

Italy

February 2023

Italy has been party to the 1951 Refugee Convention since 1954. The UNHCR **country office**, established in 1954, since 2020 covers Italy, the Holy See and San Marino.

In 2022, a **56% increase in sea arrivals**, coupled with **unprecedented refugee arrivals from Ukraine** and increased land arrivals through Western Balkans, put Italy's asylum system under pressure.

The contribution from the Government of Italy to UNHCR reached a **record-high level** in 2022 with **USD 97.3 million**.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees*	295,506
Asylum-seekers	58,908
Stateless persons	3,000

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees*		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	145,593	Pakistan	9,967
Nigeria	21,441	Bangladesh	7,148
Afghanistan	17,706	Eritrea	5,210

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, some 169,800 refugees from Ukraine had been registered for temporary protection in Italy.

Assistance to new arrivals: As of 31 December, UNHCR provided over 51,700 refugees from Ukraine with **information on services and registration procedures** at the Ferneti and Tarvisio border crossing points. UNHCR team in Trieste continues monitoring arrivals and conducting protection activities.

Support to the most vulnerable: In 2022, almost 10,770 adults and children accessed services at the **Blue Dot Hubs** at the borders, receiving dedicated assistance.

Community-based protection: Through the **community outreach volunteers programme**, more than 2,270 referrals to services were made for Ukrainian refugees between June and December, over 600 people received relevant information and 20 focus group discussions were organized.

Inclusion: UNHCR conducted a **profiling exercise** of 1,500 refugees from Ukraine, capturing socio-economic profiles, individual intentions and specific needs. The exercise will also serve as a basis to design integration pathways.

HIGHLIGHTS

105,131 sea arrivals

disembarked in Italy in 2022, a 56% increase compared to the last year, of which 12 per cent were rescued by search and rescue NGOs. Most sea arrivals departed from Libya, followed by arrivals from Tunisia and Türkiye. Boats carried people mostly originating from Bangladesh, Egypt and Tunisia.

13,487 land arrivals

were intercepted at the Italy-Slovenia border in 2022, a 44% increase compared to 2021. People mainly originated from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Communicating with communities and community engagement

The new [UNHCR Help Page](#) received almost 130,000 visits in 2022. Other digital channels were created ([Telegram](#), [WhatsApp](#), [Digital Blue Dot](#)) or strengthened ([Juma Map](#)).



RESETTLEMENT FLIGHT ALLOWS SYRIAN REFUGEES TO REACH ITALY FROM LEBANON

Through a collaboration between the government, UNHCR and IOM, 58 Syrian refugees arrived in Italy from Lebanon in December. It was the first [flight](#) since December 2019 through the Italian resettlement scheme. Refugees will have access to the Italian second-line reception system for one year and will benefit from integration programmes. For 2023, resettlements from Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Libya are foreseen.

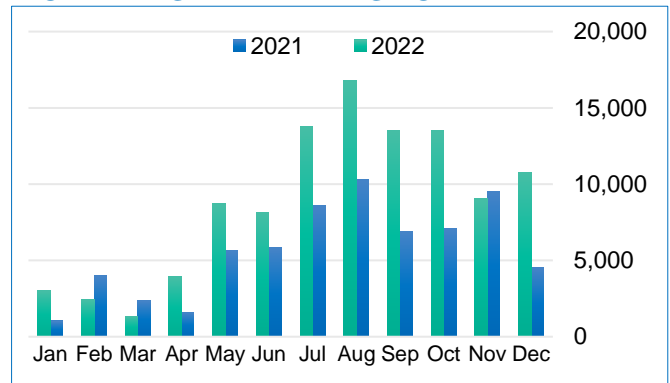
Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR works with the authorities to ensure that sea arrivals are provided with adequate assistance and information. In 2022, **86,533 persons received information** on relevant procedures to seek protection in Italy. Concerning land arrivals, UNHCR also delivers information to new arrivals and refers them to relevant services.
- **Asylum procedures:** In September 2022, UNHCR and the National Commission for Asylum presented the **updated procedural guidelines on quality monitoring for Territorial Commissions**, drawing upon four years of activities aimed at monitoring the quality of refugee status determination in Italy.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** In 2022, **969 persons arrived in Italy through humanitarian corridors** from Ethiopia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Pakistan. “University Corridors”, the “Mediterraneo” project and “Pagella in Tasca” were expanded, offering **86 scholarships** in 2022.
- **Integration:** After the opening of a multifunctional centre in Turin in June 2022, collaboration between **UNHCR and local institutions** was strengthened also in Milan, Rome, Bologna and Naples, to facilitate refugees’ access to various services and support their integration.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR staff provided training for Police staff in six cities on international protection, gender-based violence and trafficking.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR actively collaborates with national and local authorities, the Holy See, EU Agencies, Universities, the private sector and civil society organizations with the aim to continue advocating on key issues.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO ITALY



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

- Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with the private sector, the [Welcome](#) project created around 14,000 job inclusion pathways in its first four editions, registering a record number of applications in 2022.
- The recent [mission of the High Commissioner](#) to Italy helped strengthening UNHCR collaboration with the new government and key partners on a number of domestic and international issues, also in view of the Global Refugee Forum scheduled for end 2023.

Statelessness

- Italy acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 1962 and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2015. Thanks to the support received through the UNHCR-Intersos [PartecipAzione](#) project, the **Italian Stateless Union** (Unione Italiana Apolidi) **was launched** in November 2022.

UNHCR Presence in Italy

Staff:

85 National Staff

8 International Staff

Offices:

1 Multi-country office in Rome

1 Field Office in Milan

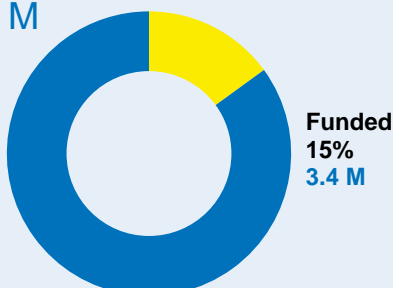
Financial information* (February 2023)

* Information relates to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino.

Financial requirements

USD 22.1 M

Funding gap
85%
18.7 M



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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.