

A close-up photograph of two young girls with dark, curly hair. The girl on the left is wearing a blue and white striped top with a white lace collar and a pink heart-shaped earring. The girl on the right is wearing a pink top and a black necklace with a pearl. They are both looking down at something they are holding together, possibly a small object or a piece of paper. The background is a plain, light color.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023  
UNICEF REGIONAL OFFICE  
FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL  
ASIA IN ITALY**

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Together with its partners, UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to translate this commitment into concrete action for all children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised.

*Anytime, anywhere in the world.*

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## THE DATA




PHOTO 1: A group of migrant and refugee adolescents in Crotona (Calabria)

**157,652** migrants and refugees arrived by sea in 2023

**17,319** were unaccompanied and separated children  
**23,226** unaccompanied and separated children in the Italian reception system in 2023

**+29,406** migrant and refugee children and adolescents reached through child protection activities

**+160,506** migrant and refugee women and young people accessing interventions to reduce, prevent or respond to gender-based violence through face-to-face interventions and online information

**+7,587** adolescents and young people reached with measures aimed at developing skills and participation

**+829,000** people reached with prevention messages and access to services

**+48,000** UASC, adolescents, and young migrants and refugees will be reached in 2024

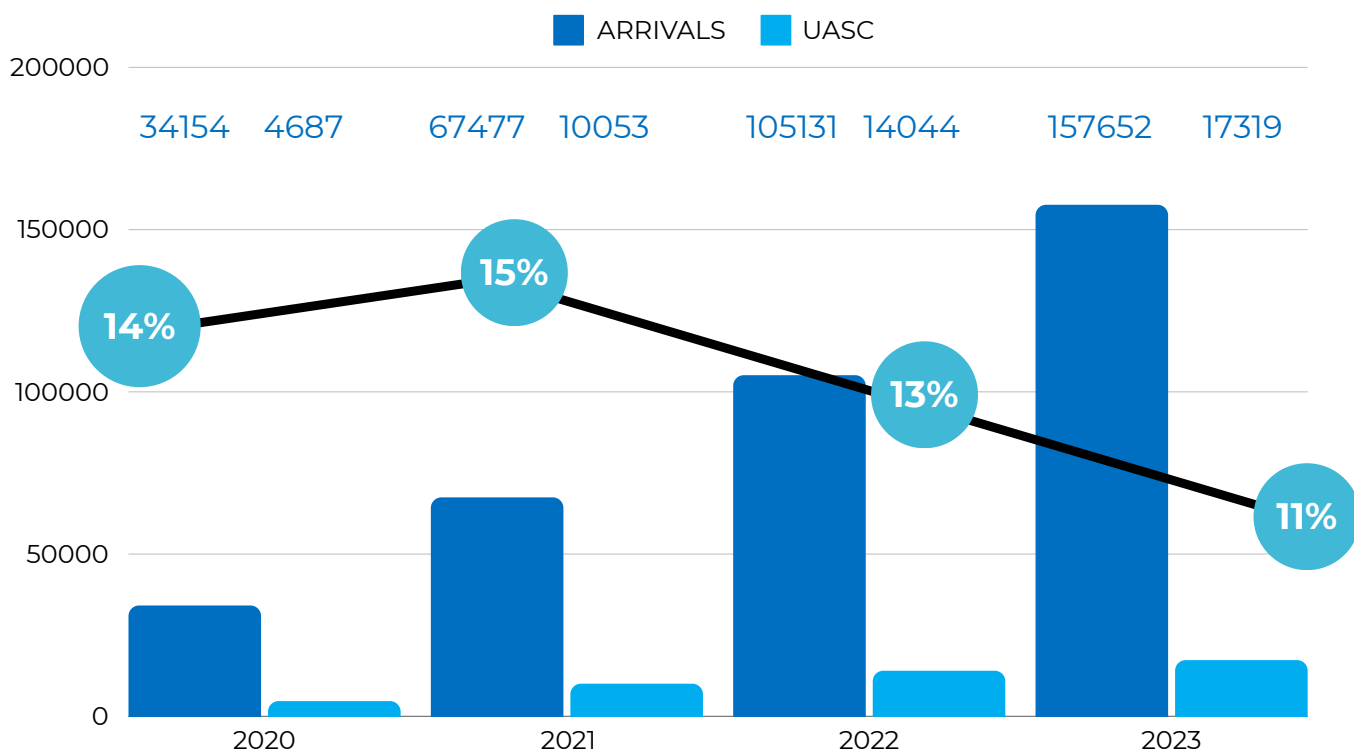


## 1. Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) in Italy

In 2023, migration flows to Italy registered **157 thousand migrants and refugees arriving by sea via** the Central Mediterranean route, an increase of more than 50% compared to 2022. Of these, approximately 17%, 26,800, were children<sup>1</sup>. **17,319 of them were unaccompanied and separated children.**

Throughout the year, the island of Lampedusa was the main point of arrival by sea, accounting for around 70% of total arrivals. Other southern regions, such as Calabria and Apulia, also recorded significant increases in landings.

