

ABANDONED --- LIVES



 Year 2022

Report on the situation and needs of migrants arriving from the balkan route to Trieste



Index

1. STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE

2. CONTEXT

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONITORING ACTIVITY IN 2022

3.1 Analysis of arrivals during 2022

3.2 Demographic profiles

3.3 Nationality

3.4 Declared migration intention

3.5 Most vulnerable profiles

3.5.1 Unaccompanied children

3.5.2 Families

4. NEEDS AND CRITICAL ISSUES

4.1 Access to asylum and (denied) access to reception

4.2 Easy access services and the Daytime Care Center

4.2.1 The Local Dormitory Network

4.3 The activities of primary care

4.3.1 Health care assistance

4.3.2 Meals and distribution of basic necessities

4.3.3 Clothes

4.4 Information and orientation

5. RECOMMENDATIONS



*Trieste, view from the Karst plateau.
Photograph by Alessia Marco*

1. STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE

This report was produced by a Solidarity Network that unites the forces of organizations working in Trieste on the issues of reception, legal protection, and humanitarian assistance to migrants arriving in the city from the Balkan route.

The organizations involved are:

- [Comunità di San Martino al Campo ODV](#)
- [Consorzio Italiano di Solidarietà \(ICS\)](#)
- [Diaconia Valdese \(CSD\)](#)
- [DONK - Humanitarian Medicine ODV](#)
- [International Rescue Committee Italia \(IRC\)](#)
- [Linea d'Ombra ODV](#)

The activity of the Network started in 2021 and was reinforced during 2022; this allowed the implementation of the **constant and daily monitoring** of arrivals with a related **support and assistance activity** managed entirely by the authors of this report with the support and solidarity of civil society.

The purpose of this report is to illustrate the **detailed analysis** that has been conducted monthly during 2022 in relation to migrant arrivals, their nationalities, family composition and age, as well as in relation to their migration paths, with a special focus on the most vulnerable situations.

The work includes an assessment of the impact that the increase in arrivals has had on the local service system in 2022, and partially on the local dormitory system during the winter of 2022/2023, analyzing the **main critical issues that have emerged**. The report concludes with **recommendations** to institutions on the interventions that are urgently needed to ensure compliance with existing regulations and protection of basic human rights.

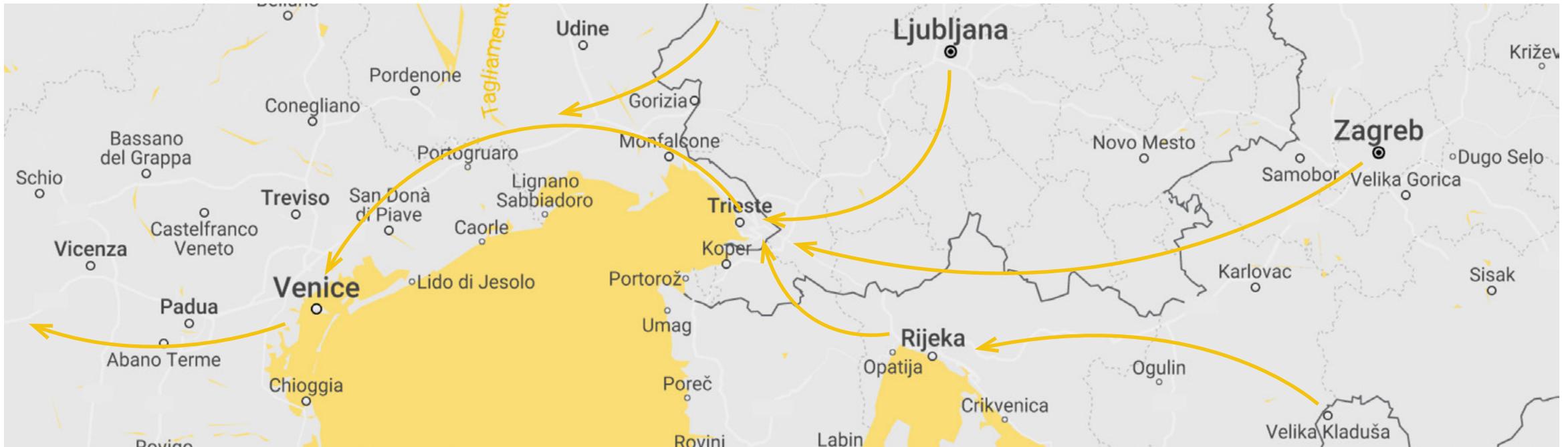


Image 1 - Map of the flows that people on the move undertake across Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy

