

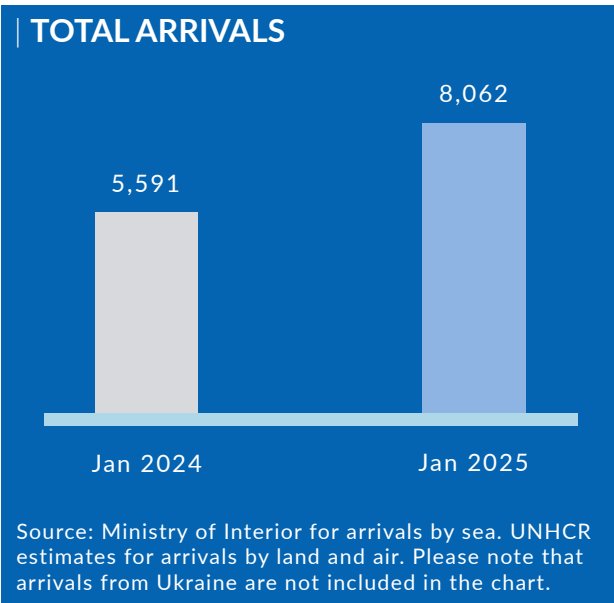
# Italy

## January 2025

In January, **3,479 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (35%), Pakistan (23%), and the Syrian Arab Republic. (13%). **14 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 16 January, the first two refugees under the **'Navigating into the Future: Discovery and Training of Talents in International Shipbuilding'** labour pathways initiative arrived in Italy. They will work in the shipbuilding sector with the Italian company Orienta Società Benefit.

In January, UNHCR published the **2025 Recommendations for the Polish and Danish Presidencies of the Council of the European Union** which will play a key role in guiding Member States toward aligning their asylum systems with the Pact on Migration and Asylum.



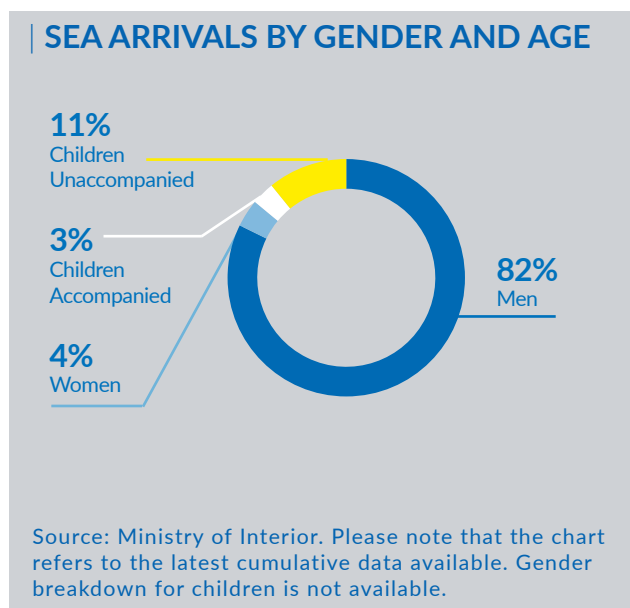
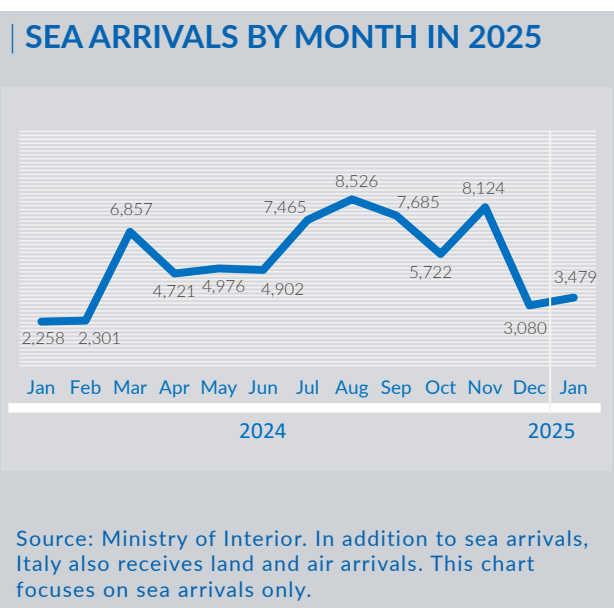
### KEY FIGURES