The Central Mediterranean migration route remains one of the most dangerous: in 2023, approximately **2,476 people died or went missing in the Central Mediterranean, including more than 90 children**<sup>2</sup>. Other entries concerned the land borders in the north of the country with arrivals from the Balkan route, for which, however, no recent data are available. By 31 December 2023, the Italian reception system had received **23,226 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)**, an increase from 20,000 the previous year. The UASC population accommodated in first and second reception facilities in Italy is mainly composed of boys (88%). In terms of age, **46% of UASC are 17 years old, 27% are 16 years old, 11% are 15 years old and 15% are under 15 years old.** The majority of youths who arrived in Italy without an adult reference person come from countries severely affected by protracted humanitarian crises that have damaged their socio-economic, educational and health systems. **Some of the countries of origin most represented in the reception facilities are: Egypt** (over 4.6 thousand <18, making up 20% of the total); Ukraine (4.1 thousand <18, making up 18% of new entries); **Tunisia** (2.4 thousand <18, making up 10% of total entries); **Gambia** (2.1 thousand <18, making up 9.2% of total new entries); and Guinea with 1.9 thousand <18 (8%).



<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Interior, Statistical Dashboard, [http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto\\_statistico\\_giornaliero\\_31-12-2023.pdf](http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-12-2023.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> IOM, Missing Migrants Project, [https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean?region\\_incident=All&route=3861&year%5B%5D=11681&month=All&incident\\_date%5Bmin%5D=&incident\\_date%5Bmax%5D=](https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean?region_incident=All&route=3861&year%5B%5D=11681&month=All&incident_date%5Bmin%5D=&incident_date%5Bmax%5D=)

## 2. Context for action and UNICEF's response

Despite the Italian government's efforts to cope with the increase in numbers recorded in 2023, including - on 11 April last year - the declaration of a "state of emergency due to the exceptional increase in migrant flows entering the country via the Mediterranean migration routes"<sup>3</sup>, gaps in the reception system remain. While this measure has made it possible to speed up transfers from the Lampedusa hotspot, it has also led to overcrowding - during the peak summer arrivals period - in the emergency and first reception facilities<sup>4</sup> in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, which are not designed or equipped for long-term reception. On the other hand, there are not enough secondary reception facilities for children, especially for the under-14s, to cope with this influx. In this context, it is necessary to **ensure minimum standards of protection and access to essential services**, as well as to prevent Unaccompanied and Separated Children from ending up in age- and gender-mixed facilities where there is an increased **risk of exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse**, particularly in the case of **unaccompanied foreign women and girls**.

