



2022

**Serving the needs and aspirations
of refugees and asylum seekers in Rome**

ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD BY THE REV. AUSTIN K. RIOS, JNRC DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

You have before you the 2022 Annual Report for the JNRC—a year in review of overall migration patterns affecting the arrival of our guests in Rome and the specific ways in which our center has responded to those changes through our services and programs. As Executive Director, I could not be prouder of our team and the way in which we continue to work together as volunteers and staff to carry forward the mission of care, hope, and companionship entrusted to us.

This past year presented us with new challenges, as the war in Ukraine displaced over 8 million members of our human family. We saw a rise in guest arrivals from Egypt, Tunisia, and Bangladesh and continue to serve large numbers of guests from West Africa, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. With Covid restrictions loosening, we saw an overall increase of arrivals to Italy and to Rome. But just as our world seems to be getting smaller with the advent of new technologies, the divisions between peoples keep threatening to widen. Nationalist leaders who rise to power by stoking fears of the other are finding political footholds around the world, and Italy has been at the center of that struggle.

We in the JNRC are uncompromising in our belief that by recognition of our common humanity, and by a willingness to both listen to each other and walk with one another, we can begin to move toward the greater rebuilding and healing of our shared world. Whether we arrive in the JNRC as a guest who has fled persecution in a home country, a student volunteer who has come to Rome for a season to serve, a staff member who knows both the hard refugee road and the balm of a now stable life, or an Italian citizen who is threatened by the arrival of peoples from foreign lands, our collective destiny as a species depends upon us finding ways to know, respect, and even love one another.

The JNRC is a gathering of people who are committed to sowing the seeds of this transformation on a daily basis, and putting this vision of connectivity into action. Through channels of providing basic necessities like food and clothing, language classes, legal assistance, our JNRC Works program, or our growing women and children's ministry, we seek to close the gaps between peoples through service and personalized engagement. As we continue to focus on our mission, we have found new ways to partner with other organizations who are committed to the same goal which allows our vision for the transformation we seek to expand. I am supremely thankful for all our partners who have both enabled us to carry forward our mission in 2022, and have worked diligently to close the gaps between peoples through their own commitment and work.

Together we can keep searching for new ways to be responsive to the needs of guests, we can keep building upon the strong foundation of companionship that leads to greater respect and understanding, and we can begin to see the seeds of transformation that we have planted together bear fruit for the journey yet ahead of us.

In appreciation for your companionship,

Sincerely,



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1. INTRODUCTION

Every year, as I start writing the introduction for the JNRC annual report, I am caught by uncertainty. I wonder if I should devote two pages to do a roundup of the events that have had the greatest impact on migration throughout the year and if so, it would not be difficult given the displacement that resulted from the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. Or if I should mention some of the challenges that await us all in terms of migration, given that in early January 2023 the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) spoke of a new record, with UN agencies and humanitarian partners requiring US\$51.5 billion to help 230 million people who need emergency assistance in 68 countries around the world. Or if I should summarize all the results that the JNRC has achieved in one year of hard work.

Usually, I end up writing a bit of all of these three, however, this year I would like to narrow the focus down and bring the reader's attention back to the experience of each individual, as the origin and destination of that long-desired humanity that restores dignity, and that every person, especially those who are displaced and marginalized, is entitled to receive.

The incredible solidarity, sharing of responsibility and inclusive attitude demonstrated by host countries with the Ukrainian crisis, compel everyone to take a moment of reflection on models of reception that are commonly used, but not equally humane as those adopted under the unprecedented Temporary Protection Directive which was triggered in March 4, 2022. Especially, it compels us to reflect on how much each of us, in our own way, can do to alleviate human suffering.

The most outstanding event in terms of asylum procedures during 2022 is surely the adoption of the EU Directive 55/2001 that granted Temporary Protection for people fleeing Ukraine. A fast mechanism through which the EU has removed many barriers refugees typically face, and that offered residency rights, work permits, and access to health care, schools, housing and banking services. A mechanism that has generated the so-called 'whole of society approach', where governments, authorities, civil society, and the private sector have demonstrated that in a very short time frame, we can achieve goals that usually aren't met in years. The outcomes of this extraordinary EU measure have given Europe, and each of us, the opportunity to witness our ability in welcoming millions of people who flee their countries.

There is no doubt that 2022 stood out in numbers. Last year there was a 64 percent increase in irregular EU border crossings and a 50 percent increase in asylum seeker applications. Furthermore, according to data provided by international organizations, there are no signs of a reversal of this trend during 2023, with the EU remaining one of the major destinations for migrants. Suffice it to say that in 2023, the number of migrants who landed in Italy from January 1 to April 30 quadrupled when compared to the same period in 2022, going from about 10,000 in the first four months of 2022 to about 40,800 in the same four-month period in 2023.

In addition, just over a year after the escalation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, more than 8 million Ukrainians have been registered across Europe and more than 5 million have registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe.

According to UNHCR, with millions of Ukrainians fleeing their country and other humanitarian crises elsewhere, total forced displacement now exceeds 100 million people. A dramatic milestone that few would have expected a decade ago.

The rising cost of living generated by inflation and most importantly, the soaring price of food and energy resulting from the war in Ukraine have caused a sense of insecurity in many countries, leading to increased migration flows. Overall, the most vulnerable groups remain those most severely affected by wars over geopolitical reshaping, internal conflicts, economic and social imbalances, climate change, and 'state actors' use of migration as a ransom weapon.

The JNRC remains determined to carry out its mission by staying focused on these dramatic numbers, and by seeking strategies to facilitate the integration process of its guests. Throughout 2022, JNRC has continued to invest energy and resources to support the most vulnerable groups, by strengthening its psychosocial support program and by creating a safe space for refugee women with their children.

JNRC MISSION STATEMENT:

"To accompany and assist asylum seekers from all over the world regardless of ethnicity, faith tradition, or phase of their journey for protection, integration and resettlement. By recognizing our common humanity and providing hospitality in the heart of Rome, we aim to provide a support program that encourages and empowers refugees to build new productive lives."

At JNRC, our goal is to assist around 13,000 refugees or asylum seekers per year through a variety of programs ranging from immediate material help to long-term assistance for socio-economic integration. We fulfill basic needs through the distribution of food and essential items and help our guests develop technical and functional skills through language and digital literacy courses, therapeutic support, legal and employment related guidance. Our guests come from Africa (mainly West Africa and the Horn of Africa), the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Latin America. Since March 2022, JNRC has also received refugees from eastern Europe due to the war in Ukraine. Almost all of our guests are fleeing armed conflict or political and religious persecution, the majority have been victims of smugglers or have been exploited by traffickers. Around 50% are homeless.

We are very grateful to our supporters who enable the continuation of our assistance program, and to our partner organizations who lend their special skills to collaborate with us on innovative projects. We are grateful to our guests who trust us and enable JNRC to generate change, and to the many volunteers and interns who are the soul of our organization. We would not be who we are without their valuable support.

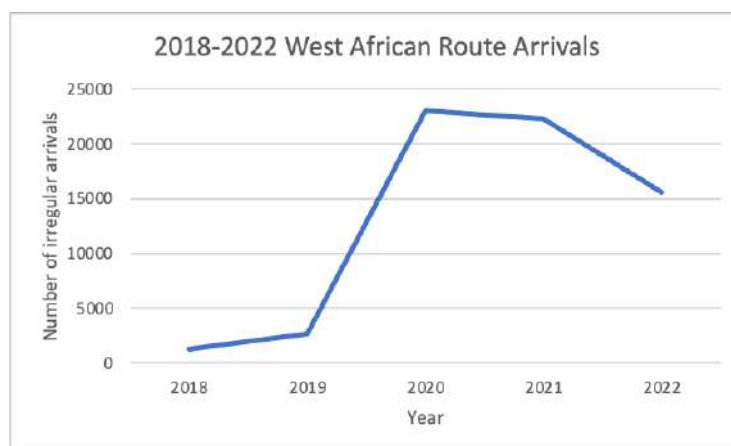
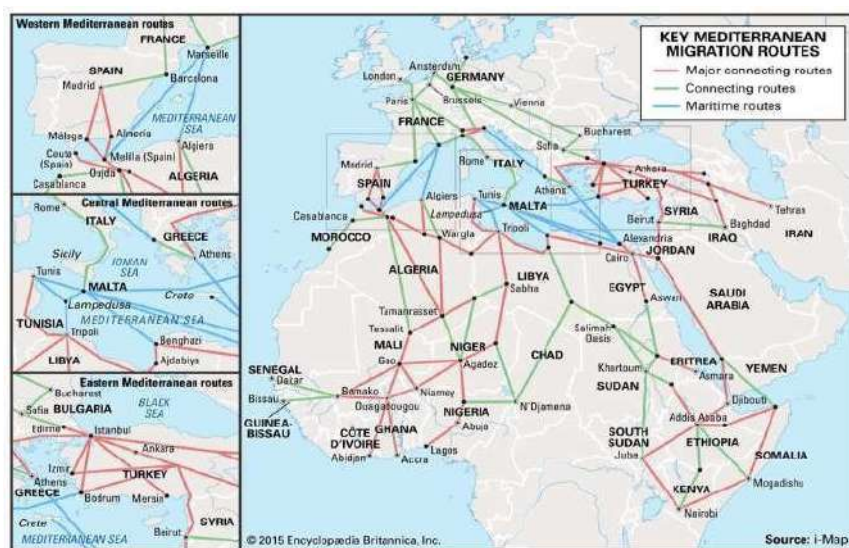
Among our interns, special thanks go to Abigail Mancuso from Notre Dame University in Rome who helped draft this report. Abigail's research, analysis, and synthesis skills have made a valuable contribution to this publication.

To conclude, at JNRC we remain determined to lead by example through our mission, and we hope that each and every individual, within the limits of his or her abilities, may realize their potential which, combined with that of the larger community, can truly generate meaningful change.

Giulia Bonoldi
JNRC Managing Director

2. MIGRATION ROUTES TO EUROPE AND FLOW TRENDS

In the past several years, four distinct routes of migration have emerged for migrants attempting to enter Europe without legal status. The **West African Route** (WAR) uses passage into the Canary Island from countries such as Western Sahara, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, and Gambia. The **Eastern Mediterranean Route** (EMR) provides a pathway between Middle Eastern countries and Turkey, which then filters into Greece, Cyprus, and Bulgaria. The **Western Mediterranean Route** (WMR) specifies entrance into Europe through Spain via two routes: Mediterranean Sea passage to access the Iberian Peninsula, or by land through the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta & Melilla in Morocco. Finally, the most frequented route is The **Central Mediterranean Route** (CMR) which refers to the passage from North Africa (primarily Libya) to Italy.



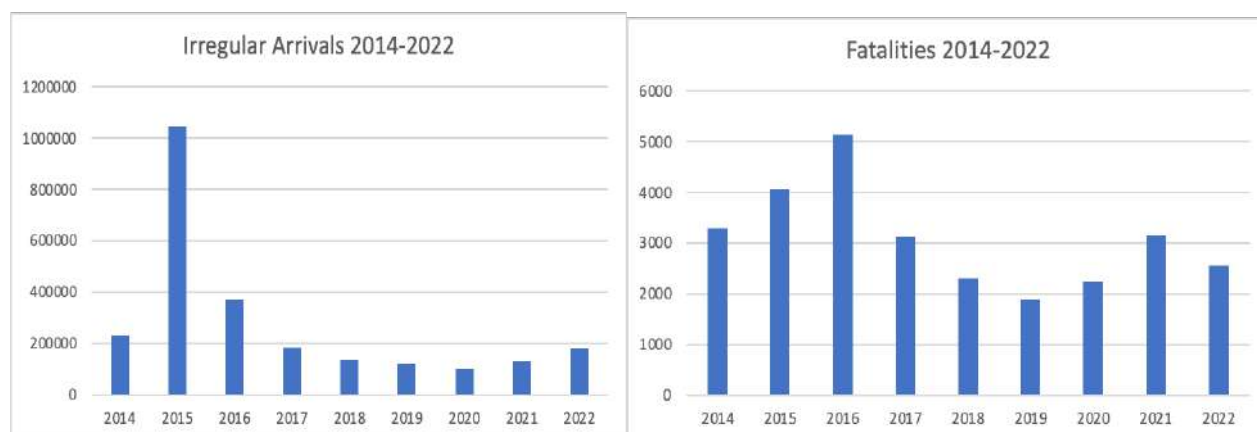
Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The increase in the number of arrivals through the Western African route from 2019 to 2020 can be attributed to two primary factors. Firstly, measures adopted by African countries to address the Covid-19 pandemic affected movement along traditional migration routes. Secondly, and more importantly, the European Union has made a huge effort to cooperate with countries of departure,

such as Morocco, Turkey, and Libya to improve the management of migration and border control with the goal of hindering illegal migration. After a surge of migration in 2015 (1,032,408 individuals according to the UNHCR's Operational Portal), the EU's cooperation has led to a drastic reduction of arrivals. As such, West African route arrivals in 2022 showed a decrease of 30% (or 6,634 people) compared to 2021. However, the reduction across the traditional migratory routes frequently coincides with the shift towards different (and usually more dangerous) routes or the containment of migrants within countries of departure (such as Libya). In 2022, the West African route recorded 45 shipwrecks which led to the death or disappearance of 543 migrants. (IOM)

Irregular arrivals and fatalities according to the European Council:

- 228,741 irregular arrivals and 3,283 fatalities in 2014
- 1,046,336 irregular arrivals and 4,054 fatalities in 2015
- 373,643 irregular arrivals and 5,143 fatalities in 2016
- 184,344 irregular arrivals and 3,139 fatalities in 2017
- 137,080 irregular arrivals and 2,299 fatalities in 2018
- 139,468 irregular arrivals and 1,885 fatalities in 2019
- 97,170 irregular arrivals and 1,613 fatalities in 2020
- 130,236 irregular arrivals and 3,157 fatalities in 2021
- 180,686 irregular arrivals and 2,554 fatalities in 2022

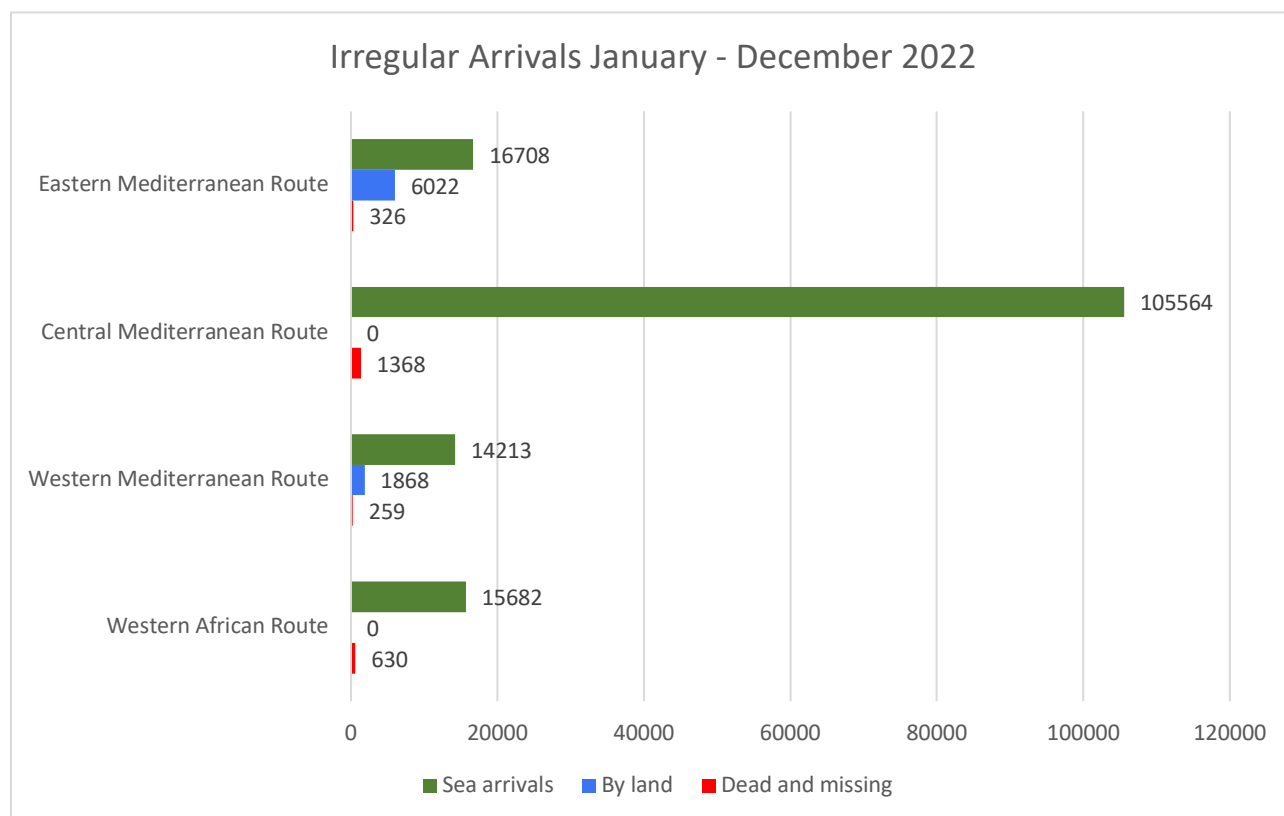


Source: European Council

In 2022, 180,686 individuals managed to reach Europe via the Mediterranean and Western routes. These values represent a 39% increase in arrivals from 2021 (130,236). Both the 2021 and 2022 arrival numbers signal the return to pre-pandemic global mobility, whereas in 2020 only 97,170 migrants entered Europe.

2020 saw a substantial reduction in the number of arrivals into the European continent as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The 180,686 individuals that managed to reach Europe via the Mediterranean and Western routes in 2022, a 39% increase from 2021 (130,236 individuals), signaled the return to pre-pandemic numbers and global mobility. As reported by the European Council, the total number of arrivals in 2022 can be categorized as follows: 105,561 persons reached Europe through the Central Mediterranean route, 43,906 traveled across the Eastern Mediterranean

route, while 31,219 individuals reached their desired destination through the Western Mediterranean and Western African routes. The number of arrivals through the Western route has decreased by 22% since 2021. While arrivals have increased, fatalities in 2022 showed a 19% decrease compared to 2021 (3,157 in 2021).



Source: UNHCR

The above graph shows the data collected by the UNHCR's Operational Data Portal that, while presenting slightly different values from that of the European Council, still confirms the key trends of migration towards Europe. The main country of arrival, which received 303,769 individuals in 2022 is Italy. Arrivals increased significantly from 2021 with 82,477 migrants entering Italy. A result of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Ukrainian refugees account for about 57% of arrivals in 2022 (173,638 individuals) while all other land, sea, and air arrivals totaled 130,131 individuals. According to the UNHCR's estimates, men accounted for 70.8% of the total arrival in Europe in 2022, women represented a minority of 9.3%, while children accounted for 19.9% of migrants reaching the continent. These demographics are consistent with the 2021 gender breakdown statistics.

The two primary influences on migration routes are European Union agreements and events that trigger flight away from one's home country. First, the EU has created a series of accords with transit countries to stem the flow of illegal migration into Europe. One of the most notable charters is the EU-Turkey agreement. Before the signing of the document, the EMR had been the most favored route for migrants, especially for Syrian refugees. Following its implementation, migration flow shifted toward the other prominent routes in response. The European Union has implemented several other agreements including the EU Libya agreement and the EU, African Union, and United Nations migration task force.

The second major driver of migration routes are events that promote flight away from one's home country. Cultural, gendered, or political violence are only some examples of influences that would encourage individuals to flee their home countries. A primary example was the Syrian refugee crisis that began in 2011. Violent conflict between protesters and the government devolved into a civil war that forced over 5.5 million Syrians to flee, 1 million of which currently reside in Europe.

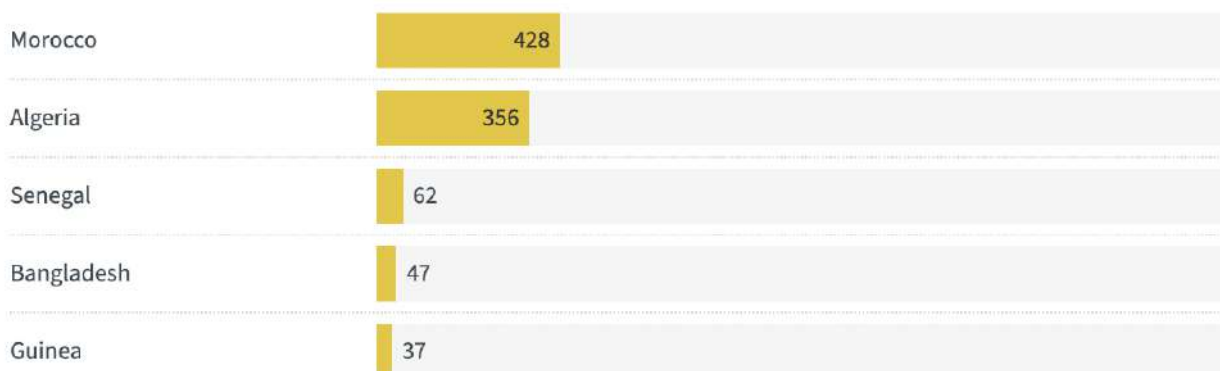
With regard to the nationality of those who cross the European border illegally, it varies according to the type of route. Across the CMR, migrants from the Ivory Coast and Guinea have become the primary nationalities of flight in 2022, (Ivory Coast migrants saw an eightfold increase since 2021) . Pakistani migrants were also an important nationality in 2022, representing 16% of the CMR route's migrants.

Central route



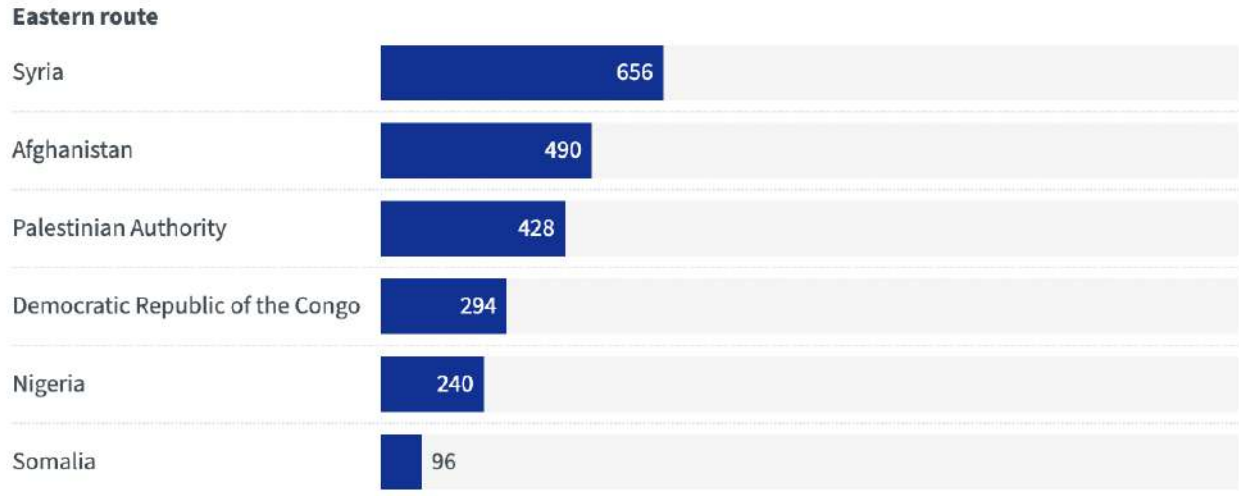
The Western Mediterranean route in 2022 showed a significant decrease in movement compared to 2021 of 42%. The WR saw mostly Moroccan nationals (46%) followed by Algerians (38%), and a smaller population of the Senegalese, Bangladeshi, and Guinean nationalities (16% cumulatively). The West African Route (WAR) peaked in 2006 with arrivals but has since declined in popularity. As such, demographic information concerning this route is not available currently.

Western route



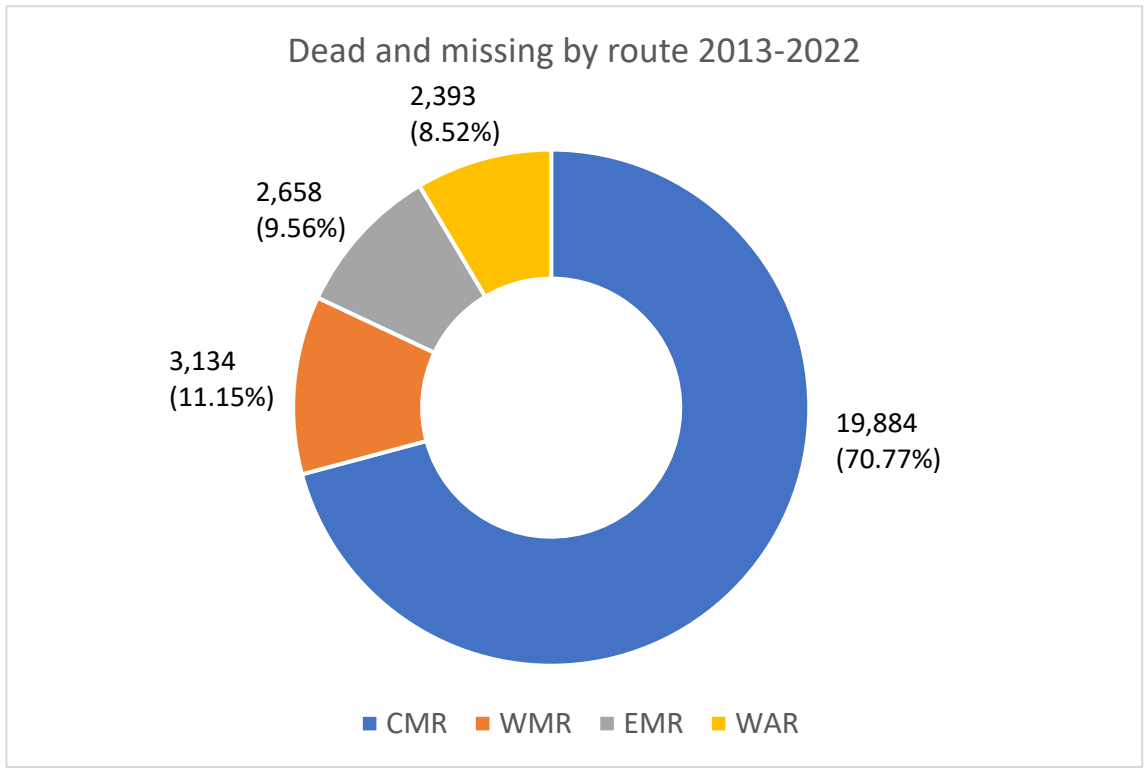
The Eastern Mediterranean route instead, has for a long time been the selected route for migrants and asylum seekers coming from Central African and Middle East countries. In 2022, Middle Eastern countries favored the EMR compared to Central African countries. Syrian migrants became the primary nationality of the ER, with an increase of 54% since 2021 (426 individuals in 2021) while Nigerian migrants showed a decrease of 49% (473 individuals in 2021). Following Syria,

Afghanistan, the Palestinian Authority accounted for the majority of the individuals traveling across the EMR.



