

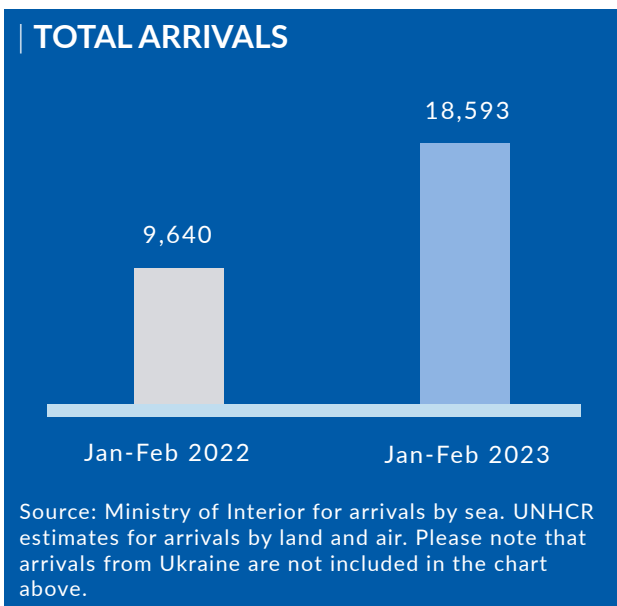
# Italy

## February 2023

In February, **9,464 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. They mostly originated from Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Bangladesh. Additional arrivals came **via land and air**. A tragic **shipwreck** occurred off the Italian coast.

UNHCR and the **Bari Municipality** signed a protocol to launch the *Spazio Comune*, a **multifunctional centre** to facilitate refugee integration through coordinated services at local level.

The last group of **'UNICORE - University corridors for refugees'** students arrived to Italy. They received **scholarships** allowing them to continue studies and achieve a Master's degree in Italy.



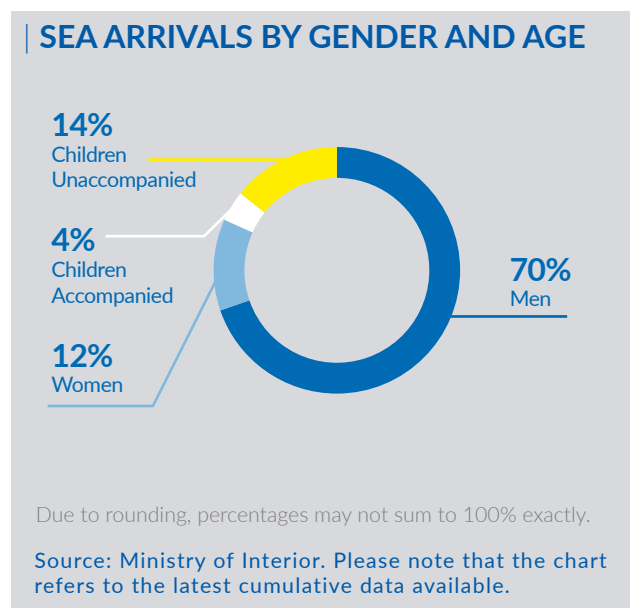
### KEY FIGURES

# 14,427

**Sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different sites across the country in January-February 2023. 13,386 (93% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