2. THE CONTEXT

Trieste is the **first safe place of arrival** for thousands of asylum seekers from the Balkan routes, specifically the one that runs through Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia. Migrants moving along this route arrive to Italy after fleeing persecution, war, and generalized violent situations in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq. Their journey is dangerous, marked by a life spent for months in the cold and by exposition to violence and pushbacks, which has also occurred within the European Union and at its borders.¹

Trieste is in a peculiar geographical position and is connected through the transport infrastructure with the main neighboring cities (Ljubljana, Rijeka, Venice, Milan). Trieste is therefore **one of the necessary stops** for both those who immediately apply for asylum after their arrival in Italy and for those who intend to reach other Italian or European destinations for the most diverse reasons.²

The thousands of people who come to the city every year, including many unaccompanied children and families, are in real need of **first aid** and **accurate information** about their rights, as well as **health care** for the violence and the injuries they have suffered during their journey. Almost all of them need rest, a shower, a complete change of clothes, a hot meal, overnight shelter, and scabies treatment.

As it will be shown below, Trieste in 2022 saw an increase in migrant arrivals from several countries in Asia. This increase is part of a more general increase in migration flows affecting the entire Balkan route.³

In this context, relevant institutions have been absent or discontinuous in their response, instead of strengthening the first assistance service that were necessary. These institutions are the ones that are **required by law to provide assistance and protection to people arriving to the area**, with particular attention to the most vulnerable situations.

In this context, considering the serious humanitarian needs that emerged in 2022, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region could have taken actions to support humanitarian interventions in compliance with the principle of loyal cooperation with other public institutions. On the contrary, authorities of the Region have not only failed to intervene, but they have also fed hostile propaganda to all forms of reception, spreading alarmism among the population.⁴ The President of the Region, Massimiliano Fedriga, has constantly pushed for the resumption of readmissions of asylum seekers to Slovenia, although these practices are illegal.⁵

The data in this report showcase that since June 2022 **the needs of people arriving in Trieste have become more acute and require more attention from local authorities**, with particular reference to migrant families, women, and children.

The civil society organizations that contributed to this report have intervened to fill - at least partially and within their possibilities - the lack of institutional interventions. They have ensured **daily monitoring** of the situation, **assistance** through the distribution of food and clothing, **medical and nursing care**, **information and legal guidance** to migrants and asylum seekers without shelter. This has been done by operators, doctors, and nurses, linguistic-cultural mediators, and volunteers, funded by private resources or by popular solidarity campaigns.

While 2022 represents a year of serious deterioration in the situation regarding the absence of institutional protective interventions toward migrants in need, **what happened in 2022 is rooted in previous years**. It should be highlighted that easy access services (i.e., harm reduction services that impose minimal requirements on intended users of the services) for nonresidents had been drastically reduced since May 2020. On May 27, 2020, the activity of the Help Center inside the Trieste train station - an easy access service that assisted 21,578 people, including Italians and foreigners, from January 1, 2018, until its closure⁶ - came to an end through a decision of the Municipality of Trieste. During the same period, the activity of the Comunità di San Martino al Campo at the Daytime Care Center in Via Udine had been reduced, turning into a service that was no more dedicated to anyone in need, but only homeless people from Trieste. This caused the abandonment of all other people, who could not be hosted in any shelter.

The consequences of these measures have been the **abandonment of thousands of people**, resulting in **increased situations of urban decay** caused by the lack of services. The presence of high numbers of foreigners benefitting from easy access services in Trieste **is in fact not recent** but regards at least the last decade. Between 2009 and 2018, the Daytime Care Center alone provided care to 11,767 people, of whom 11,144 were foreigners, 70% coming from non-European countries.⁷ In addition, in 2019 the Daytime Care Center assisted a total of 2,351 people, 92% of whom were coming from non-European countries.

Due to its geographical location and international migration dynamics, the city of Trieste has the characteristics of a metropolitan area. It is therefore illusory to think that easy access services in Trieste should be calibrated only to the needs of the local population with problems of social marginality.

Given the absence of suitable facilities to host migrants and asylum seekers, **the Silos has been used as an informal settlement for many years**. The Silos is a huge, crumbling building next to the Trieste train station, cordoned off by barriers, where people who have just arrived in Trieste or those who have applied for asylum - but are forced to wait up to a month and a half to enter formal reception facilities - find shelter.