Source of the three graphs above: Frontex (Data collected in December 2022)

Due to the treacherous nature of illegal migration to Europe, many migrants are forced to use smugglers as a means of travel. The 2015 migration crisis prompted a major increase in human trafficking and smuggling. Furthermore, because of Covid-19 migration restrictions, smugglers turned to more perilous tactics to cross the Mediterranean. Consequently, hundreds of migrants lost their lives throughout the journey. Since 2014, over 24,400 people have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean Sea.



Dead and Missing 2013-2022 (UNCHR Operational Data Portal)

The CMR remains the most dangerous route: in 2022, 71.03% of the fatalities were reported across the Central Route to Italy and Malta. In 2022, 1,453 individuals lost their lives or went missing across the CMR, 341 across the EMR and 1,221 dead or missing people were reported along both the WMR and WAR. However, it is highly likely that those figures underestimate the actual number of lives lost in the attempt to cross the Mediterranean.

3. THE JOURNEY

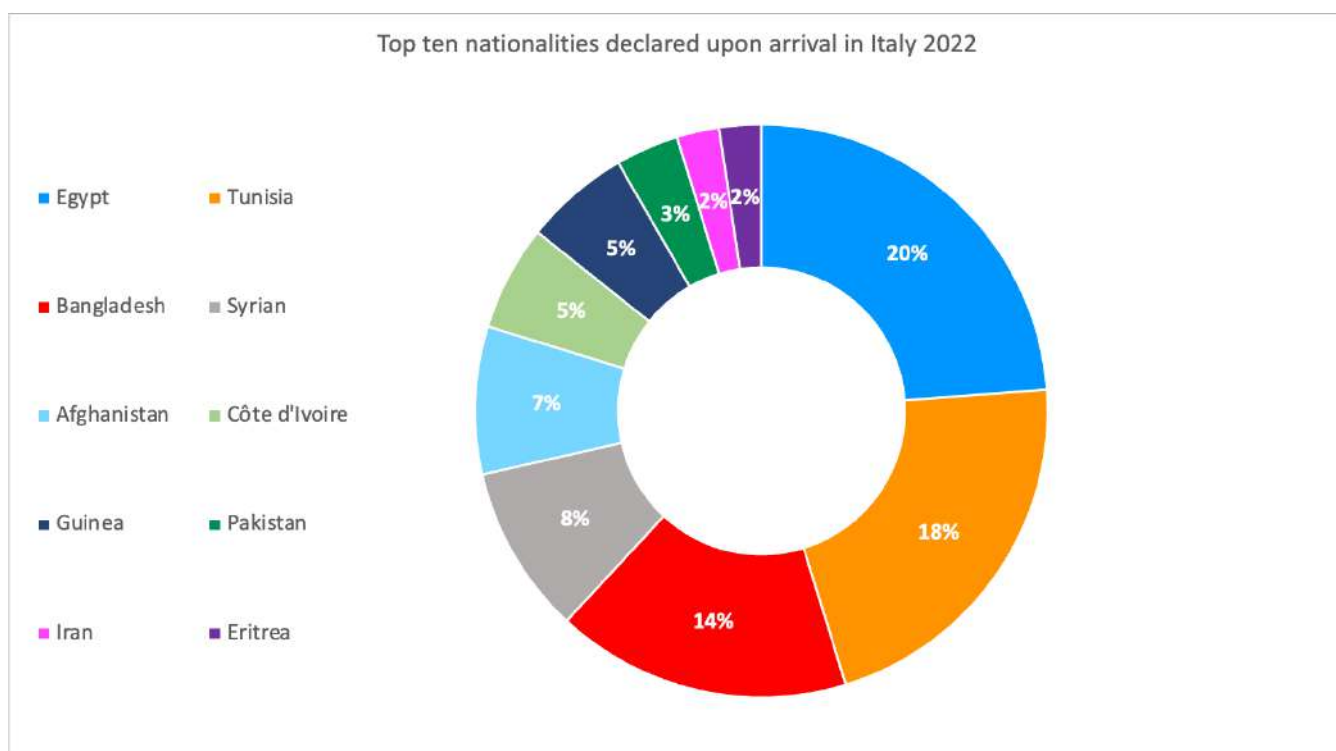
3.1 The Journey to Italy

LIBYA – SICILY

Due to Libya's geographic proximity to Italy, thousands of migrants have used the country as a point of departure from various African countries. Since the destabilizing violence of the Arab Spring and subsequent fragmentation of Libya's government in 2011, the country has become a cornerstone of humanitarian catastrophes and unsafe migration. Asylum seekers and refugees attempting to depart from Libya are confronted with dangerous maritime conditions on unseaworthy boats used by smugglers and traffickers. Migrants are then brought to European shores via humanitarian or military ships. While this system was successful in saving migrant lives, Italian and European agreements impeded their ability to provide aid. For example, the 2019 Italian Security Decree imposed fines and bureaucratic restrictions on NGOs, resulting in a reduction of the number of NGOs committed to search-and-rescue activities. Indeed, the Italian decree goes alongside the various European and Italian agreements with the Libyan government, such as the Memorandum of Understanding, which aim to fight illegal migration, but which have the effect of worsening the conditions for migrants.

Italy both trains and finances the Libyan Coast Guard to intercept boats carrying illegal migrants and returning them to the shores of Libya. The UNHCR continually condemns Libya's treatment of migrants, stating that it is unsafe to return asylum seekers and refugees to the country. Libya's inhumane conditions extend beyond migrant camps out to government and military corruption, collusion with traffickers, and general subjection to many forms of violence. Several reports on the LCG shed light onto a perpetual cycle of human trafficking as migrants are rescued, captured, and detained for indefinite periods of time by the coast guard.

Currently, the journey from Libya to Italy is one of the most dangerous routes to access Europe. From unsafe travel conditions to the imminent threat of physical, psychological, and/or sexual violence and forced labor, migrants are stripped of their fundamental human rights. Between 2018-2022 in Libya, the UNHCR has recorded 3,346 deaths, 3,718 kidnappings, 3,437 accounts of sexual violence, and 6,799 cases of physical violence all against migrants. The actual number of cases is most likely higher than the numbers reported.



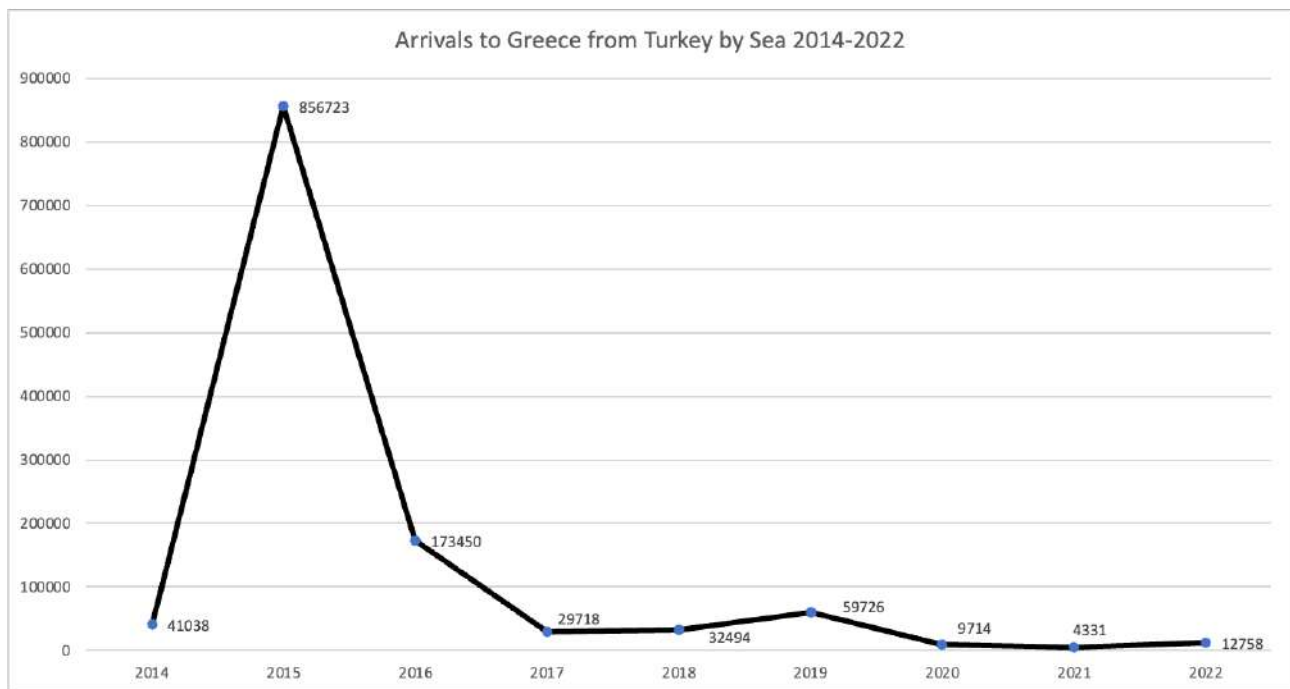
Source: UNHCR

Egyptian and Bangladeshi and Syrian migrants primarily traveled through Libya to Italy, whereas Tunisians, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinean migrants departed from Tunisia. Egyptians were recorded to have the highest number of arrivals in terms of nationality (21,301 individuals in 2022). Compared to 2021, Tunisian migrant numbers increased by 84% in 2022. Arrivals to Italy increased by 56% from 2021 to 2022, with 67,477 arrivals in 2021 to 105,131 arrivals in 2022. A major influence on the increase of migrants is the retraction of Covid-19 travel restrictions.

3.2 The Journey to Greece

TURKEY- GREEK ISLANDS

Due to Turkey's proximity to Greece, migrants attempting to arrive in Europe travel via small boats to islands such as Lesbos, Kos, Samos, and others. Historically, this route has been commonly used by migrants from the Dem. Rep. of Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, and occasionally Somalia. As seen in the following graph, arrivals sharply peaked in 2015 largely due to the Syrian civil war and other regional conflicts but has since been declining. This reduction is a result of the 2016 EU-Turkish agreement and/or the reinforced border between Syria and Turkey.

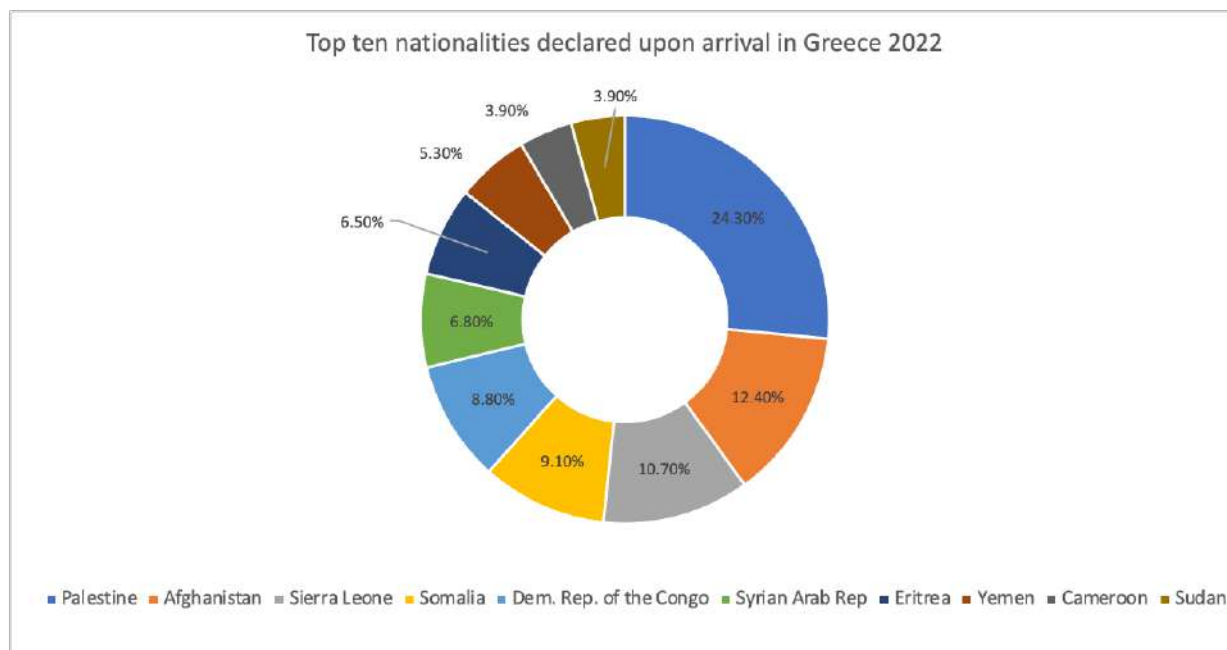


Source: UNHCR

Since the 2015 migration crisis, Greece has struggled to accommodate the major influx of arrivals. Factors such as resource availability and geography impeded the country's ability to adequately provide support for refugees seeking to enter Europe. Refugee camps in Greece are overcrowded and lack sufficient material and medical (as well as mental health) resources for individuals. Greece is a coastal country in the EU, which makes it a primary target for refugees arriving by sea. Additionally, Greece's proximity to Turkey provides an alternate route for travel into Europe.