# 171,739

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





## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In February, Italy continued to receive a significant number of refugees and migrants via the Mediterranean Sea. During the month, **9,464 persons reached the shores in Italy** - an increase of 92% compared to January - mainly originating from **Guinea** (18%), followed by **Côte d'Ivoire** (16%) and **Bangladesh** (12%). 40% and 48% among Guinean and Ivorian nationals arrived in February were **women and children**. Almost two out of three new arrivals departed from Tunisia, while another 33% embarked in Libya. The rest departed from Algeria and Türkiye. 92% of refugees and migrants arriving in February disembarked in Sicily, including Lampedusa, where particularly critical conditions were recorded in the **hotspot**.<sup>1</sup> On 26 February, a **shipwreck occurred off the coast of Crotona in Calabria**,<sup>2</sup> mainly carrying Pakistanis, Afghans and Iranians. According to survivors' testimonies, the group of 170-200 persons, mostly composed by families, had departed from Turkey five days earlier. On 26 February, the vessel hit a shallow reef only 10 nm from the Calabrian coast due to harsh sea conditions and fell apart after. As of 4 March, the total number of confirmed victims was 70, and an estimated 25 - 50 people were still missing. UNHCR provided **immediate psychological aid**, together with Medici Senza Frontiere, while it **informed survivors on access to international protection** and **referred persons with specific needs** to relevant actors in Crotona. The team **supported local authorities** in listing family links of all survivors, with the aim to proceed with family reunion in other European Member States, where possible. UNHCR team also facilitated the gathering of testimonies to finalize the list of victims for repatriation of bodies. Since the beginning of the year, **315 persons are dead or missing along the Central Mediterranean route**.
- Access to territory (land arrivals).** In addition to arrivals via sea, **around 1,760 land arrivals were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia since January**. In the same period in 2022, around 660 arrivals were recorded. Refugees and migrants arrived in Italy, travelling by land via south-east Europe, mainly originated from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. Issues related to **reception** and the lack of capacity in formal facilities continued in February, with persons sleeping rough and waiting to receive an accommodation. UNHCR staff regularly conducted **outreach activities**, collecting testimonies from new arrivals and informing them on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.
- Ukraine situation.** As of 24 February, **171,739 refugees from Ukraine** applied for temporary protection in Italy since the start of the emergency.<sup>3</sup> On the one-year mark since the beginning of the conflict, UNHCR **disseminated the results** of the **profiling exercise of Ukrainian refugees** conducted in Rome, Milan and Naples.



UNHCR staff assisting a refugee fleeing Ukraine at the Italy-Slovenia border. ©UNHCR/Dario Bosio

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

<sup>2</sup> See also UNHCR, [UNHCR e OIM esprimono cordoglio per la perdita di vite a largo della costa crotonese](#), 26 February 2023 (in Italian).

<sup>3</sup> For further information, see also Civil Protection, [Mappe e dashboards Ucraina](#) (last access 22 March 2023).



## Policy developments

- On 23 February, the Council of Ministers approved the **Law Decree 16/2023 concerning Temporary Protection measures for people fleeing Ukraine**. It entered into force on 3 March, and will be converted into law within 60 days. Among other issues, the Law Decree provides for the extension of reception and support measures, as well as for the automatic extension of permits of stay for Temporary Protection (TP) expiring on 4 March until 31 December 2023. Should a decision of cessation of TP be taken by the EU Council before that date, the permits of stay will expire and be revoked.



## Integration

- Spazio Comune.** On 15 February, **UNHCR and the Bari Municipality signed a protocol** aimed at facilitating refugee integration by promoting access to coordinated services at local level.<sup>4</sup> The protocol entailed the launch of the *Spazio Comune*, a multifunctional integration center to be realized also through UNHCR's partnership with Action Aid. The initiative envisages the participation of other stakeholders critical to the integration of refugees, such as the Questura, the Prefecture and the local health authorities (ASL). **Refugees will receive support** in accessing documents, as well as in searching for accommodation and work opportunities. **Social cohesion initiatives**, aimed at both the refugee and the local community, are also foreseen. The Municipality of Bari is among those which signed the UNHCR's Integration Charter in 2022, committing to promote and foster integration and inclusion processes, including through the contribution to UNHCR's programmes such as Welcome and Community Matching.
- PartecipAzione.** On 17 February, the **6th edition of the PartecipAzione project**, realized in collaboration with INTERSOS, was launched.<sup>5</sup> The **initiative** aims at empowering and building the capacities of **refugee-led organizations** (RLOs) in Italy. The call will close on 31 March and targets RLOs engaged in the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, in activities fostering their integration or facilitating the social cohesion between refugees and their hosting communities. The organizations selected will have access to funds, training modules, coaching sessions and networking opportunities.