**Starting from June 2022
the needs of people
arriving in Trieste have
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to migrant families,
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*Linea d'ombra's welcome to an Afghan minor.
Photograph by Francesco Cibati*



Only since August 2022 the **reopening of the Daytime Care Center in Via Udine⁸** has made it possible to **improve assistance to migrants** and partially limit the degradation resulting from the abandonment of people. At the same time, this has also allowed civil society organizations to strengthen monitoring activities, as they eventually had the possibility to talk to migrants in suitable environments.

Thanks to the work of Pashtu, Urdu, and Dari language mediators, the organizations that are part of the Network have been able to get in touch with a considerable percentage of the people transiting through Trieste, trying to create **bonds of trust**, providing **useful information**, and **collecting testimonies** about the journey and the abuse people have suffered, and getting a clear and up-to-date picture of what is happening along the Balkan route.

The **changing nature of this route** has often and abruptly imposed changes on the size of the organization's intervention. In addition, seasonal and political conditions have radically affected the numbers and behavior of people, and consequently, the care and support activities, as will be described in the next chapter.

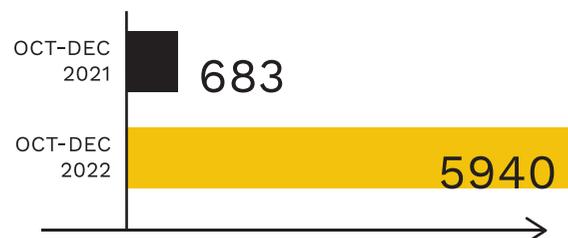
*The Silos, a building at risk of collapse, is being exploited as an informal settlement.
Photograph by Francesco Cibati*

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF MONITORING ACTIVITY IN 2022

The data displayed in this Report were collected jointly by International Rescue Committee Italy and Diaconia Valdese, with the support of the other organizations, through a monitoring activity carried out in the area of Trieste's central train station (between Piazza Libertà and the Daytime Care Center in via Udine) during the entire daytime, and partially in the evening, of every day of the year, weekends and holidays included.

Data were collected through **individual and group interviews** with people met in person for the purpose of providing them with assistance starting from October 2021. However, it is important to note that despite the constant presence of the operators, the data examined below **regarding the actual arrival of migrants in Trieste are underestimated**, as they do not consider people living in other places in the city, those who did not wish to receive support, or people who transited Trieste without being met by any of the organizations.

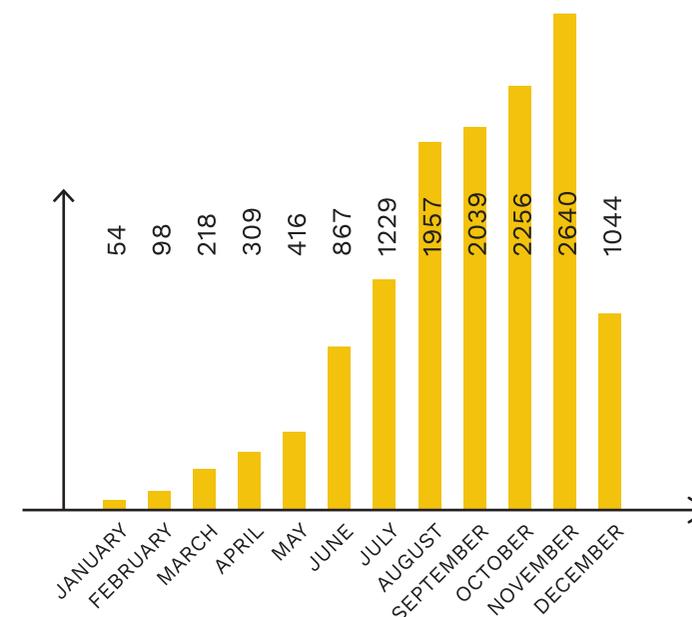
Although, for methodological reasons, it is not possible to make a reliable comparison on the data collected during the entire years of 2021 and 2022,⁹ it is possible to show - comparing the last quarter of 2021 (683 total arrivals recorded) with the last quarter of 2022 (5,940 total arrivals) - that **in 2022** there was a clear overall increase in arrivals compared to the previous year.



3.1 Analysis of arrivals during 2022

From January 1st to December 31st, 2022, a **total of 13,127 people** entering from the Balkan route were **met and received assistance in the Trieste central station area**. The graph below illustrates the monthly evolution of the **number of new people met and supported**. It should be emphasized that from July to December monthly arrivals concern a number well over a thousand people.

