

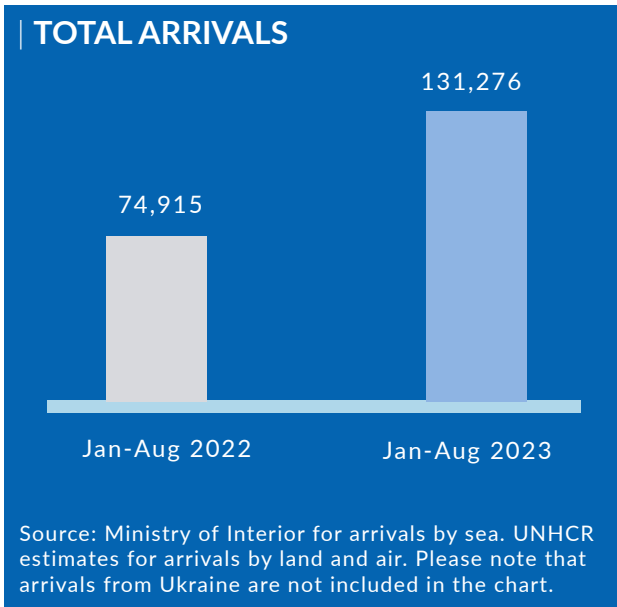
# Italy

August 2023

In August, **25,673 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Tunisia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. 20% were children. Additional arrivals reached Italy **via land and air**.

**52 scholarships** were awarded in August to **refugee students** present in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe within the **UNICORE 5.0** programme.

**Enel Cuore Onlus** and **Mediobanca** provided two separate **contributions to UNHCR GBV activities** (amounting respectively to 350,000 EUR and 407,330 EUR).



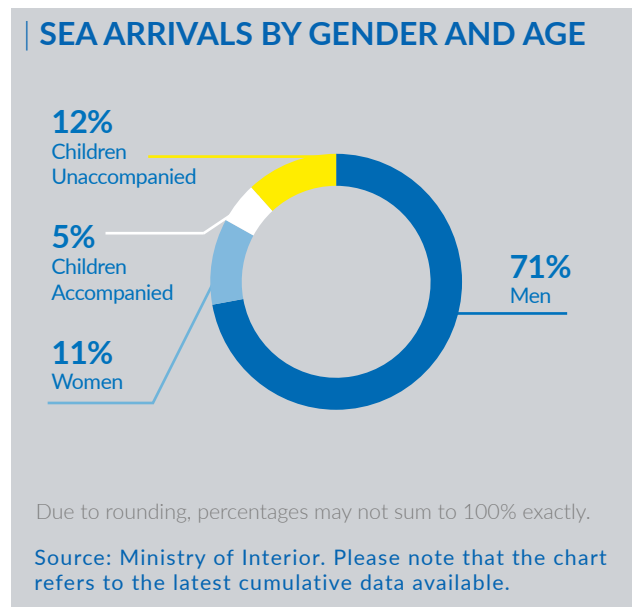
### KEY FIGURES

**114,612**

**Sea arrivals** to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-August 2023. 99,040 (86% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

**179,102**

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





## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In August, the upward trend in sea arrivals continued and peaked once more this month. **25,673 persons reached the shores in Italy**, an increase of 10% compared to July. 20% were **children**. New arrivals mainly originated from **Guinea** (11%), **Bangladesh** (10%) and **Burkina Faso** (10%). Other nationalities arriving during the month were Burkinabe, Sudanese and Malian. In August, mirroring the previous months' pattern, the majority of migrants and refugees departed from Tunisia, representing 80% of monthly sea arrivals. The rest of the sea crossings departed from Libya (16%), Türkiye (3%) and Algeria, Lebanon and Cyprus (less than 1% each). Over the month, almost **15,626** people (61% of the total) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search And Rescue (SAR) operations**. In August, the **Lampedusa** hotspot faced considerable pressure following a large influx of new arrivals. This caused it to surpass its maximum capacity by a significant margin, with approximately 4,000 persons hosted at its peak (compared to a capacity of 500). Despite numerous transfers to the mainland, the situation remained challenging for days. During the reporting period, **22,347 people** (around 87% of monthly sea arrivals) were assisted and **informed about asylum procedures** by UNHCR staff following disembarkation. Due to several shipwrecks, nearly **2,500 people have died or gone missing** in the Mediterranean Sea within the initial eight months of this year<sup>1</sup>.
- Shipwrecks.** Several shipwrecks occurred in Italian waters in August; **over 80 people have been reported dead or missing**. UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF expressed their deepest condolences for the deadly shipwreck that occurred between Thursday 3 and Friday 4 August in the Mediterranean Sea. According to the **testimonies of four survivors** the group was rescued by a merchant ship and brought to safety in Lampedusa by the Italian Coast Guard. The survivors reported that 41 people remained missing, including three children. The iron barge, which left from Sfax (Tunisia) is reported to have capsized during navigation. Dangerous weather conditions make crossings in iron barges particularly perilous for navigation, highlighting smugglers' total disregard for the lives of migrants and refugees making these journeys. The **Central Mediterranean** is one of the most active and dangerous migration routes globally, with **more than 75 per cent of the victims in the Mediterranean recorded in the Central Mediterranean over the past ten years**. The three UN organizations reiterated the need for coordinated search and rescue mechanisms and continue to call on States to increase resources and capacities to effectively meet their responsibilities.
- Access to territory (land arrivals).** In addition to arrivals via sea, **some 1,100** land arrivals were apprehended at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in August. Since the beginning of 2023, more than **7,600** new arrivals were reported in this area. Those travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. Hundreds of people, including persons with specific needs and unaccompanied children, reportedly spent several days sleeping rough in informal settings in August, due to limited access to reception, especially in Trieste province. UNHCR staff continued to conduct **outreach activities**, collecting testimonies and informing new arrivals on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.