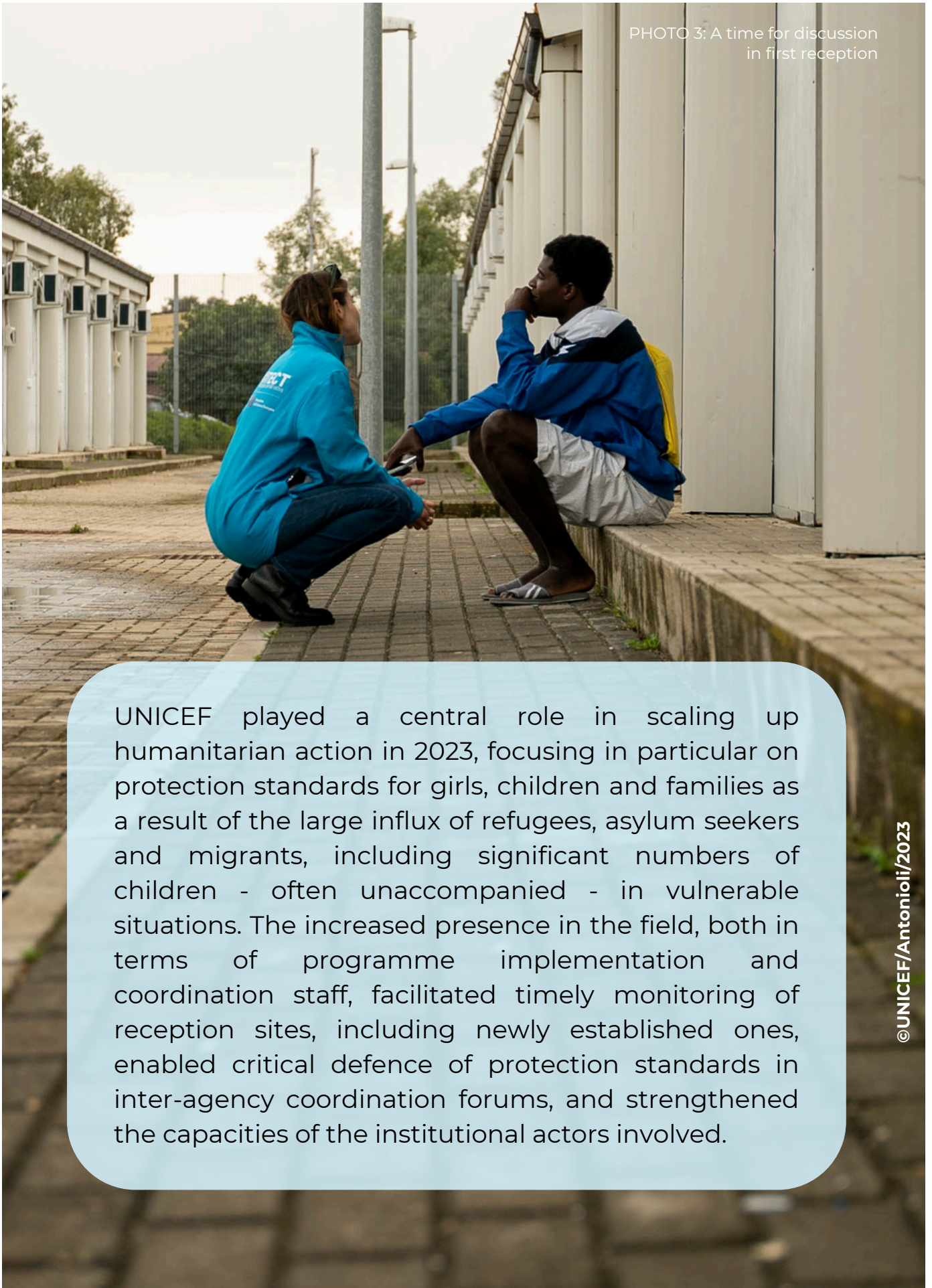


PHOTO 2: Women gathered during activities in the Women and Girls Safe Space of Parma

<sup>3</sup> Editor's note. The declaration was renewed last October and finally on 10 April 2024 for another six months

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF, <https://www.datocms-assets.com/30196/1702629600-report-unicef-fron-era.pdf>



PHOTO 3: A time for discussion  
in first reception

UNICEF played a central role in scaling up humanitarian action in 2023, focusing in particular on protection standards for girls, children and families as a result of the large influx of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including significant numbers of children - often unaccompanied - in vulnerable situations. The increased presence in the field, both in terms of programme implementation and coordination staff, facilitated timely monitoring of reception sites, including newly established ones, enabled critical defence of protection standards in inter-agency coordination forums, and strengthened the capacities of the institutional actors involved.



UNICEF's child protection activities in Italy in 2023 focused on the areas of land access and transit and first reception facilities, actively participating in the strengthening of the emergency response system, and supporting the Government at central and local levels by providing individual case management and coordination support to improve the efficiency of alternative care and access to services in reception facilities for unaccompanied and separated girls and boys. With the support of six case managers based in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, UNICEF, in collaboration with local authorities, also effectively managed vulnerable cases of unaccompanied children and adolescents, families and women at risk of gender-based violence, ensuring referral to specialised services and case monitoring in coordination with all relevant actors in the child protection system. All frontline staff have been trained to respond appropriately to needs, including mental health and psychosocial needs.

Even beyond the arrival and initial reception phase, significant barriers remain in the provision of and access to services and information for unaccompanied foreign children and young migrants and refugees. In some areas, for example, there are still gaps in the social health care of migrant and refugee minors and access to mental health services. These critical issues are often linked to a lack of or weak coordination between the reception system, social services and public mental health services, which, if it exists, is fragmented or unknown to all actors. Another area in which the system needs to be strengthened is the orientation of UASC and young migrants and refugees to education, training and employment in the region. For this reason, UNICEF has promoted the online service of psychosocial, legal and vocational support through the Here4U channel of the U-Report on the Move platform.