Many of the refugee camps in Greece expose migrants to harm. As of 2021, the islands of the Aegean host over 36,000 refugees in camps intended for 6,000. The Moria camp fire of 2020 on Lesbos demonstrated the harms of camp overcrowding, as 12,000 refugees became homeless. In the Mavrovouni camp on Lesbos, which was established in 2020 to manage the crisis resulting from the destruction of Moria, lead was detected in the soil. Many migrants were exposed to elevated levels of the substance within their tents. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, education for children was significantly impacted. According to the Human Rights Watch, only one in seven migrant children were able to attend school during the pandemic. Furthermore, within the camps children had no access to Wi-Fi or computers for independent schoolwork.

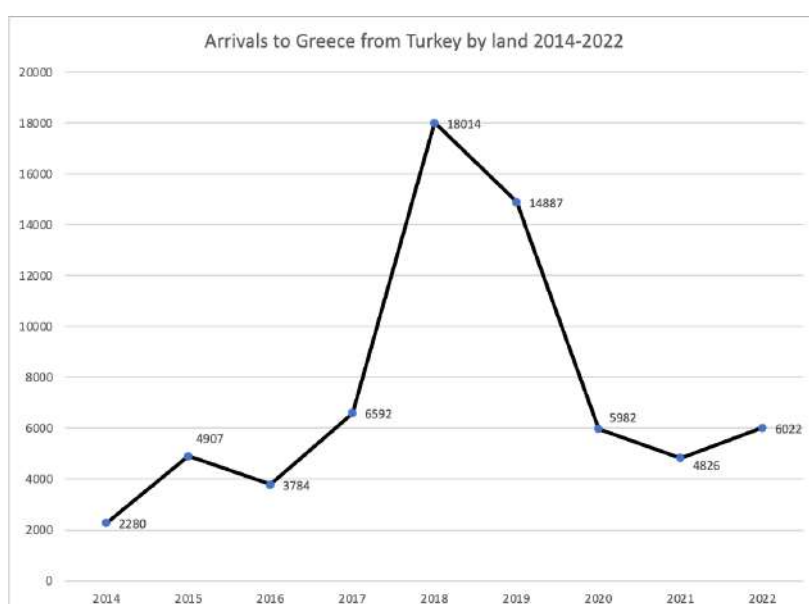
A report compiled in 2020 by psychosocial support experts has revealed that years of entrapment on Aegean islands has resulted in a mental health crisis for thousands of refugees, with one in three contemplating suicides. The data was collected from 904 people supported by the International Rescue Committee (IRC)'s mental health program on the islands of Lesbos, Chios and Samos, and is backed up by testimonies and interviews. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been criticizing the EU and Greece for failing to provide ethical and strategic policies while migrants are forced to either bear poor conditions or return to the unsafe countries they once fled. The UNHCR estimates that in 2022, 326 migrants have died or gone missing as a result of traveling to Greece from Turkey. While sea arrivals in 2020 were the lowest recorded in the past 6 years, 2022 showed an almost threefold increase (4,331 in 2021 and 12,758 in 2022).



Source: UNCHR

TURKEY-GREECE (By land)

Land arrivals have increased since 2021, with an almost 25% increase (4,826 in 2021 and 6,022 in 2022). The primary nationality of migrants traveling into Greece are Palestinian, representing 24.30% of arrivals. Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, and Somali migrants are the next three most common nationalities in Greece in 2022. Migration to Greece provides challenges both during and after flight. Since 2014, while crossing from Turkey to Greece, almost 2,500 refugees have died or gone missing. According to UNICEF, in 2022, children constituted 25% of arrivals into Greece, of which 2,624 were unaccompanied and/or separated.

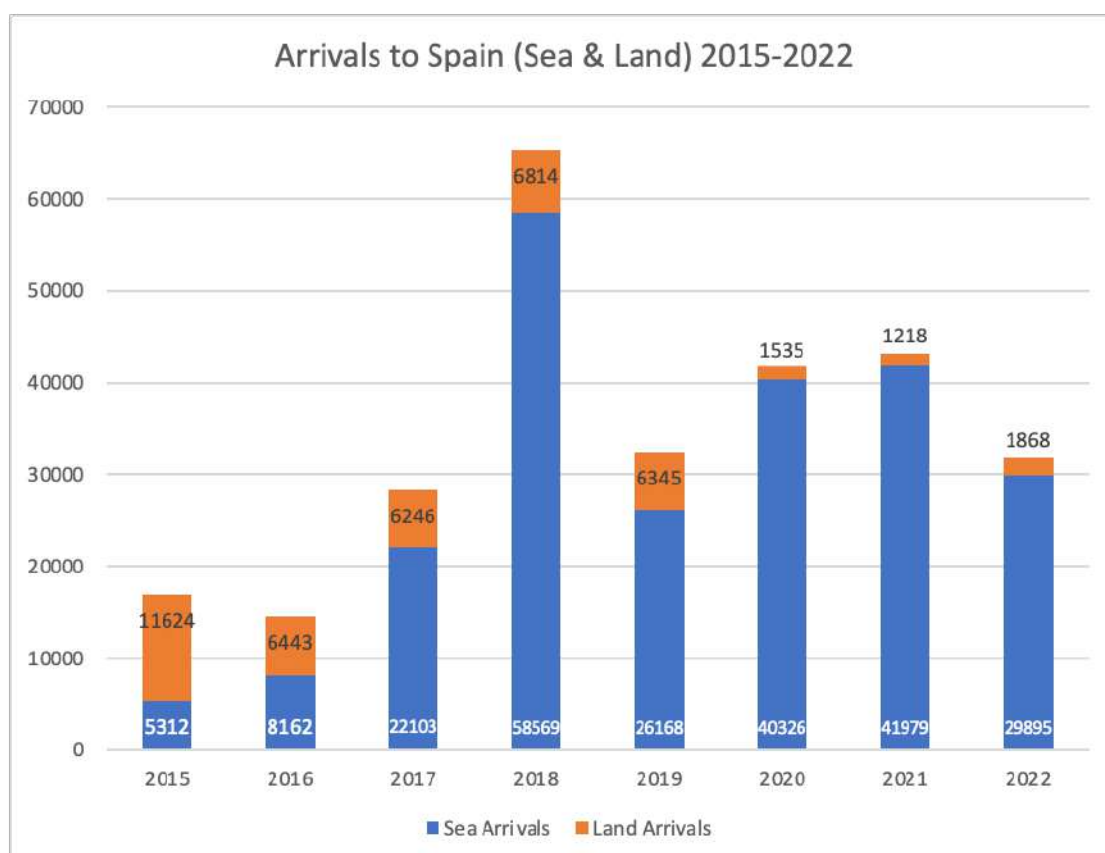


Source: UNCHR

3.3 The Journey to Spain

MOROCCO- GIBRALTAR, ANDALUSIA, AND CANARY ISLANDS

While arrivals into Spain increased slightly in 2020-2022 despite Covid-19 migration restrictions, the country's migrant reception numbers decreased by 26% (43,197 arrivals in 2021 and 31,763 arrivals in 2022). The Canary Islands remain the most popular arrival destination in Spain. As of April 2023, the island has had 2,376 arrivals. Andalusia, the second most popular location, currently hosts 1,694 migrants. Spain has collaborated with Moroccan Authorities to stem the arrival of migrants according to their 2019 agreement.



Source: UNHCR

MOROCCO- MELILLA AND CEUTA

Melilla and Ceuta, arrival destinations in the Spanish Enclaves, were highly frequented in the 2010's, especially in 2015 (with a peak of 11,624 arrivals). In response, the government of Spain developed a series of structural barriers around both cities to deter migrant entrance. Since its implementation, these walls have reduced migrant influx significantly. As of April 2023, only 371 migrants were able to enter either city.

In order to access the cities of Melilla and Ceuta, migrants often use the Straits of Gibraltar. While the distance between Spain and Morocco is only 14 kilometers (nine miles), the crossing presents many dangers including strong currents and fogs. These hazards become even more perilous when combined with unseaworthy boats used by migrants. In 2022, the UNHCR recorded 643 dead or missing migrants who attempted to reach Spain.

3.4 The Journey to Malta

Malta is a small archipelago country situated between Italy and North Africa. Migrants arrive to Malta primarily via sea passage. Malta receives significantly fewer arrivals compared to other European countries. The Council of Europe attributes this discrepancy to the limited space within the country, as the archipelago is only 315 km². In 2022, Malta received 444 sea arrivals, which represents a decrease of 47% from 2021 (832 arrivals). Rate of irregular migration to Malta has followed a downward trend since 2019, which saw 3,406 sea arrivals into the country. Since 2019, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) has provided support registering and processing asylum applications within Malta. Additionally, the EUAA has equipped the country with operational mechanisms to triage migrants and promote intra-departmental communication.

In 2022, the primary nationality of arrival was Bangladeshi migrants who constituted 51% of the population. Syrian (28%), Egyptian (8%), Lebanese (7%), and Palestinian (4%) migrants were the other most common groups in 2022. Sea arrivals in 2022 were composed of 80% men, 7% women, and 13% children. Of the child population (58 individuals), 27 were either unaccompanied or separated.

3.5 The Journey to Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus (RoC), an island country adjacent to Lebanon and Turkey, is a popular entrance point into Europe for migration. As such, the most common entrance points into the country are by sea passage from Lebanon or Turkey, or from the Northern part of the island controlled by Ankara. According to the UNHCR, 17,284 migrants entered Cyprus in 2022. However, the country has received an influx of asylum applications. In 2022, the Republic of Cyprus received 21,565 applications. The shift from 2021 to 2022 represented a record 63% increase (13,235 in 2021). The five primary countries of origin are Syria, Nigeria, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Additionally, in 2022 Cyprus hosted more than 15,000 Ukrainian refugees.

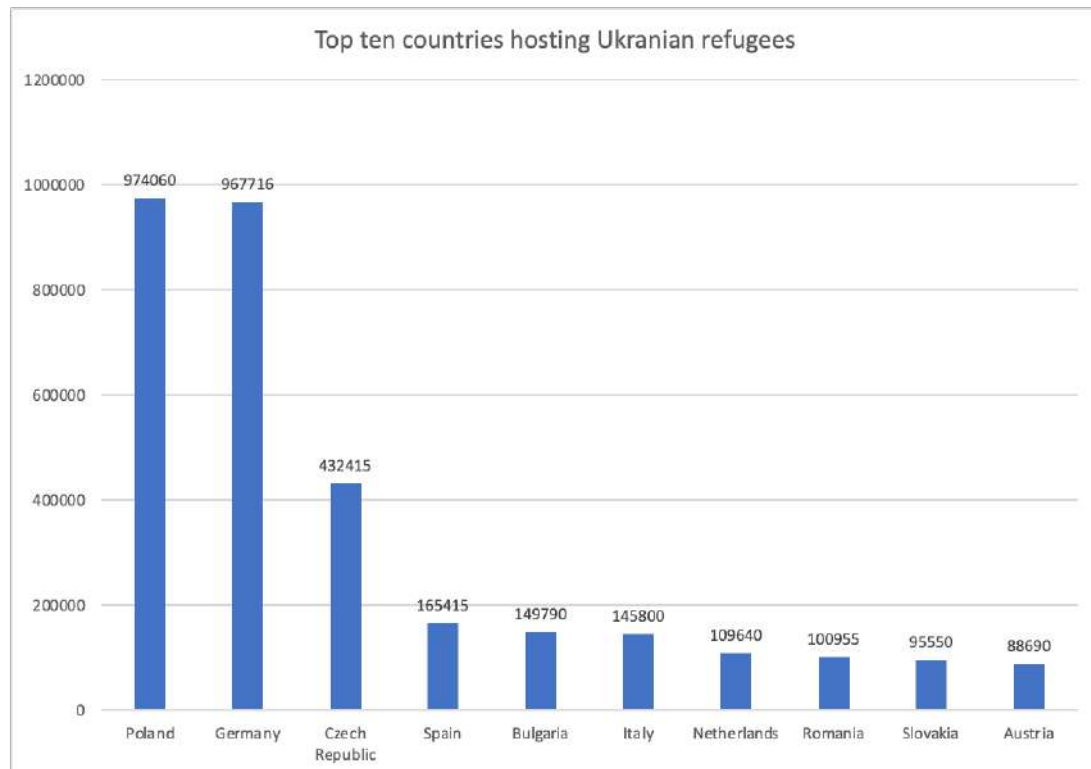
As of 2021 there are two primary reception centers in Cyprus: Kofinou and Pournara. Kofinou is a state-run center for individuals applying for international protection. According to the UNHCR, since January 2016 the center has been at maximum capacity of 400 beds. Infrastructure, language, and resource (both medical and mental health related) barriers have generated challenges for asylum seekers to feel satisfied with their quality of life. Pournara, originally designed as an emergency accommodation to provide temporary relief, has since been used to host around 2,000 individuals in various living conditions. With an expected capacity of 1,000, the center's overcrowding has led to inequitable housing options and limited resources.

3.6 The Journey to Bulgaria

The "Balkan Route" is one of the primary migratory paths to Europe, principally during 2015 with 764,033 illegal border crossings. Migrants enter Europe primarily through Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. As irregular migration rose, Bulgaria produced a reinforced fence along its 230-kilometer border with Turkey in 2016 to curb arrivals. Even with the wall in place, the Balkan Route has regained popularity since 2019. In 2022, 16,767 migrants arrived in Bulgaria, which represents a significant increase of 55% from 2021 (10,799 individuals). The most common countries of origin for the Balkan route are Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq.

In 2022, Bulgaria received over 20,000 asylum applications, which is twice as high as 2021 with about 11,000 applications submitted. Since the escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, 127,104 Ukrainian refugees have registered for temporary protection in Bulgaria.