## Resettlement and complementary pathways

- On 28 February, the last group of '**UNICORE - University Corridors for Refugees**' students reached Italy, completing the arrivals (49 students in total) foreseen for UNICORE 4.0. UNHCR and Caritas assisted students upon their arrival. Chosen on the basis of their academic results

<sup>4</sup> See also UNHCR, *Comune di Bari e UNHCR firmano un protocollo d'intesa per promuovere l'inclusione dei rifugiati rendendo più semplice l'orientamento e l'accesso ai servizi per l'integrazione sul territorio*, 15 February 2023 (in Italian).

<sup>5</sup> See also UNHCR, *Al via la sesta edizione del programma PartecipAzione - Azioni per la protezione e partecipazione dei rifugiati*, 17 February 2023 (in Italian).

and motivation, refugee students received **scholarships**, allowing them to continue studies and achieve a Master's degree in Italy. 32 Italian Universities already joined the next edition of UNICORE, offering 58 scholarships, while Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected to participate in the initiative.



## Training

- Thanks to the existing *Memorandum of Understanding* with CNOAS, the National Order of Social Workers, UNHCR provides online mandatory trainings on the CNOAS' institutional platform on topics related to the **protection of children seeking or already granted asylum** in Italy. In 2022, **almost 5,500 social workers completed the online training**, including an induction on protection and gender-based violence, while almost 3,900 finalized also the second series of lessons, covering inclusion, specific needs related to SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics) and LGBTQI+ persons and reception. In 2023, around 400 persons already completed both trainings.



## External engagement

- In February, MCO Italy continued its regular engagement with Government and political counterparts. On the 10th anniversary of the Holy Father pontificate, the Representative took part in the "2013 - 2023, dieci anni di magistero sociale di Papa Francesco" conference held at the Bank of Italy premises, meeting with counterparts also from the private sector. The Representative was also in Bari for the launch of the Spazio Comune and the signature of the protocol, meeting with the local authorities and other relevant actors.



## Fundraising

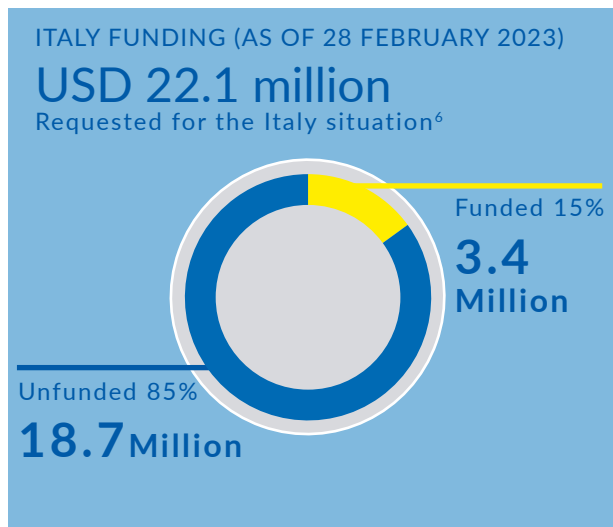
- In February, UNHCR raised **4.9 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 8.9 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR activities this month were Banca Progetto, Be Happy Foundation, Calzedonia, Coop, Fondazione BNL, Fondazione EOS, Fondazione Pesenti, Fondazione Prosolidar, General Packing, Golden Goose, IED, Moncler, OTB Foundation, Pirelli, Prada, Pupa, Università commerciale L. Bocconi.

## Joint initiatives

As part of the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed with the research centre IDOS, and in light of a broader collaboration, UNHCR intervened on 7 February in a conference in **Parma**, and in **Bologna** on 23 February. During both occasions, UNHCR presented the **Welcome programme** and the activities carried out in collaboration with NGOs and the corporate sector, aimed at facilitating the activation of labour inclusion pathways for refugees through their reskilling or upskilling. By providing evidence of the positive outcomes of the initiative, UNHCR underlined how Welcome contributes to a change in the narrative of refugees in the context of the labour market. UNHCR is working to enlarge and consolidate the network of NGOs and companies active within the programme, and to establish the Welcome platform, which will facilitate the matching between companies needs and refugees.



## 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**

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, including Italy, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>7</sup>

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## LINKS

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

<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. 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; Germany; Switzerland; Belgium; Ireland. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors USA.