Although the legal framework for the protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children favours alternative forms of support to reception in centres, the use of measures such as foster care remains residual. Therefore, in alternative reception, the protection and family-based reception system has been strengthened.

Regional differences are also reflected in the provision of **training and career guidance** for transitioning from school to work and the social inclusion of UASC and young migrants and refugees. There are many factors that influence this process, including language barriers, precarious legal status, early school leaving due to sudden relocation, and the overlapping of different priorities (housing autonomy, job search, etc.) in a limited period of time before the age of 18. Thus, activities to support access to quality education for children and young people in disadvantaged situations, both within the school system and in non-formal education settings, have continued. Actions in the field of education aim to support the learning of the Italian language by newly arrived pupils, the development of 21st-century skills among pupils in the most disadvantaged schools, including those with a migrant background, and the orientation of UASC and young migrants and refugees towards educational and professional pathways. UNICEF seeks to promote innovative models that recognise and enhance the **prior skills of adolescents and young people**, ensure their **active participation** in the decision-making processes that affect them, and develop an **educational and professional response appropriate to the needs of the new millennium** and aimed at their social and professional integration.

One of the aims of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the application of the fundamental principles enshrined in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (CRC) of 20 November 1989, ratified by the Italian State with Law No. 176 of 27 May 1991. In Italy, UNICEF is coordinated by a unit of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) and works with the Italian government on the protection, education and social inclusion of children and young migrants and refugees, in accordance with **the recommendations and concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**. UNICEF's actions are implemented in constant alignment with the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda to achieve the desired conditions of inclusion and equality for all migrant and refugee children and youth.



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PHOTO 4: Momo makes dinner for his foster family

### 3. Focus on achievements and specific areas of action

#### 3.1. Protection and safeguarding of the rights of children

**29,406** UASC and young migrants and refugees reached with actions to protect rights and improve standards of reception and protection (including legal advice, access to mental health services, and psychosocial support)

**295** UASC and young migrants and refugees in foster care and/or supported by mentors

**3,500** Reception workers and tutors trained with key skills regarding principles and standards of protection

**160,506** People reached with direct interventions to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence through direct interventions and online information

**604** Workers and practitioners trained in preventing and responding to gender-based violence

#### Emergency Child Protection

- **Monitoring the presence and support of migrant and refugee children in border, transit and first reception** areas, including Lampedusa and Ventimiglia
- **Protection of UASC and young migrants and refugees living outside the reception system**, identification and case management, including referral to local social and health services;
- **Direct support and integration of mental health and psychosocial protection services** in emergency child protection responses through psychological first aid services and individual and specialised counselling, both online and offline and in other contexts;
- **Legal and psychosocial support and referral to specialised services**, including to address the specific needs of girls and women.

#### Alternative Care (Foster care and other forms of community support)

- **Strengthening the system of voluntary guardianship** through direct support to guardians and documentation and analysis of the intervention model, technical assistance to municipal social services and juvenile courts in districts with a significant number of UASC, promotion of peer-to-peer support among guardians, support to regional authorities for the continuous training of guardians and facilitation of dialogue between guardians' associations and institutions to jointly develop operational practices to overcome the bottlenecks identified;
- **Promote foster care for UASC and vulnerable migrant families**, through the development of operational guidelines, working models that identify UASC from the emergency phase to facilitate their access to foster care, awareness raising and training of potential foster families through civil society to citizens, municipalities and FAMI centres at the national level, also supporting institutional responsibility by strengthening the coordination of existing networks and involving key actors, including the regions, and supporting the placement of UASC in foster care and assistance with matching;
- **Promoting a mentoring model** for young migrants and refugees, linking young migrants and families with people open to reception, following specific training that includes components related to the care of migrants who have survived gender-based violence and who are mentally vulnerable.



## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- **Strengthening knowledge through specific multidisciplinary training** including the use of tools such as the Adolescent Toolkit or e-learning courses, and encouraging different actors and services to work together;
- **The creation of a Community of Practice (CoP)** to share experiences and best practices to ensure quality standards in emergency situations;
- **Experimenting with peer-supporting interventions** in collaboration with Family Support Centres, including toolkits for vulnerable families and training cycles
- **Strengthening the online mental health** and psychosocial support service for young refugees and migrants, "Here4U", integrated into the U-Report On The Move platform.

## Transversal actions

- **Strengthening of the Italian Child Protection System** through technical support for institutions and training activities aimed at frontline workers;
- **Research and development of technical manuals and operational guidelines.** Research projects supported by UNICEF aim to produce evidence-based knowledge that can inform and guide policy and policy actions.