3.7 The Journey from Ukraine



Source: European Council

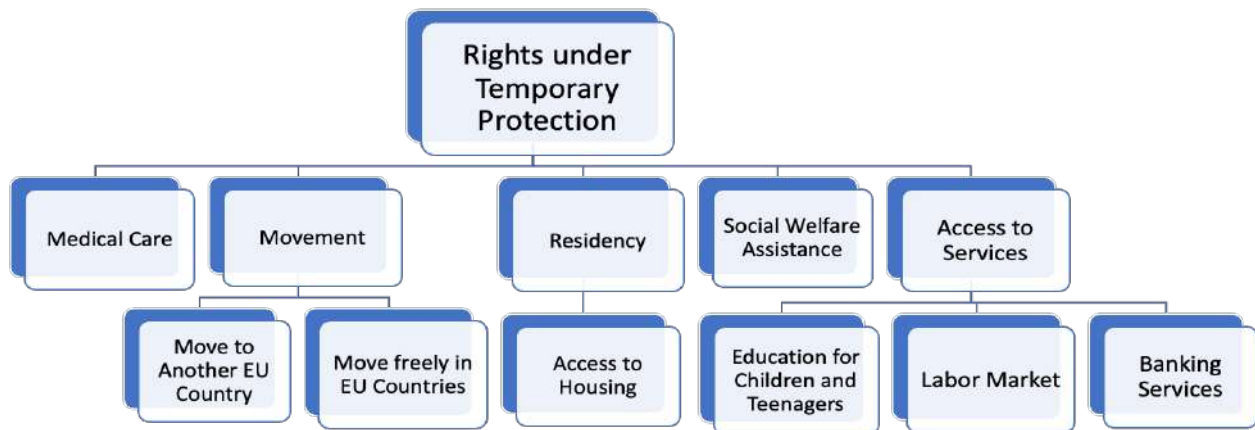
In the last decade, conflict between Russia and Ukraine has intensified following the 2014 annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea by Russia. After some initial violent encounters, the two countries entered a stalemate along their shared eastern border. While diplomatic attempts were made to reduce tension and promote peace through the 2015 Minsk Accords, these efforts were generally unsuccessful. In the following years, deterrence measures were instituted by NATO troop deployment, US sanctions against Russian officials, and US military and material support. These measures were unable to prevent the subsequent invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022. Ukrainian refugees have primarily moved in western Ukraine and then to other European countries, with major concentrations in Poland (974,060) and Germany (967,716). Since the escalation of the conflict, 8,163,268 Ukrainian refugees have been recorded of which 5,027,182 have registered for Temporary Protection in the European Union.

EU Directive 55/2001 on Temporary Protection Directive

Established at the end of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and triggered for the first time on March 4, 2022, the Temporary Protection Directive (TDP) is an “Exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from non-EU countries who are unable to return to their country of origin” (Council of EU). The goal of the TDP is to administer protection to those impacted by the conflict as well as develop an equitable distribution of individuals so as to not overwhelm EU asylum

structures. (Council of EU) The duration of temporary protection was originally administered for one year but has since been extended in response to the evolution of the conflict.

The TDP was implemented as a result of the Ukraine Russia conflict to assist those fleeing from war. Those who qualify for temporary protection are as follows: Ukrainian nationals & family members, non-Ukrainian nationals & stateless persons benefiting from international protection in Ukraine & their family members, and non-Ukrainian nationals with a permanent residence permit who cannot return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions. (Council of EU)



4. REFUGEE - DEFINITIONS

4.1 The Geneva Convention of July 28th, 1951

The Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951, also known as the **1951 Refugee Convention**, is a United Nations multilateral treaty and the main international instrument of refugee law. The Convention spells out who a refugee is, what their rights are when granted asylum, and the responsibilities for Nations that grant asylum. At first, the Convention aimed at protecting mainly European refugees in the aftermath of World War II. However, later instrument known as the **1967 Protocol** expanded the scope of the Convention to the whole world as the problem of displacement spread across the globe.



The day of the revision and signature of the Geneva Conventions.



Article 1 of the Convention states that the term "**Refugee**" shall apply to any person who: "...has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it..."

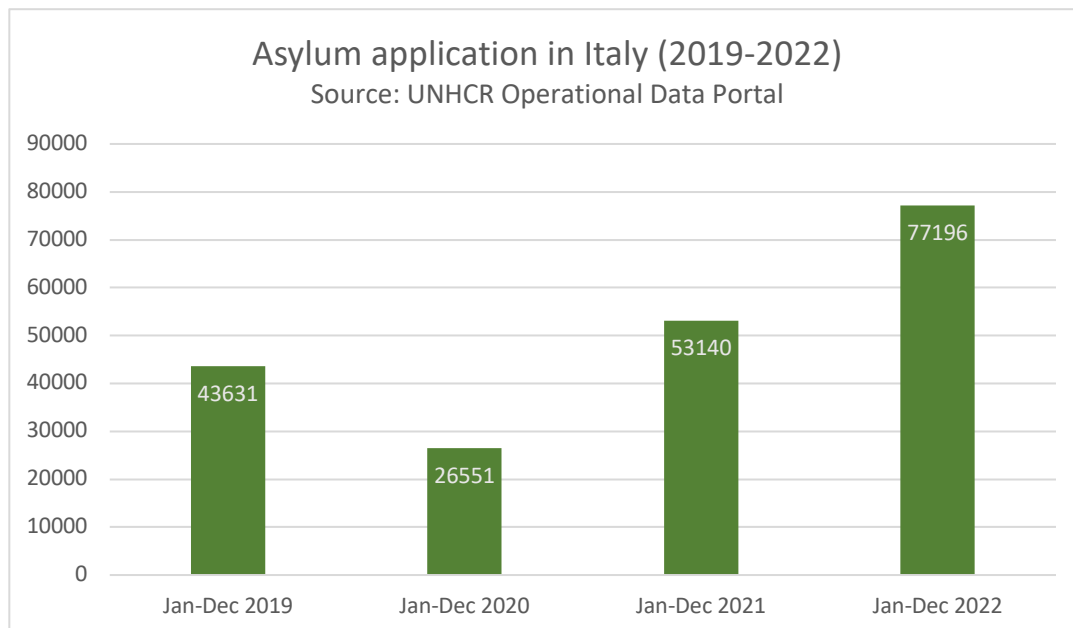
The leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries are wars (civil and international) as well as ethnic, tribal, and religious violence. An **Asylum Seeker** is a person who flees their own country and seeks protection in another country, where they apply for asylum (the right to be recognized as a refugee, to receive legal protection and material assistance). As a rule, an asylum seeker must demonstrate that the fear of persecution in their home country is well-founded.

An **Internally Displaced Person (IDP)** is instead someone who has been forced to flee their home but has not crossed an international border. These individuals seek safety anywhere they can find it (in nearby towns, schools, settlements, internal camps, even forests and fields). Unlike refugees, IDPs do not benefit from protection under international law and are ineligible to receive some specific forms of aid since they are legally under the protection of their own government.

4.2 International Protection and Special Permits

In EU territories, the right to asylum is regulated by the **Common European Asylum System (CEAS)** through the Qualification, Procedures and Reception Directives. The CEAS is a set of EU laws that intend to ensure that all EU member states protect the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. With this aim, the CEAS sets out minimum standards and procedures for the processing of asylum applications, the decision-making process, and the treatment of both asylum seekers and those who are recognized as refugees. In addition, many European countries have decided to establish, within their national legislation, a residual form of protection which is available to those who are not eligible for refugee status **and who do not have the right to subsidiary protection but cannot be expelled from the Country because of objective and serious personal situations.**

This form of protection is not codified (but neither forbidden) in international conventions.



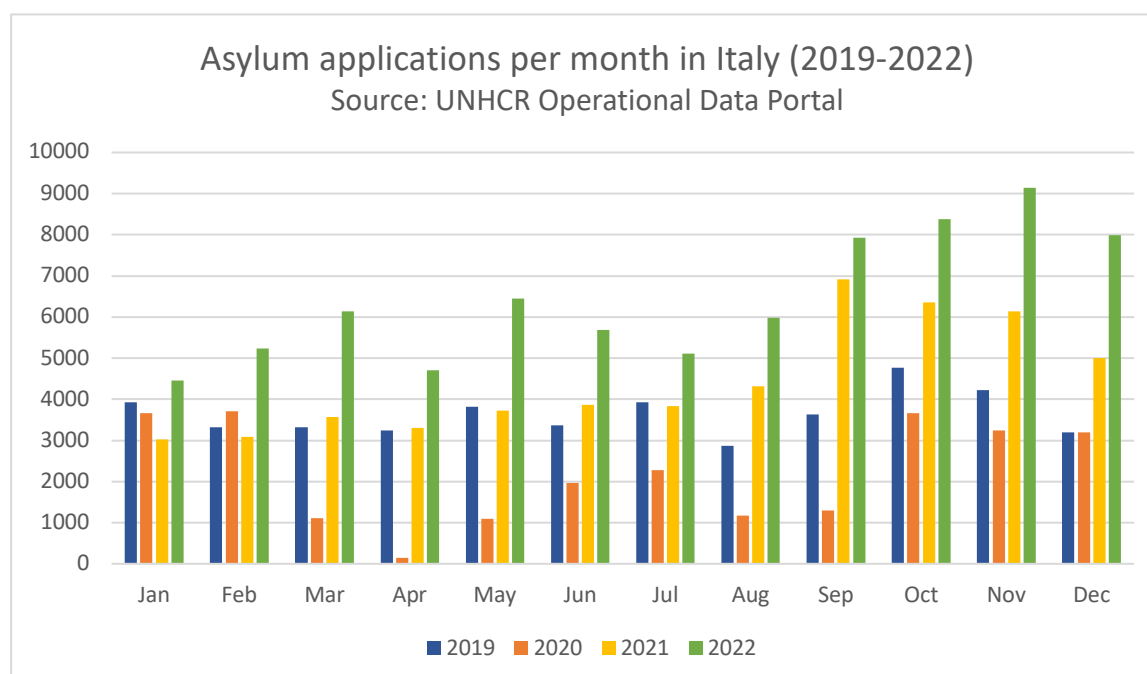
The Italian system provides two forms of International Protection: **Asylum** which is granted to those who obtain a Refugee Status, and **Subsidiary Protection** in the case that a person cannot demonstrate having suffered a personal persecution in accordance with art. 1 of the 1951 Geneva Convention but is in danger of serious damage if they return to their country of origin. 'Serious damage' is understood as the threat of death or torture including a death sentence execution, as well as a serious and individual threat to one's life resulting from indiscriminate violence in situations of internal or international armed conflict, or other forms of inhuman treatment.

The Italian residual form of protection is known as **Special Protection**. It includes a resident permit with a duration of two years, renewable and convertible into a different residence permit for work. This type of permit protects the subject from expulsion or refoulement to a hostile country where the foreign citizen risks being persecuted for reasons of race, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship, religion, political opinion, and personal and social conditions. At the same time, these grounds are protected in all situations where the foreign national must be extradited to a State where there is a fear that he or she might be subjected to inhuman treatment, torture, or violation of human rights. Special protection, as regulated by Law 173/2020, categorically excludes the possibility of the foreign citizen's removal from the national territory when this implies a violation of the right to respect for one's private and family life: this in particular considering family ties, integration into Italian society, the duration of the stay in our country and the absence of cultural, or social ties with the Country of origin.

This means that until now, if you had family ties in Italy, you were well-integrated into Italy's social life (for example, you have been working or studying here), or if you had been living in Italy for a long time, you could have been eligible for Special Protection.

However, the Decree-Law n.20 of 10/03/2023 (entered into force on 11/03/2023) recently changed the field of the enforcement of the Special Protection with the consequence that a resident permit for Special Protection cannot be granted anymore to those who are strongly integrated in Italy or who have family and social links in Italy.

It follows that for those who applied for Special Protection before March 11, 2023, this resident permit could also be granted if they might face a breach of their right to private and family life, if sent back to their home countries. Those who applied for Special Protection on or after March 11, 2023, will no longer receive protection on the grounds of integration or family ties in Italy.



5. THE DUBLIN REGULATION

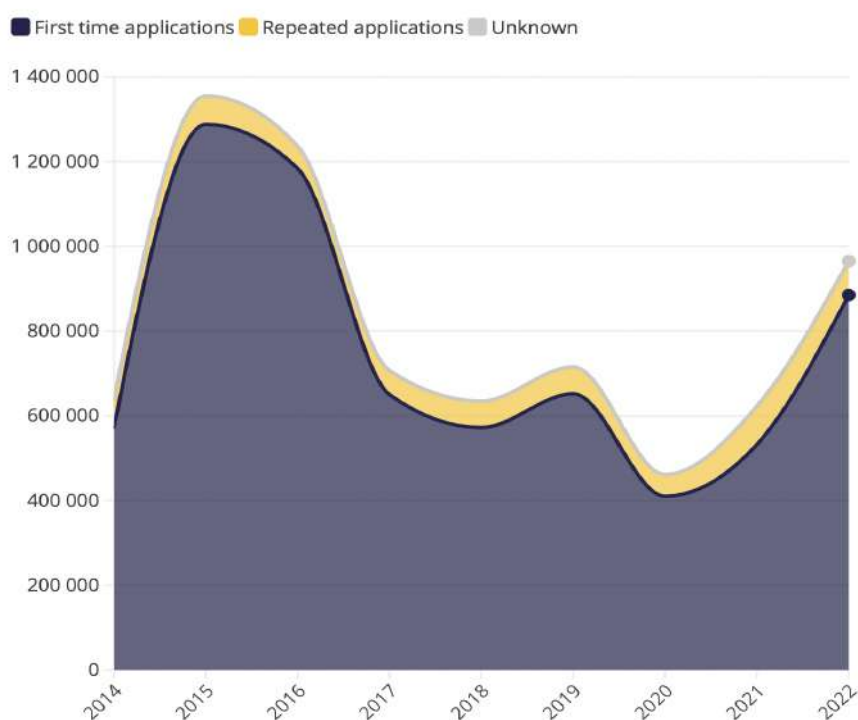
A milestone of the Dublin system is the EU Regulation no.604/2013, better known as the **Dublin III Regulation**, which establishes the criteria to determine which Member State is responsible for receiving and processing an asylum request. These criteria establishing responsibility operate in hierarchical order, from family reunification to recent possession of visa or residence permit in a Member State, to whether the applicant has entered the Union irregularly or regularly. Given the difficulties in applying the criteria, most of the asylum requests within the last decade were processed in the first European Country in which the registration of the arrival occurred (the so-called “first entry” criterion). Such criteria have led to an increase in responsibility for the southern European Union States, such as Italy, Spain, Greece, Malta, or Cyprus, which notoriously receive most of the arrivals.