# 3,479

**People reached Italy by sea** disembarking in different ports across the country in January 2025. 3,268 (94%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

# 195,795

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





## Arrivals

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In January, **3,479 people reached the Italian shores** in 85 disembarkations, a 54 per cent increase compared to the same month in 2024. Among arrivals, 14 per cent were children. **Thirty-five per cent originated from Bangladesh** (40% in December 2024), followed by 23 per cent from **Pakistan** (14% in December 2024) and **13 per cent the Syrian Arab Republic** (15% in December 2024). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea were Egyptians (8%), Ethiopians (4%), Eritreans (3%), and Algerians and Moroccans (2% each). In January, **almost all sea crossings departed from Libya (97%, 3,360 people)**, followed by 2 per cent from Algeria (83 people), and 1 per cent from Tunisia (36 people). In January, **less than half of the people arriving by sea (42%, 1,462 people) were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.**<sup>1</sup>
- Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **300 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in January by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, Morocco, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Egypt**. 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.



## Resettlement and complementary pathways

- On 16 January, the first two refugees, from Sudan and South Sudan, arrived in Italy under the **'Navigating into the Future: Discovery and Training of Talents in International Shipbuilding'** labour pathway initiative. Spearheaded by **Orienta Società Benefit** and implemented in partnership with **UNHCR, Talent Beyond Boundaries, Istituto Salesiano Don Bosco Cairo, and the Associazione Nazionale Assistenza Sociale – E. Schiaparelli**, the project was carried out in Egypt. There, 240 people—including refugees and Egyptian nationals—were trained/are undergoing training in shipbuilding professions such as industrial welding, carpentry, painting, sandblasting, scaffolding, electrical work, and ship engine operation. The initiative, developed in collaboration with the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, of Interior, of Labor, and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers** aims to establish safe and legal pathways to Italy by equipping refugees with skills in the countries of asylum, thereby contributing to Italy's skilled labor force. The arrival of the first two refugees marks a significant milestone, demonstrating the potential of labor mobility schemes in fostering durable solutions for displaced populations.<sup>2</sup>



The first two refugees from Sudan and South Sudan arrived in Italy through labour mobility programmes. © UNHCR/Dalma Timar



## Community-based protection

- In January, alongside other key actors, UNHCR participated in the first Working Groups on Vulnerabilities, established by the Varese and Brescia Prefectures within the framework of their Territorial Councils for Migration. The meetings, held on 19 January and 21 January respectively, marked the beginning of the roll-out process of the **Handbook for the identification, referral and take in charge of people with vulnerabilities (Vademecum)** which was published by the Ministry of Interior in June 2023, of which UNHCR supported the drafting and adoption. The Handbook provides standardized guidelines for all actors involved in the asylum system at national level, addressing how to identify, refer and respond to specific needs.

<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, [Arrivano i primi rifugiati nell'ambito del nuovo programma di mobilità lavorativa promosso dall'UNHCR e dai suoi partner](#). 16 January 2024; and Chiara Cardoletti's [tweet on X](#).

## Integration

- On 21 January, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, accompanied by the President of the Municipal Council of Milan, Lamberto Bertolé, visited the newly opened [Milano Welcome Centre](#). The center, which resulted from the Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2023 between UNHCR and the Municipality of Milan, is based on the '[Spazio Comune](#)' model. This multi-service center for refugees and migrants provides essential integration services following a 'one-stop-shop' format.<sup>3</sup>



## Training

- On 21 January, UNHCR delivered a training titled "*Le forme di tutela e protezione per le vittime di sfruttamento lavorativo*" to Common Ground operators in Udine, focusing on access to international protection, information provision, and recent legislative innovations.
- On January 23, UNHCR facilitated a session at La Sapienza University, as part of the Legal Academy on Immigration and Citizenship in Action (LAICA) module, discussing the "Protection of Palestinians in Europe and Italy".
- On January 24, UNHCR facilitated a training session at La Sapienza University on "The 1951 Geneva Convention and the definition of refugee," within the Course on Refugee and Migrants in the context of the Master's Degree in Migration and Development.

