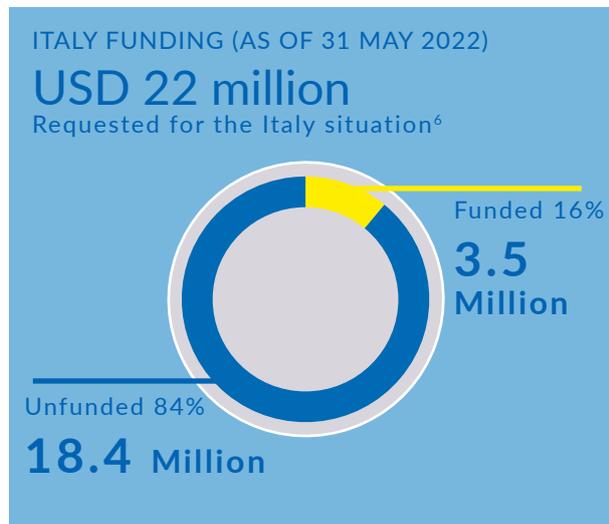
A **multi-stakeholder approach** to global displacement issues underpinned the joint visit to



Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies, Minister Luigi Vignali, meets with UNHCR Representative in Moldova, Ms. Francesca Bonelli. ©UNHCR

Moldova, coupled with information and awareness raising activities. A **"whole-of-society" engagement** is essential to comprehensively and sustainably respond to refugee situations in Europe and globally and to promote sustainable development and peace, consistent with the principles enshrined in the Global Compact for Refugees.

# Financial information



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to its 2022 global programmes. <sup>7</sup> Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

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## LINKS

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<sup>6</sup> Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

<sup>7</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. Broadly 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.