The application of the Dublin Regulation (III) goes beyond the European Union, as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein are bound by it, in addition to the 28 (27 since Brexit) EU states, by virtue of association agreements.

The Dublin Regulation limits possibilities for integration elsewhere since it imposes legally binding restrictions that prevent refugees from settling in other European member states unless five years have passed since asylum was obtained and the EU long-term residence permit (permanent residence title to live in an EU member country) has been released. The Dublin Regulation also limits asylum seekers from entering other European member states unless 60 days have passed after the asylum request (which is when they become eligible to work) and until a Refugee Status is released.

According to EUROSTAT, the number of **first-time asylum applicants** in the EU in 2022 was 885,045. A first-time applicant for international protection is a person who applied for asylum for the first time in any given EU Member State and therefore excludes recurrent applicants (in that said Member State) and so more accurately reflects the number of newly arrived persons applying for international protection in the EU. The latest figure for 2022 marked an increase of 350,000 (or by 65.4%) first-time asylum applicants across the EU in comparison with the year before (535,045 in 2021). Syrians, Afghans, and Turkish individuals submitted the most applications for asylum in the EU Member States in 2022.

Number of asylum applications in the EU 2014-2022



Source: EU Agency for Asylum

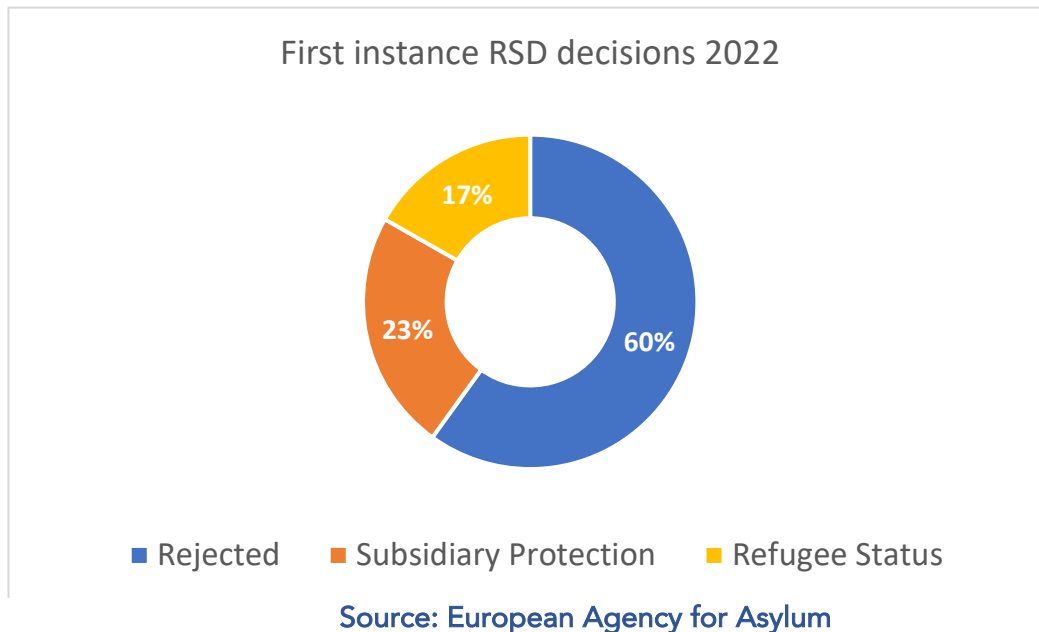
A major consequence of these regulations is the indefinite uncertainty that migrants face. On a number of occasions, UNHCR has claimed that this impedes the legal rights and personal welfare of asylum seekers, including the right to a fair examination of their asylum claim and, where recognized, effective protection. In addition, it promotes an uneven distribution of asylum claims among member states. This led some states to implement anti-immigration policies such as Italy's 2018 Security Decree.

The Dublin III Regulation (2013), previously known as the Dublin II Regulation (2003) and the Dublin Convention (1990), has often been revised after increasing tensions among the member states and to limit the so-called "Asylum shopping". Although the primary principles of the regulation remained the same throughout the revisions, some changes were made.

These changes include notifying the individual about his or her right to appeal; the right for an individual to not be detained even if there is a plan for transfer; a reduced time frame for the processing of transfer request; and increased protection for unaccompanied minors. Although

these changes have improved the treatment of asylum seekers, the burden placed upon coastal countries has not decreased.

In an attempt to lessen the burden on Coastal countries, in 2020 the European Commission adopted the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The pact seeks to distribute the responsibility of migration to all Dublin Regulation Member States and foster communal solidarity.



6. THE ITALIAN RECEPTION SYSTEM

The **Italian reception system**, consisting of a first and a second level, undergoes continuous changes. A radical change took place in December 2018, when the Security Decree introduced by the then Interior Minister Matteo Salvini was implemented. It replaced the **SPRAR** (*Sistema di protezione richiedenti asilo e rifugiati - Protection system for asylum seekers and refugees*) with the **SIPROIMI** (*Sistema di Protezione per titolari di protezione internazionale e minori stranieri non accompagnati - Protection system of those benefiting from international protection and unaccompanied foreign minors*). Thus, the so-called “Security Decree” aimed at excluding asylum seekers from the second level of reception.

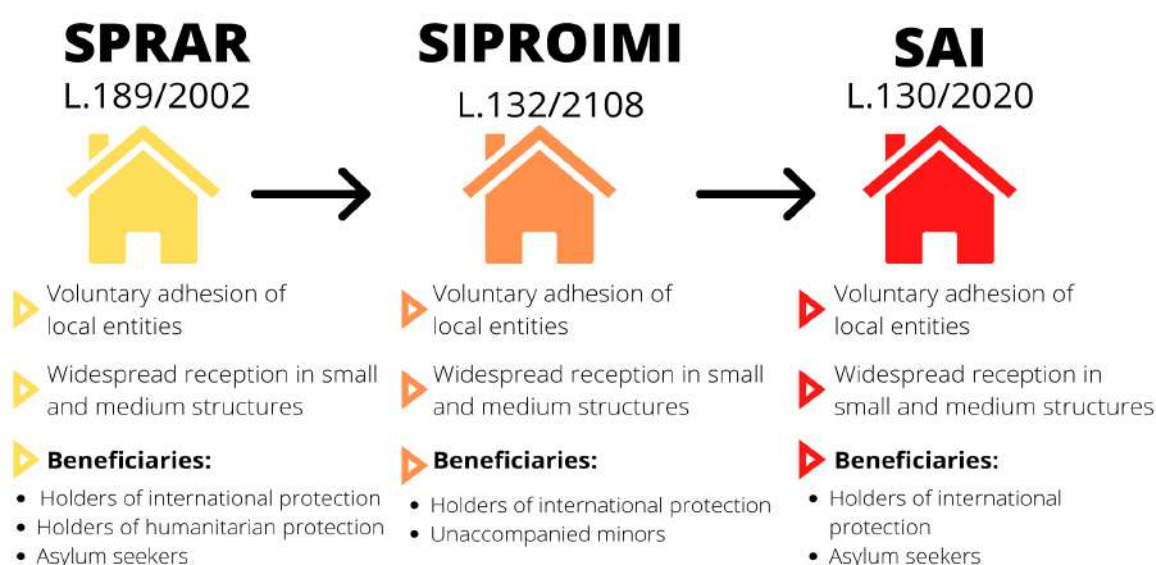
The current reception system is the result of a subsequent modification and, specifically, of the 2020 reform introduced by the Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese. Such reform replaced the SIPROIMI (introduced in 2018) with the **SAI** (*Sistema Accoglienza e Integrazione- Reception and Integration System*). Both asylum seekers and holders of international protection are once again able to access the second level of reception without having to be confined in the first level’s structures (as was instead the case with the SIPROIMI system).

6.1 First Level: Hotspots and First Reception Centers

Upon arrival to Italy, migrants are admitted to government first reception centers called “**Hotspots**” which are structures along border areas that provide basic services. Here, they undergo health

screening (pre-identification) and receive initial medical treatment. They are documented and informed about asylum procedures. In hotspots, asylum seekers are distinguished from economic migrants. In Italy, there are four Hotspots: Lampedusa, Pozzallo, Messina and Taranto.

After the initial assessment, migrants who apply for asylum are transferred to the Centers of First Reception, where they are supposed to stay until the end of the identification procedures and the beginning of the asylum application review process. In such centers, the health condition of the guests is evaluated to identify any vulnerable situation when entering the second phase of reception. People who cross the border illegally and do not express the will to apply for asylum, are then transferred (within the limits of available places) to the **Detention and Repatriation centers** (CPR- *Centri di Permanenza e Rimpatrio*), pending the executive order of expulsion from the country. The Security Decree limited the possibility of staying in these centers to 180 days; the subsequent decree reduced this time to 90 days. There are currently nine CPRs in Italy.



Reception system in Italy over the years

6.2 Second level: SAI

After the identification procedures, individuals who have applied for asylum can enter the second level of the reception system: the **SAI** (introduced by the Decree-law 2020 n.130). SAI replaced the SIPROIMI that, in 2018, had replaced the SPRAR and it now includes protection either for holders of international protection or for applicants of such protection, which had been excluded within the D.L. 113/2018.

Second-level centers provide material, legal, health & linguistic assistance, and additional services aimed at integration (work orientation and vocational training).

6.3 Extraordinary reception centers: CAS

Since mid-2014, the ordinary first-and-second-level reception systems could no longer cope with the high numbers of asylum seekers arriving in Italy. As a result, in 2015 Extraordinary Reception Centers were introduced: the **CAS** system (*Centro Accoglienza Straordinaria*). These centers were to be temporary facilities opened in the event of "substantial and imminent arrivals of asylum

seekers". However, over time CAS's have become the norm rather than the exception. In fact, these are not necessarily camps (apartments and hotels can also be used) and their use within the system is far from extraordinary. In addition, they are unable to provide those services needed to foster the integration of refugees and asylum seekers.

6.4 General data

At the end of 2021, nearly 81,000 people (asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants) were hosted into the Italian reception system (for instance Hotspots, CAS and SAI projects).

Throughout the years, the number of people hosted in extraordinary reception centers has decreased but it still is extremely relevant. As of February 2022, the SAI network included 934 projects which hosted 36,821 individuals of which 6,229 were unaccompanied minors.

7. JNRC BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS - 2022

7.1 New Registrations

As of December 2022, the JNRC database has a total of **10,776** guests with around 6% being female, 39% male, and 55% unspecified. The Center had 716 new registrations in the same year, of whom 620 were male and 96 were female. The figure increased significantly since 2021, which had 270 new registrations. In 2020, JNRC registered the lowest number of registrations, a total of 269, as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

Starting March 2020 and until October 2021, the center's indoor space was inaccessible to guests except by individual appointment. Restrictions eased in the second half of 2021 and have since been entirely removed going into 2022. New registration increases are representative of increased global mobility and demonstrates a return to pre-pandemic migratory behaviors.

NEW REGISTRATIONS AT JNRC OVER THE YEARS

Year	Number of new registrations
2014	1881
2015	2037
2016	1360
2017	1353
2018	1045
2019	1016
2020	269
2021	270
2022	716

Despite the reduction in the number of people who have registered at the JNRC throughout 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, 2022 demonstrates the absence of Covid-19 limitations as registrations increased almost threefold.

7.2 JNRC Beneficiary age

JNRC does not work with minors but considers the over 18 - under 22 group to be highly vulnerable, probably even more so because they are treated as adults even though they might have only just turned 18. JNRC guests who are very young, can easily be harmed not only because they have been through terrible experiences at a very early age but also because they are often alone and have very little general life experience. They are also more vulnerable compared to older people as they can easily fall victim to organized crime when they are not working or earning money.

As noted in 2020, the average age of new guests is increasing. While in 2021, 10% of total registrations were in the 18-23 age range, in 2022 this age group only represented 3.6% of new registrations. The largest number of guests this year is in the 30-39 age group.

Age	Number of JNRC Guests
Age 18-21:	26
Age 22-29:	226
Age 30-39:	284
Age 40-49:	110
Age 50-59:	55
Age 60-69:	13
Age 70+:	2
Total	716

7.3 JNRC Beneficiary Gender

A notable change this year is the almost nine-fold increase in female registrants compared to 2021 (11 registrants in 2021, 96 in 2022). This change is reflective of the new programs and services dedicated to supporting women as a vulnerable population. Additionally, the center has developed a number of new partnerships and collaborations to better identify and support trafficked women.