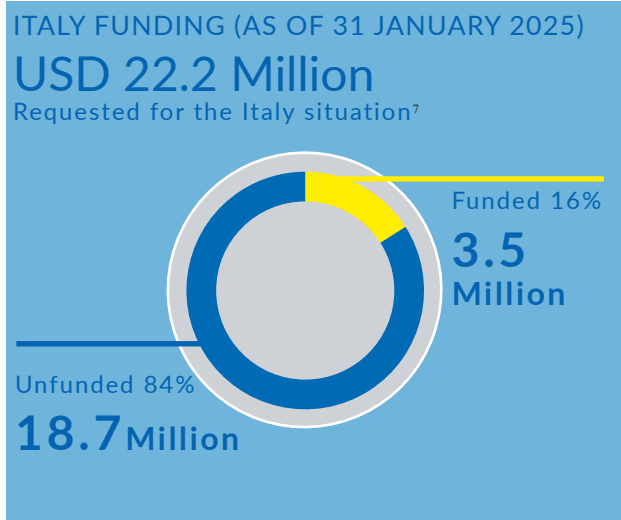
## External engagement

- On 9 January, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, attended the [Pope's annual address](#) to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See. The speech outlined the Holy See's strategic vision for 2025. Key highlights, which also resonate with UNHCR's strategy and position, encompassed the focus on the protection of victims of human trafficking and people facing forced displacement, the severe challenges confronting people on the move—whether crossing Central America and the Sahara Desert or undertaking perilous sea journeys across the Mediterranean and the English Channel—and the urgent need to establish safe and regular migration pathways, tackle the root causes of displacement, and uphold multilateralism as a cornerstone for collective action.<sup>4</sup>
- In January, UNHCR released its [Recommendations for the Polish and Danish Presidencies of the Council of the EU for 2025](#). Overall, UNHCR's recommendations urge prioritizing the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, advocating for a balanced and effective approach that ensures robust safeguards, efficient asylum procedures, and the necessary support for vulnerable individuals. The Recommendations also emphasize the external dimension of the Pact, calling for its operationalization through a whole-of-route approach to effectively respond to mixed movements. This involves integrating protection principles into agreements with third countries, prioritizing safe journeys, and strengthening the fight against trafficking. The Recommendations also address high-priority themes, including the review of the safe third country concept and the strengthening of returns, and the emergencies in Ukraine and the Syrian Arab Republic, among others. The importance of securing sufficient resources in the Multiannual Financial Framework is also underscored to address forced displacement through humanitarian aid, development support, and private sector investment.

<sup>3</sup> See also, Chiara Cardoletti's tweet on X.

<sup>4</sup> See also, Chiara Cardoletti's tweet on X.

 **Financial information**



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to the UNHCR Multi-country Office (MCO) in Italy in January, including for earmarked, softly earmarked, unearmarked and tightly earmarked contributions.<sup>8</sup>

 **Fundraising**

- In January, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation contributed to strengthening UNHCR's efforts to provide comprehensive assistance to those in need by generously allocating funds to UNHCR's humanitarian activities **in Burkina Faso**, in the context of the project titled "**Promotion of empowerment, sustainable socio-economic integration and cohesion for forcibly displaced people and host communities in Burkina Faso**", and **in Uganda**, in the framework of the project "**Healthcare and nutrition response for refugees and host communities in Palabek settlement**".
- UNHCR MCO Italy is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In January, **2.6 million euros** was raised from private sector donors in Italy, including Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai, Fondazione Deloitte, Mycis, Only the Brave Foundation and Hera Group, for which contributions UNHCR is deeply grateful.

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

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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 (Kingdom of the), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Australia, Ireland, Belgium.