## Prevention, mitigation and response to gender-based violence

- **Improving the provision of and access to services in response to gender-based violence for refugee and migrant women and girls** through community engagement activities through mobile teams, support to psychosocial support services, direct support to the creation and strengthening of safe spaces for girls and women (SSRD) in Sicily, Sardinia, Emilia-Romagna and the border and border areas of Ventimiglia and Lampedusa;
- **Reducing the risk of gender-based violence**, by improving access to gender, culture, linguistic and age-appropriate information for refugee and migrant girls and women and by adopting specific measures in interventions;
- **Raising awareness of the specialised services available** regarding gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and related access rights;
- **Improving the capacity of service providers to respond to gender-based violence**, through the development and delivery of face-to-face and online training programmes;
- **Inter-agency cooperation on gender-based violence issues**, including the development of information campaigns on useful national helplines for gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings, and the implementation of joint advocacy with institutions;
- **Preventing gender-based violence**, by generating and disseminating knowledge on gender-based violence issues, focusing on the specific risks and needs of migrant and refugee women and girls in Italy;
- **Supporting institutions** to develop policies, strategic plans and protocols for the prevention, mitigation and response to gender-based violence that take into account the specific needs of migrant and refugee girls and women;
- **Coordinating the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSAS)** within all interventions of specific policies and mechanisms and monitoring their implementation, and with all of UNICEF's implementation partners in Italy;
- **Strengthening and expanding the "Community of Practice"** to support the development and improvement of safe spaces to ensure the safety, resilience and access of women and girls to essential services, such as those responding to gender-based violence.

**STORY - It's never too late to feel like a "family": the story of Ilaria, Adrian and Mahdi**

"For us, foster care was a big surprise. At first, we thought it would be for support, but instead, it was an immediate bond between us, an incredible empathy and love". That's what happened to Ilaria, who recounts her experience of fostering with UNICEF in collaboration with Borgo Ragazzi don Bosco. It all started during COVID-19 when Ilaria, an Italian, and Adrian, of Argentinean descent, decided to take an online course on foster care. Directed to Borgo Ragazzi don Bosco, the couple, who had been together for nine years, began a journey that led them to meet Mahdi, a 15-year-old teenager who had recently arrived in Italy. "At first, it was very hard. He wanted us to think he was grown up and independent," Ilaria recalls. But it didn't take much to break down his defences. "I lost my mother in an accident when I was little. I needed her, I missed her so much," says Mahdi. "I never liked being in a group home. I needed a family." The bond then strengthened over time. "The love between Ilaria and Mahdi was immediate," recalls Adrian. "We both have the same calm, quiet personality and it took us a little longer. Walking in the pinewood forest with the dogs helped us a lot; each time we went out, we came back a little closer". Mahdi clearly remembers the moment the three became a family: "One day we were studying, we were almost done. I took her hands in mine and said: 'From now on I'm not going to call you Ilaria, I'm going to call you mum. After a while, Adrian became 'dad' too". "I felt like a mother with him immediately, Ilaria confirms. He won my heart as soon as he came into my life. The first few times he called me Mum, I could hardly believe it, but then I realised it was really me".

Foster care has changed Mahdi's life, allowing him to live and grow up with his foster family and maintain a bond with his family of origin and his father. It is possible to take part in UNICEF's fostering programmes in collaboration with Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco, by participating in training and after a period of support.



PHOTO 5: Ilaria, Adrian and Mahdi relaxing on the terrace

## STORY - Yasmeen dreamed of a better life.

Yasmeen's dream collided with reality when, shortly after her wedding, she was attacked and sexually assaulted at her home in Ghana. Despite what had happened, she found the strength to face the situation and reveal her unexpected pregnancy to her husband, going to Italy to persuade him to help her care for the baby that was about to be born. But things did not go as she had hoped and, left alone, she was helped by a women's community home in Parma, CIAC.

"I was alone, I had just given birth and I had no papers. I was tired and discouraged, but I immediately found a sympathetic ear at the WOMEN'S SPACE where I'd been spending my time and learning the language. It gave me a reason to leave the house and meet women with different backgrounds and stories similar to mine. Thanks to the efforts of CIAC and UNICEF, it is as if I have begun to rebuild myself, piece by piece. I've taken an active role in the Women's Space, working to raise awareness and offer support to women who have experienced similar situations to mine". Yasmeen recounts her experience while playing with her son: "Today I want to help other women who are in the same situation I was when I arrived in Italy. Motivating, supporting and standing by them gives me strength and joy," she continues. "Here we offer help, care and work on women's empowerment. Women who have survived violence must be seen and recognised as protagonists of their own story. As someone who speaks and not as someone who is spoken about".