Gender	Number of New Guests
Male	620
Female	96
Total	716

7.4 JNCR Beneficiary country of origin

Country of Origin	Number of New Guests
Afghanistan	57
Algeria	4
Angola	1
Bangladesh	2
Benin	3
Brazil	1
Burkina Faso	1
Burundi	1
Cameroon	2

Chad	3
Colombia	10
Congo	1
Cote D'Ivoire	33
Djibouti	1
Ecuador	1
Egypt	9
Eritrea	5
Ethiopia	2
Gabon	2
Gambia	20
Georgia	1
Ghana	12
Guinea	17
Guinea-Bissau	1
Honduras	2
India	2
Iraq	37
Iran	3
Jordan	1
Kenya	4
Lebanon	1
Liberia	1
Libya	3
Madagascar	1
Mali	126
Mauritania	1
Morocco	3
Niger	4
Nigeria	51
Pakistan	4
Palestine	1
Peru	3
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	5
Russia	1
Senegal	11
Sierra Leone	2
Syria	3
Somalia	207
Sudan	23
South Sudan	2
Togo	2
Tunisia	6
Turkey	3
Ukraine	10

Venezuela	3
Total	716



B - JNRC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

1. SUMMARY

The goal of the various JNRC activities is to foster a sense of agency and empowerment for the vulnerable populations that frequent the center. Transitioning and integrating into a new country provides a variety of unique challenges. The JNRC seeks to alleviate aspects of hardship through a variety of opportunities that relieve stress, promote community engagement, and develop career skills. Unlike other organizations in Rome, in addition to such services, the center offers a safe space where guests can relax, create friendships, and access valuable resources. The safe space helps to decrease feelings of alienation and distress.



JNRC guests in recreative activities while waiting for lessons to start

We provide assistance to refugees and asylum seekers through ongoing programs, and through goal focused projects funded by external supporters.

The **JNRC Humanitarian Program** provides facilities and services that address the most urgent needs of our guests which include: nutritionally balanced daily breakfasts to prevent hunger; essential non-food items (clothing, underwear, toiletries, shoes, blankets, sleeping bags) to prevent health problems and enable a more dignified life; an emergency fund which covers urgent needs through economic support (medications, revenue stamps for issuing or renewing permits, train or bus passes for work reasons, SIM cards).

The **JNRC Development Program** aims at assisting guests in the difficult process of socio-economic integration through language/literacy training (Italian, English, German, French and Arabic) at different levels, digital literacy classes, legal advice, individual counseling and group therapy, online job search accompaniment, and assistance in vocational training and job placement.

Every year, we conduct an annual evaluation of the JNRC program strategy and its impact on our guests, in order to improve our work. The evaluation takes place through a "Well-Being Survey" with qualitative interviews to gather random data, and a snapshot of the background situation of our guests. The JNRC Monitoring and Evaluation database system collects data on our program service usage on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis. The use of our services is linked to the registration database through names/ JNRC ID Card numbers. In addition to keeping track of items

provided and the number of participants in our activities, this system guarantees a fair and equitable distribution.

2. HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

The purpose of the **Humanitarian Program** at JNRC is to provide facilities and services that address the physical needs of our guests which allows them to facilitate the next steps toward personal and professional growth.

2.1 Breakfast



From January 2022 to December 2022, JNRC distributed **15.428** breakfasts over a total of **218 days**. The food served is portable so that it can be eaten later or even the next day. This also ensures respect for fasting times such as during the month of Ramadan, when Muslims have strict rules about food during daylight hours. The meal is nutritionally balanced to prevent health problems, and it consists of hard-boiled eggs, fruit or a fruit juice, crackers or biscuits, a hot sweet tea or a yogurt. Occasionally the center also provides cookies, juice, and/or soft drinks depending on availability.

The monthly breakfast breakdown for 2022 is as follows:

Month	Total Breakfasts Served	Days Breakfast Served	Average per Day
January	949	17	55.8
February	1282	20	64,1
March	1539	23	66.9
April	1019	20	50,95
May	1496	22	68
June	1460	20	73
July	1471	20	73.5
August	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
September	1264	20	63.2
October	1699	21	80.9
November	1895	20	94.75
December	1354	15	90.2

Since Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, breakfast service has returned to its usual schedule of 8:30 am – 10:30 am. Most of the people who come for breakfast are homeless, as people who are otherwise staying in camps, and eating there, arrive later for taking part in the development programs.

In mid-2019, JNRC signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the **Banco Alimentare del Lazio** (Lazio Food Bank) which is still in place, to receive some donated food that are stocks from

production companies. Throughout 2022, several partners supported the JNRC Breakfast program among which, **St. Luke's Foundation; the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, Latter-day Saint Charities; St. Margaret's in Annapolis; The American Cathedral in Paris, Rome Times Hotel.**

2.2 Supply Room and Non-Food Items distribution



The center provides a variety of basic necessities for guests to improve their quality of life and reaffirm their human dignity.

We distribute outer clothing, underwear, essential toiletries, shoes, backpacks, pens, notebooks, blankets, sleeping bags, and other donated/purchased items. Underwear, socks, and selected toiletries are always on hand to ensure these essential items are distributed new. New sleeping bags are also available when the temperature drops below freezing or when all donated sleeping bags have been distributed. Guests can usually access the supply room closet, Monday through Friday from

8:30am-12:00pm.

In early 2020, JNRC began a collaboration with the Hermine **Project** in Wurzburg, Germany, to receive large amounts of second-hand clothes and basic necessities. Such collaboration continued throughout 2021 and is still in place. Since 2020, the generous deliveries of goods from Hermine Project in Germany, helped us provide for thousands of refugees and asylum seekers who are in serious poverty. In 2022, a new collaboration with **Hanseatic Help** in Hamburg, Germany, and with Only the Brave Foundation (OTB) in Italy began and we are confident that their support too will help us achieve great outcomes during this year.

2.3 Women & Children's Supply Room and Safe Space

The Women and Children's room was created to both serve as a safe space for children to play and allow women time to access clothing and material donations. Donations for children include clothing sizes ranging from 3 months to teenagers for both boys and girls. Additionally, material goods such as diapers and children's toys are available. Children have access to a variety of toys, books, games, and coloring materials to create a safe place of fun. Volunteers spend time with children to allow their parents time to look through donations, eat breakfast, and converse with fellow guests of the JNRC. The Women and Children's room provide the same resources as the current supply room, but it provides a sanctuary for women to browse at their leisure.



The Women & Children's Room

From January to December 2022, the Supply Room and the Women & Children's Program distributed **12,327** items, 11,311 to men, 702 to women, and 314 to an unspecified gender.

The breakdown for each item distributed in 2022 is as follows:

Item	Male	Female	Unspecified	Total
Socks (New)	1029	23	33	1085
Underwear (New)	653	6	20	679
Tissues (Packet)	522	27	5	554
Soap/Gel	515	25	8	548
Shaver	410	11	9	430
Shaving foam	25	-	-	25
Body Lotion/ Oil	60	2	1	62
Clothes	4561	357	123	5041
Shoes	597	33	18	648
Backpacks	165	8	4	177
Sleeping bags	455	12	12	479
Blanket	158	10	6	174
Toothbrush	534	37	12	583
Toothpaste	426	32	14	472
Stationary	15	3	-	18
Child Clothes	43	62	1	106
Child Shoes	10	2	-	12
Jacket	468	24	14	506
Towel	400	11	9	420
Winter Accessories	11328	702	297	12327

Using their personal JNRC Supply Room cards and the digital monitoring system as a guide, guests are able to browse the supply room to find necessary items. Volunteers assist guests in locating clothing, material goods, and other supplies. Access to the supply room runs from 10:00am to

12:00pm Monday through Friday. The Women and Children's room is available Monday through Friday during opening hours of the center.

Through the help of students and teachers, JNRC relies on second-hand collection campaigns planned at international schools such as **Marymount International School in Rome, St. George's British International School, American Overseas School of Rome, Ambrit International School** and universities or institutes such as **Temple University Rome, John Cabot University Rome, Loyola University, Richmond University in Rome, CIS Abroad, DIS Copenhagen**. In addition, some donations are provided by international Agencies or organizations such as the **U.S. Embassy in Rome; the United Nations Womens Guild of Rome (UNWG) at FAO and the UN World Food Programme (WFP)**. We are grateful to our local and international supporters and to the many individuals who come in person to JNRC to drop off second hand clothes.

2.4 Emergency Fund

These funds support the emergency needs of guests by offering economic support if needed. Money is given at the center manager's discretion to those in most urgent need, especially single parents, or youth who have no family.

JNRC usually assists around **60** guests per year through the Emergency Fund program, with a normal limit of 60 euros per person. Around one third of beneficiaries are young refugees and asylum seekers within the 18-21 age bracket.



The economic assistance is provided mostly for the following reasons: revenue stamps for requesting or renewing the permits, train passes for work reasons, bus or train tickets to attend job interviews, SIM cards and telephone "top-ups", medical visits and medications.

3. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The **Development Program** aims to assist guests in the difficult process of socio-economic integration through language/literacy training, digital literacy class, individual counseling and group therapy, on-line job search accompaniment, and assistance in professional training and employment. Thus, we are a refuge and safe place

for guests, but also a place for human progress and development. Our guests are encouraged to take part in all of our programs if they wish, and we have some people who have regularly attended our classes, and benefitted from our therapeutic or employment support services for years.

3.1 Language Classes



JNRC offers 3 language programs (**Italian, English, German**). Our classes run every day, Monday to Friday, usually from 10:00am to 11:30am (Italian and English) and from 11:00am to 12:30pm (German), and have an average of 10-15 students per class.

Additionally, JNRC has two general courses in **Arabic** and **French**. Both courses run once a week: Arabic on Mondays from 12pm-1pm and French on Wednesdays from 11:30-1pm.

The **Italian courses**, A1, A2, and B1 (defined according to the levels of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*), are designed to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers who want to achieve a competence in Italian. Emphasis is given to oral communication to help guests develop self-confidence. All three

courses, that are repeated several times over the year, are held in a hybrid format (online and face-to-face), and have a total duration of 24 hours. A1, A2, and B1 lessons each occur twice a week for 90 minutes. They are paperless programs and all teaching materials used (files, audios, videos) are emailed to students.

In addition, tests and quizzes are conducted frequently to evaluate the learning process and a certificate of attendance is issued at the end of each course. A series of activities, such as visits to museums, will take place during the year, to encourage students explore sites of the city while practicing structures and vocabulary learned in class, as well as interacting with local people.

One of the obstacles to social and work integration for many of JNRC's guests is their lack of Italian language capacity. It is very important, for those attending the commission interviews that determine their political status as migrants, to show that they are actively pursuing Italian language skills. All of our Italian courses are geared towards socio-economic integration, so the terminology and topics are very often related to the Italian job market.

We work in partnership with local schools and organizations that help our guests achieve the Terza Media certificate or high school degrees: **CPIA** (Centri Provinciali Formazione Adulti), Baobab Experience, Programma Integra. We also assist guests who want to validate their qualifications, directing them to appropriate bodies.

The **English course** occurs Monday through Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:30am, while the **German lessons** are held on Tuesdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Lessons vary according to the students' levels and needs, covering everything from basic literacy to tenses, grammar, and



vocabulary review to prepare students for scenarios they are likely to encounter on a regular basis. These courses seek to aid their fluency in spoken and written English or German across all contexts. Guests can also work one on one with teaching assistant to focus on challenging concepts

In the Arabic and French classes, teachers are composed of center volunteers who teach once a week. The lessons cover basic grammar and letter structures for both languages. These

classes are less structured compared to the Italian, English, and German courses, as they only occur once a week. Oftentimes volunteers will attend these courses to increase their communication abilities with guests at the center.

3.2 Digital Literacy Support

JNRC offers digital literacy support that is held 3 days per week, from 9:00am to 1:00pm, which aims to provide basic skills on Microsoft Office, and internet/email proficiency.

Our digital literacy class is focused on individual needs so the teacher assists each guest with the work she/he is doing (online job search, job applications, presentation letters, email account management). Assistance for technical support increased in the past two years due to remote assistance or smart working.

3.3 Legal Support

Guests receive crucial legal advice on different matters every Wednesday from 10:00am to 12:00pm, in particular about the asylum process and the judicial instruments of appeal against a denial of international protection. In addition, the legal program provides information about the release and the renewal of a residency permit and other documents, and assistance in regards to citizenship/ naturalization/family reunification applications. This service is important for those who have been rejected and yet have grounds for appeal.



The JNRC legal team assists on average five people per week and subsequently keeps in touch with them until the end of the legal process, interacting with public administration. Legal assistance is also available in case of criminal charges or arrests.

3.4 JNRC Works

The **JNRC Works** program is an employment clinic taking place twice a week from 10:00 to 1pm to assist guest for vocational training orientation and job placement. It is made up of a team of 10 to 12 dedicated volunteers, who write CVs, match CVs to jobs, assist guests in the identification and application to professional courses, teach how to job-search online, transfer general knowledge of Italian rules and aspects related to work (occupational safety, labor unions, legal/illegal work, employment contracts, job support agencies etc.). The JNRC Works team regularly keeps in touch with guests to inform them of possible opportunities.



JNRC Works individual assistance and training

The JNRC Works program is also involved in a series of projects that aim at job placement, through the use of technical tools for training purposes, the enhancement of professional skills, and the development of the network with local stakeholders to promote a collaborative system that can better support our guests. Organizations and agencies that cooperate with JNRC-Works include **CESC** (Servizio Civile Universale - Civil Service), **CPI** (Centro Per l'Impiego – Employment Center), **PROMOIMPRESA** and **Job4goog** (Job agencies), **Programma Integra**, **CIES Onlus**, **K_Alma**, **Gustamundo**, **ASCS Casa Scalabrini 634**. Since October 2018, the JNRC Works is implementing the **Refugee Employment Integration Project**, in collaboration with the **Karl Kahane Foundation**. The project, which is fully inclusive and accessible to all refugees in Rome, aims to offer a knowledge of the Italian labor market through weekly industry talks with entrepreneurs from different job sectors. The purpose of the talks is to offer candidates useful tools for entering the job market. This ongoing project is maximizing the employment potential of the beneficiaries, by teaching them how to develop a 360-degree view of the Italian labor market and build a network of contacts among local entrepreneurs for their future economic integration.