Refugees and migrants at sea awaiting to be rescued ©REUTERS/Juan Medina

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



## Resettlement and complementary pathways

- **52 scholarships have been awarded to refugee students** present in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, within the framework of the **UNICORE 5.0 project**. Main countries of origin of the students are South Sudan, Burundi, Cameroon, Eritrea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following scholarship selection and award, UNHCR liaised with Embassies and relevant authorities to disseminate information and request assistance on convention travel document, declaration of values, and visas to organise departures.
- The University Corridors for Refugees project started with a **pilot phase in 2019. Five years later, more than 40 universities offered over 170 study opportunities** to refugee students living abroad. Today, UNICORE 5.0 is promoted by Italian universities with the support of UNHCR, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli and other partners. It aims to increase opportunities for refugees currently residing in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to continue their higher education in Italy.
- Between the 1st and the 3rd of August 2023 and within the framework of complementary pathways, **26 persons were transferred from Iran to Italy through humanitarian corridors**. The groups were composed by four adult males, 15 adult females, four minor males and three minor females.



The arrival of students of a previous UNICORE programme  
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## Child protection

- On **1 August, 34 Ukrainian boys and girls** (aged 15-17), hosted in Rota d'Imagna (Bergamo) since March 2022, **were repatriated**. The latter took place **following two decrees** issued by the Juvenile Court granting approval for the repatriation requested by the Italian guardians. Three children managed to remain in Italy. Other 44 children, plus the three who managed not to leave, are still hosted at the Stella Mattutina facility. Besides them, other small groups of children are hosted in various facilities in the area.
- UNHCR's position is contained in the document Voluntary Return to Ukraine of Refugee Children without Parental Care, including Unaccompanied Children and Children Evacuated from Care Institutions in Ukraine. **UNHCR stands ready to advise and support States** on family reunification and the implementation of procedural safeguards for decision making on voluntary returns/Best Interests Procedures, in line with legal standards and UNHCR's Best Interests Procedure Guidelines.

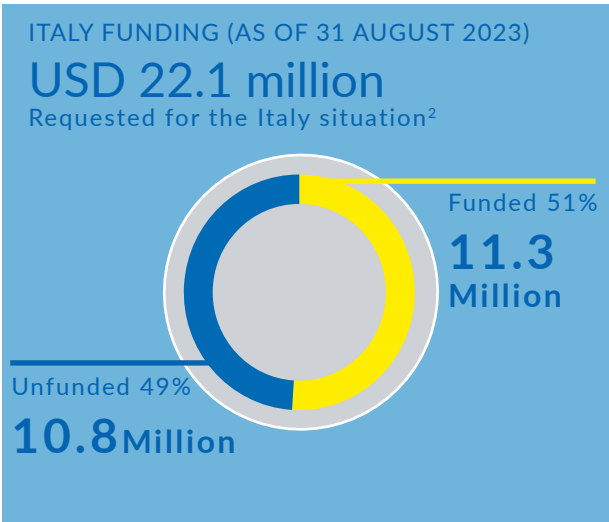


## Fundraising

- In August, UNHCR raised **2.5 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 22.8 million Euros since the beginning of the year. **Enel Cuore Onlus and Mediobanca provided two separate contributions to UNHCR's work in GBV** (amounting respectively to 350,000 EUR and 407,330 EUR). Funding went to support GBV case identification, case management and referrals; legal, psychological, social and medical support for GBV survivors and capacity building of different stakeholders working in the field. The activities funded will take place in different locations of the Italian territory.



## 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 | Calzedonia SpA | Dieci Trust Onlus | Mediobanca SpA | Enel Cuore Onlus | Other private donors**

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors, including Italy, who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>3</sup>

## CONTACTS

**Giulia Manni**, Senior Reporting Assistant, [manni@unhcr.org](mailto:manni@unhcr.org)

**Cristina Franchini**, Senior External Relations Associate, [franchin@unhcr.org](mailto:franchin@unhcr.org)

## LINKS

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<sup>2</sup> Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

<sup>3</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; Netherlands; Denmark; Private donors Spain; United Kingdom; France; Germany; Private donors Japan; Switzerland; Private donors Republic of Korea; Belgium; Ireland; Private donors Italy. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors Germany; Private donors Canada; Private donors Sweden; Private donors United States of America.