My son feels at home here; he goes in and out of the operators' offices, and he already speaks Italian better than me. She concludes, "I hope that in the future he will have the opportunity to study, to become a doctor or who knows what, maybe a lawyer, and of course to be happy".



PHOTO 6: Yasmeen helping at one of the Women and Girls Safe Space workshops



### 3.2 Skills development and participation

**1,442** Children with migration background (newly arrived, including Ukrainian refugees) reached through the use of the Akelius platform for hybrid Italian language learning in the 2022/23 school year

**2,176** UASC and young migrants and refugees reached with Skills4YOUth, a career guidance and skills development workshop

**+3,969** UASC and young migrants and refugees registered and participating in the U-Report on the Move platform (total of 13,000 users in 2023, +829,000 people reached with information) Among the interventions, **2,259** students (teenagers and young people in disadvantaged situations including students with a migrant background\*) reached with the UPSHIFT 21st century skills development program in the 2022/23 school year

**80,163** People who have participated in social and behavioural change activities online and in person

*\* Data not included in the total because it covers a wider target*



PHOTO 7: A break during the mobilisation sessions of U-Report On The Move

## Education pathways and development of skills

- **UPSHIFT** – Programme to **develop 21st century skills (business and life skills) to facilitate guidance, active citizenship and social inclusion** of disadvantaged pupils under the European Child Guarantee. The model is active in secondary schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Regional Education Offices and can be included in the Paths for Transversal Skills and Guidance (PCTO) and Civic Education. Through teacher training and the involvement of young mentors from the corporate or private sector, students are involved in workshops to analyse concrete social challenges and develop innovative solutions in the form of social impact products or services.
- **Akelius** – Programme for using the Akelius platform to develop **language and digital skills**, involving **teachers and students** newly arrived in Italy (NAI), in primary and lower secondary schools. Through the use of tablets provided to the schools and thanks to teacher training on the innovative "hybrid or mixed" approach to language teaching (blended learning), the Akelius platform is used by NAI students in classes to improve Italian as a second language.
- **Skills4YOUth** – Workshops for **skills development and career guidance** for UASC and young refugees and migrants. Since 2023, UNICEF has been implementing the Skills4YOUth initiative in first and second reception facilities and provincial adult education centres (CPIA) as part of the PROTECT programme funded by the European Commission. Using two tools developed by UNICEF - the Career Guidance Vademecum and the Adolescent Expression and Innovation Kit - Skills4YOUth is implemented through two mobile teams that conduct face-to-face workshops in institutions, in collaboration with the Welcome and Integration System (SAI) and the national RIDAP network of CPIAs. To strengthen the system and the sustainability of the action, since 2023, UNICEF has also been developing an e-learning course aimed at UASC reference adults and young people (reception staff, educators, tutors, cultural mediators, etc.) to contribute to their skills development and career guidance training.
- 



PHOTO 8: Skills4YOUth workshops



## Active participation pathways

- **The U-Report On The Move platform** captures the needs, opinions and well-being of UASC and young migrants and refugees in Italy, giving voice to their concerns and aspirations to inform UNICEF interventions. Active in 99 countries with over 34 million members worldwide, the platform in Italy allows children and young people to identify their needs, anonymously express their opinions on issues of interest to them and access important information about their rights and available services, available in various formats: live chats, reels, carousel cards, infopills. All the material that has been developed is documented on the U-Report On The Move website and translated into the 8 languages of the platform. U-Reporters are involved in content production and amplification, communication and advocacy. Young people also receive legal and psychosocial support through the ticketing service of the RapidPro platform within the Here4U project. In 2023, 3,969 new U-Reporters registered on the platform thanks to the psychosocial and socio-recreational activities carried out face-to-face by a UNICEF mobile team in the first and second reception facilities in various Italian regions.
- **The OPS! Campaign** Your Opinion, beyond all Prejudice, against Stereotypes focuses on the fight against prejudice and intersectional discrimination related to racism, sexism, homophobia and/or disability. The project was enriched with a component on the implementation of training programmes for young anti-discrimination activists, in which almost 200 adolescents and young people participated, including UASC and/or young people with disabilities. In 2023, UNICEF also launched the OPS! web application to detect unconscious bias. The results will contribute to national research, under the auspices of UNAR, to identify young people's attitudes towards their peers with an immigrant background.
- **Youth Advisory Board** The Youth Advisory Board is a consultative body made up of young people between 15 and 21 years of age. Its task is to participate in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of PANGI, the National Action Plan for Child Protection. In 2023, the Youth Advisory Board continued to meet weekly and participate in institutional meetings, events, and platforms at national and international levels to ensure that young people are heard and involved in the European Child Guarantee.
- **Youth Sounding Board** – The Youth Sounding Board (YSB) is a discussion group made up of 15 Unaccompanied and Separated Children and young migrants aged 15 to 19, created in 2023 under the Adolescent Well-being program. It meets weekly in Milan to discuss MHPSS issues. Using social theatre and focus groups with MISNA in Genoa and Ragusa, the group has highlighted the lack of awareness of mental health services and the stigma that still exists. The YSB has also conducted surveys to assess the accessibility of MHPSS services, highlighting the challenges young migrants face, such as the language barrier and difficulties in accessing documents and support services.