In its running time, the Refugee Employment Integration project has also contributed to the improvement of the



THE WORLD OF WORK AND ENTERPRISE

Information meetings

For information and reservations:
Send an email to: worksteamjnrc@gmail.com
Or contact
JNRC Works
Mercoledì e Giovedì
dalle 10:00 alle 13:00

June 2022
Wednesday 1st – 11:00-13:00
RIGHT TO WORK
RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR WORK PURPOSE;
CONVERSION; MAP OF CPIs, CAF and UNIONS;
THE CRIMINAL PROTECTION AGAINST
EXPLOITATION (THE «RIDER» CASE).
Cies Onlus
Avv. Silvia Calderoni
Thursday 9th – 11:30-13:00
JOB FOR YOU
HOW TO GET A JOB; DOS AND DON'TS AT
JOB; MOCK JOB INTERVIEW.
Liza Jones

Via Napoli 58 00184 Roma
Website: www.jnrc.it

JNRC Works' operating system and has become an effective tool for socio-economic integration, easily adaptable to diverse contexts. The collaboration between the Karl Kahane Foundation and JNRC will continue throughout 2023 and beyond.

In 2022, the JNRC Works has changed the way it operates as it has launched a digital platform, the **Job Clinic Online**, to connect labor supply and demand. This important step has been taken to achieve several goals: enlarge the user base; speed up the matching process between candidates' profiles and job offers; and most of all, promote the direct involvement of the guests in the CVs



making process and therefore, in the process of finding a job. Guests are now required to independently create a draft of their CV and we think this can help increase motivation and determination to succeed.

The Job Clinic Online project has been developed in partnership with **ItaliaHello**. The goal of the project is to create a single online system accessible to multiple organizations, optimizing the work of each and making

the entire work assistance process more effective and sustainable. The project also promotes the use of technology among migrants in order to reduce, to some extent, social inequalities and help them develop the computer skills that are needed to work.

During 2023, this project will enter a new phase in which efforts will be made to provide training to companies to further facilitate the spread and adoption of the JCO digital platform.

3.5 Music Class

There is also a music program at JNRC where guests can play the guitar, piano or percussion instruments. Specialized teachers assist on a volunteer basis. Achievements are often shared at themed benefit evenings where guests contribute to a happy atmosphere by playing music and singing songs.



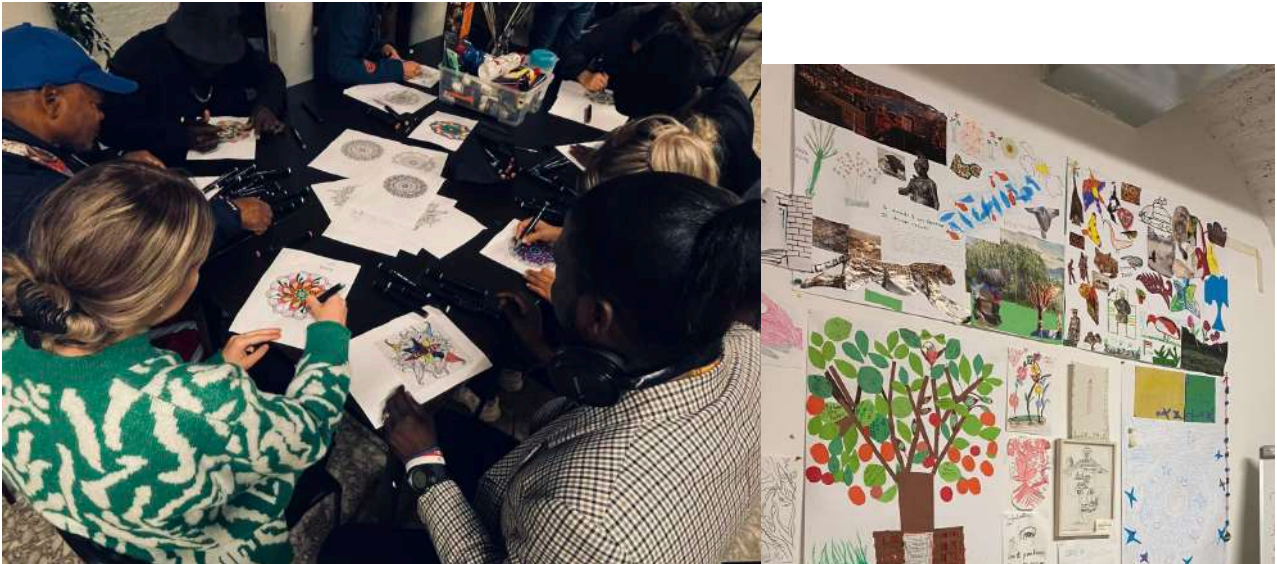
3.6 Mental Health Psychosocial Support

At JNRC, we strive to ensure the psychological well-being of our guests. People who are smuggled, trafficked, or exploited, even though they might seem ready to face everyday life or work challenges, can often face great difficulty executing the most basic life tasks. The Mental Health Psychosocial support program (MHPSS) seeks to relieve mental distress and provide creative outlets for expression and relaxation.

It is essential to consider the cultural influences on psychosocial support for migrants. In many countries, mental health programs hold a negative connotation of weakness, making them less likely to seek help. It is critical to adapt mental health programs to the needs and cultural norms of our guests in order to provide effective support. As such, the PSS program facilitates a number

of opportunities for guests, including painting and drawing, card games, ping pong tournaments and interactive community projects for the JNRC.

We also offer our guests individual or group therapy carried out by specialized counselors and psychologists, every Wednesday 9:30am to 1pm. Assistance is provided not only to people who are seriously affected by PTSD but also to those who feel discomfort and are unable to maintain even a basic level of trust.



Art therapy session in the JNRC therapy room



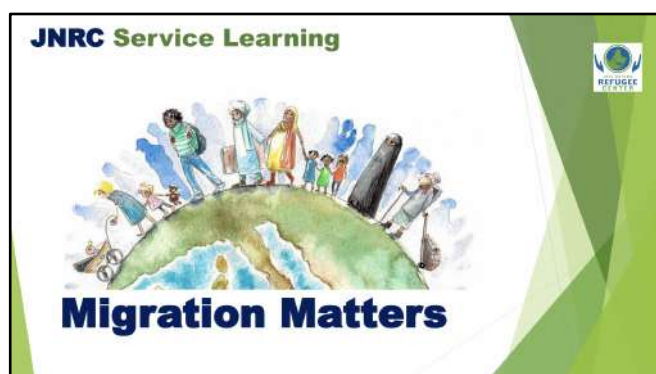
Stretching session in the JNRC common room

The center provides **stretching classes** every Monday from 9:00am to 9:45am. The goal of this program is to relieve stress physically and mentally through calming movements and mindfulness. Studies have shown that these practices can help to reduce anxiety and depression and enhance one's quality of life.

JNRC offers **Art therapy** sessions as we have identified that emotional trauma caused by abuse often leads people to refuse direct help. We use art and music as a means of expression and observation and as an indirect way of approaching personal issues.

To make our therapeutic programs more effective, we work in partnership with several organizations to whom we send the most serious cases. especially when care requires drug treatment, or from whom we receive people in need of care according to our models of approach. Some of our partners for the MHPSS program are Be Free (human trafficking and gender-based violence) and Baobab Experience.

4. AWARENESS RAISING PROGRAM



4.1 Service Learning

JNRC receives visits from schools, universities, churches and organizations in Rome, and all over the world, who are interested in taking part in our **Service-learning program**. Such program offers a lecture on migration matters in Italy and Europe, and an overview of JNRC. A typical visit includes an informative presentation on the refugee phenomenon, an overview of our mission and a

tour of the center, and a presentation from a guest speaker as well as a Q&A session.

In all of our service-learning projects, we host guests who give a speech on their personal experiences. This not only gives them the opportunity to actively contribute to the change we want to implement, but it helps the audience understand that there may be a gap between perception of migration and the reality of migration. JNRC service-learning initiatives are also effective ways to raise funds for the needs of our guests.



Service learning session

4.2 Volunteer Training



JNRC receives and appreciates the help of qualified, experienced volunteers in all areas.

On average, we have about 60 volunteers and 5 interns working in the center per week. We welcome both local and international students and train them for a career in non-profit organization. Our application form is online so candidates arrive from all over the world just to volunteer with us and provide assistance. We are very proud of the opportunity to meet people who are so open to global problems and to individual needs.

The training program for our volunteers includes quarterly meetings where we provide useful tools to carry out our work competently and safely. The training involves the transfer of information related to the current migration situation, the status and risks associated with asylum seeker and refugee status, and European and national asylum procedures. We also provide advice on how to approach vulnerable groups and respect safeguard policies for the sake of our guests and operators.

We receive volunteers and interns from **SIOI** (Italian Society for International Organizations), **Temple University**, **John Cabot University**, **The University of Notre Dame**, **La Sapienza**, **Luiss Guido Carli**, **Tor Vergata in Rome**, **Roma Tre**, **The Umea University** among many others.

4.3 Publications

We use our website and social media channels - **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **LinkedIn** - to provide updates on our initiatives or upcoming events, and information on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Rome and Italy. We provide relevant resources for our guests such as how to apply for asylum or how to access free courses in Rome and/or Italian schools, which can provide the certificates needed to renew documents and remain in housing facilities.

5. FUNDRAISING PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

5.1 Events

Among the many initiatives we carry out to raise funds are our **JNRC Cultural Fundraising Dinners**. We usually offer international cuisine that is representative of the countries of our guests. The aim of such events is to accomplish several goals: bring together our supporters, welcome new members of the local community and give them the opportunity to learn about JNRC's mission. These events are also aimed at offering professionally skilled refugee cooks the opportunity to work and earn money while being connected to a supportive community.

Since Covid and the restrictions that this has entailed, our fundraising dinners have not yet restarted but we hope that during 2023 we can return to having at least some of the 6 events we used to have per year. In the meantime, the JNRC has found alternative ways to support our guests such as donation collections of sleeping bags, shoes, computers, phones, clothes & toys for children, and other material goods.

Every year, St. Paul's Within the Walls hosts a **Christmas Market** in December where visitors are offered the chance to taste baked goods, mulled wine and hot chocolate, and purchase toys donated by supporters. All proceeds collected are used to support our guests.



5.2 Partnerships and Projects

The **JNRC Fundraising Program** plans goal-focused projects and applies for grant opportunities locally and internationally. All regular and occasional supporters aim for social engagement and see JNRC as the right organization to enable them to accomplish charitable goals. Our projects aim at providing adequate support to our guests in order to help them reach greater independence. JNRC's main objectives are addressing hunger, providing supplies for survival, improving emotional well-being, promoting personal and professional training, fostering self-sufficiency and eventual successful integration.

The JNRC is extremely grateful to all those organizations that support our mission and that contribute to the achievement of extraordinary results. Thanks to their cooperation, the lives of many refugees and asylum seekers have changed for the better.

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY JNRC IN 2022:

- **The Refugee Employment Integration Project** (Karl Kahane Foundation);
- Humanitarian and Educational Services for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (Latter-day Saints Charities LDS)
- **Safe Space and material Support for refugees and Asylum Seekers in Rome** (St. Luke's Foundation);
- **Material assistance and Legal Support Project** (Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania);
- **Humanitarian and Educational Support Project** (St. Patrick's Catholic American Parish in Rome);
- **Humanitarian Mission on the Moldavan Border** (The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe);
- **Material Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (Southland International School in Rome);
- **The Help Desk for Ukrainian Refugees** (The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe);
- **Refugee Integration through Care of Creation** (United Thank Offering UTO);
- **Basic Humanitarian Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (The American Cathedral in Paris)

- **Material Aid for refugees in Rome** (International Rescue Committee IRC);
- **Humanitarian and Development Services to Support Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis);

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY JNRC IN 2021:

- **The Refugee Employment Integration Project** (Karl Kahane Foundation);
- **The Job Clinic Online Project** (OTB - Only the Brave Foundation);
- **The Embrace Diversity Project** (Niwano Peace Foundation);
- **Human Services/Refugee Support Project** (St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis);
- **Material and Therapy Support Project** (St. Luke's Foundation, Salisbury NC);
- **Humanitarian Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (Latter-day Saints Charities LDS);
- **Basic Humanitarian Support for Refugees and Asylum seekers** (The American Cathedral in Paris);
- **The Volunteers' Training Tool Project** (The Council of Europe).

Throughout 2021, JNRC implemented also the The Two-day Course Project and partnered in the **No One Left Behind Project** (Implemented by Sanità di Frontiera).

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY JNRC IN 2020:

- **The Refugee Employment Integration Project** (Karl Kahane Foundation);
- **Saturday Morning Breakfast Project** (Rome International Church);
- **The Emergency Assistance Program** (The American Cathedral in Paris);
- **Human Services/Refugee Support Project** (St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis);
- **The Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Rome** (Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania);



Joel Nafuma Refugee Center at St. Paul's Within the Walls in Rome

WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

(PARTIAL LISTING)



**KARL KAHANE
FOUNDATION**
HELPING PEOPLE TO CREATE A DIGNIFIED
AND PEACEFUL LIVING ENVIRONMENT.
FOR THEMSELVES. AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS.



**Episcopal
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OF CANTERBURY**