PHOTO 9: The UNICEF team during recreational workshops for migrant and refugee children



## STORY - With UPSHIFT, imagination becomes reality

"My team and I focused on an urban regeneration project - explains Laura - we proposed to renovate the areas of Milan Central Station to make it more liveable. We imagine a space that is always active, always full of people. We want to create an area for skaters, another with a mega screen showing football, volleyball, and other events, and then an area for Christmas stalls for the cold season".

The UNICEF programme, run in partnership with Junior Achievement Italia, aims to strengthen the skills of adolescents and young people, stimulating their creativity, communication and problem-solving skills through innovative methods.

Regenerating urban spaces and promoting social spaces for young people was the focus of Laura and her classmates' project. Among the ideas that emerged were measures to combat bullying and cyberbullying, a problem that still affects around one in six teenagers in Italy. "It was a new and wonderful experience at the same time. It encouraged me to think about an issue that I was directly interested in, and gave me the opportunity to share ideas and find concrete solutions; it was a great experience," says Natasha, 16, from Sri Lanka, who developed an app to combat cyberbullying with her classmates. The course, which focuses on the practical approach of learning-by-doing, presents young people with concrete social challenges related to problems where they live or issues of interest to them, to find pragmatic solutions through ideas for innovative products or services with social impact.



PHOTO 10: One of the project presentations

## STORY - "Our podcast to reiterate the importance of being involved in the processes that affect us"

"We are the adults of the future; it is important to be involved in the processes that affect us and to have our say," begins Irene Nonno, 16. Irene is one of the members of the Youth Advisory Council, a consultative body of young people between the ages of 15 and 21 who are involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of PANGI, the National Action Plan for Child Protection.

In 2023 the voices of young people on the Youth Advisory Board were also brought together in a podcast.

"There is a lot of talk about young people, their needs, difficulties, and resources. However, the space given directly to their reflections and voices on what concerns them, on the services and spaces dedicated to them, is always limited. That's why we came up with the idea of the YAB Podcast," say the young people in the group who created the series. The podcast addresses the main themes of the National Child Guarantee Action Plan, which aims to combat child poverty and social exclusion.

The first episode is dedicated to open schools, the second to mental health and psychosocial well-being, and the third to youth centres as places of encounter and growth. More at <https://www.unicef.it/media/yabpodcast/>



PHOTO 11: The Youth Advisory Board during one of the meetings in Naples



#### 4. Expected results for 2024

<p><b>Protection and safeguarding of children's rights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8,000</b> children reached through quality protection services (mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling, case management) and improved protection standards;</li> <li>• <b>27,360</b> migrant and refugee women and young people will have access to risk mitigation, prevention and/or response to gender-based violence through direct and informative online interventions;</li> <li>• <b>600</b> UASC and young people will have access to family reception solutions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills development and participation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6,300</b> children and adolescents will have access to skills development and career guidance programmes;</li> <li>• <b>6,500</b> young people and adolescents will benefit from participation programmes, empowerment and social inclusion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>316,000</b> people will be reached with information and messages about prevention and access to services;</li> <li>• <b>200,000</b> people reached in community involvement actions;</li> <li>• <b>37,900</b> people will use feedback mechanisms about the services.</li> </ul>



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PHOTO 12: A child newly arrived in Italy takes a moment to rest



## Acknowledgements

The Programme for the Protection and Social Inclusion of Migrant and Refugee Children and Young People in Italy has been made possible thanks to the generous contribution of donors who support our interventions, including the Directorate-General for Home Affairs of the European Commission, the National Committee of UNICEF in Italy, the Swiss, Swedish and Norwegian UNICEF Committees, the Akelius Foundation, as well as donations from citizens and businesses.

UNICEF's intervention also continues thanks to the constant collaboration with **institutional partners nationally and locally**, including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Department for Equal Opportunities and the Department for Family Policies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Guarantor Authority for Children and Adolescence, the Regional Guarantors, the Guarantor for Children and Adolescence of the Municipality of Palermo, the Reception and Integration System (SAI), the National Council of the Order of Social Workers (CNOAS), the National Council of the Order of Psychologists (CNOP), the National Federation of Professional Associations for Pedagogists and Socio-Pedagogical Educators, Universities and Municipalities. Coordination with other **UN organisations** - UNHCR, IOM and UNFPA - and with different civil society organisations is of considerable importance. In the field of research, monitoring and evaluation, collaboration with the **Global Office of Research and Foresight – Innocents of UNICEF** is essential.

The **Italian Committee for UNICEF Fondazione Onlus**, with the support of the Provincial and Regional Committees, launched and carried out awareness-raising, communication and advocacy activities. The actions in 2023 were implemented thanks to the collaboration with several partners, including AIPI Cooperativa Sociale, Approdi, Arci APS, Arciragazzi, Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco, Centro PENC, Coordinazione Nazionale Comunità d'Accoglienza (CNCA), INTERSOS, Fondazione ISMU (Initiatives and Studies on Multiethnicity), Junior Achievement (JA) Italia, Refugees Welcome Italia, Save the Children Italia ETS. Among the collaborators, we would like to thank the Association of Foreign Press, CLEDU (Legal Clinic for Human Rights), the Italian National Press Federation (FNSI), the International Rescue Committee Italy, the European Institute of Design (IED), PeoplePub, Saint Louise College of Music, ScuolaZoo, Tree-Opinno, the University of Palermo, the University of Washington in Saint Louise, YOUNICEF, Federped, Cnoas, Cnop, Media: ANSA, Radio Play.



PHOTO 13: A moment of reflection on good practices in psychosocial support for adolescents and young refugees and migrants

## For more information

- Ministry of the Interior, in collaboration with: The Department of Public Security (within the Ministry of the Interior) National Commission for the Right to Asylum and Territorial Commissions (within the Ministry of the Interior) General Directorate for Health Prevention (within the Ministry of Health) Central Management Service of the SAI; INMP, National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and for the Fight against Poverty Diseases; General Command of the Port Authority - Coast Guard (within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility); Guardia di Finanza (within the Ministry of Economy and Finance); European Commission; Frontex, European Border and Coast Guard Agency Europol, European Police Office; EUAA, European Asylum Agency; UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; IOM, International Organization for Migration; UNICEF; CRI, Italian Red Cross (2023), Vademecum for the detection, referral and taking charge of vulnerable persons arriving in the region, <https://www.unicef.it/pubblicazioni/vademecum-per-la-rilevazione-il-referral-e-la-presa-in-carico-delle-persone-portatrici-di-vulnerabilita-in-arrivo-sul-territorio/>
- UNICEF, UNHCR and Civil Protection (2023), Mitigation of the risk of gender-based violence and mechanisms for the protection of children in the widespread reception system, [https://www.unicef.it/publications/toolkit\\_dpc/pubblicazioni/toolkit\\_dpc/](https://www.unicef.it/publications/toolkit_dpc/pubblicazioni/toolkit_dpc/)
- UNICEF (2023), The Frontier of Rights, <https://www.unicef.it/media/giornata-internazionale-migranti-l-unicef-lancia-il-rapporto-la-frontiera-dei-diritti/>
- With UPSHIFT, imagination becomes reality. Teenagers and young people transform everyday challenges into innovative solutions | UNICEF Italy
- UNICEF report: “New Horizons for Learning. The use of educational technology for disadvantaged children in Italy” | UNICEF Italy
- Through the Eyes of Children (unicef-irc.org)
- Skills4YOUth, the career guidance path for teenagers and young migrants in Italy | UNICEF Italy
- Vademecum for Vocational Guidance | UNICEF Italy
- Mental Health: over 2,000 refugees or migrants assisted with the “HERE4U” digital psychosocial support service | UNICEF Italy
- Expression and Innovation Kit for Adolescents
- “Integrated Support for Adolescence and Transition to Adulthood” e-learning course and “Adolescent Kit”



PHOTO 14: Young people of the YAB exchanging ideas