Image 2 - Monthly trend of arrivals in Trieste in 2022



FIRST QUARTER: From January 1st to March 31st, 2022, **383 people** were met and assisted, with an average of 4 new arrivals per day. Arrivals in the first quarter of 2022 were very low due to several factors: on the one hand, **weather conditions** that slowed migratory flows during the winter period; on the other hand, organizational practices related to the pandemic under which all migrants tracked down by border police or seeking asylum at police stations were immediately taken to isolation facilities (Scout Hostel in Campo Sacro or Malala House) for the mandatory 7-day quarantine period.

SECOND QUARTER: From April 1st to June 30th, 2022, **1,579 people** were met and assisted, with an average of 17 new arrivals per day.

THIRD QUARTER: From July 1st to September 30th, 2022, **5,225 people** were met and assisted, with an average of 57 new arrivals per day.

The sharp increase in arrivals that was recorded in this quarter - and confirmed in the following one - has several causes. The first, and most obvious, is related to the **spring and summer seasons**, which favored travel and transit through Croatia and Slovenia. The second one is presumably due, on the one hand, to a **less repressive and more careful policy of compliance** with international regulations by the new Slovenian government formed in April 2022¹⁰ and, on the other hand, to a slight decrease in pushbacks from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The third reason is linked to the termination on June 1st, 2022, of Covid-related isolation measures for people arriving in Italy. At the same time of such an increase in arrivals, since July 2022 the **system of first reception** of asylum seekers started to be seriously overwhelmed.¹¹

FOURTH QUARTER: From September 1st to December 31st, 2022, **5,940 new people** were registered, with an average of 65 new arrivals per day. This quarter saw a **significant increase in inflows of Afghan nationals**, who accounted for 75% of arrivals. As the chart shows, Afghan nationals represent an increasing percentage of the total arrivals.

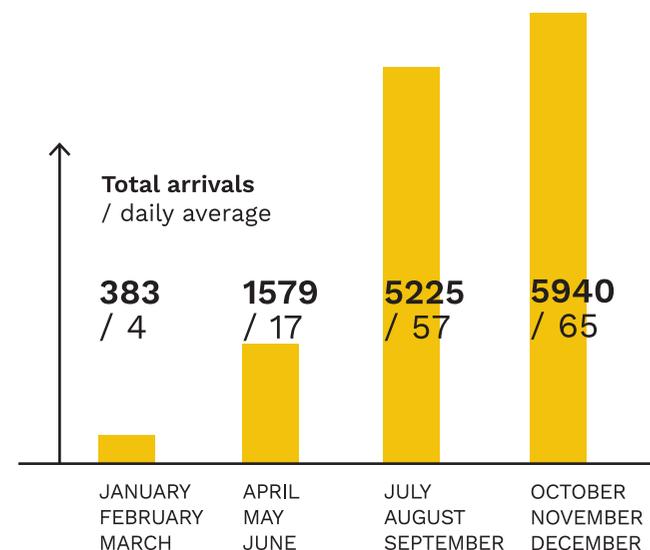


Image 3 - Quarterly trend of arrivals and daily average

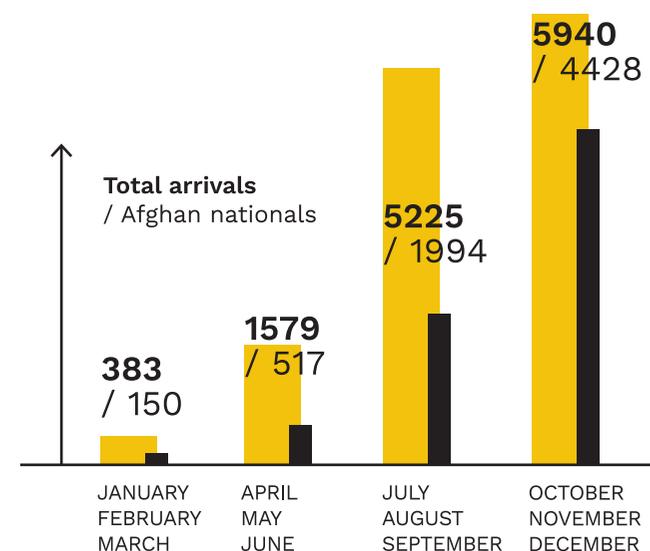


Image 4 - Quarterly trend of total arrivals and of Afghan nationals

3.2 Demographic profiles

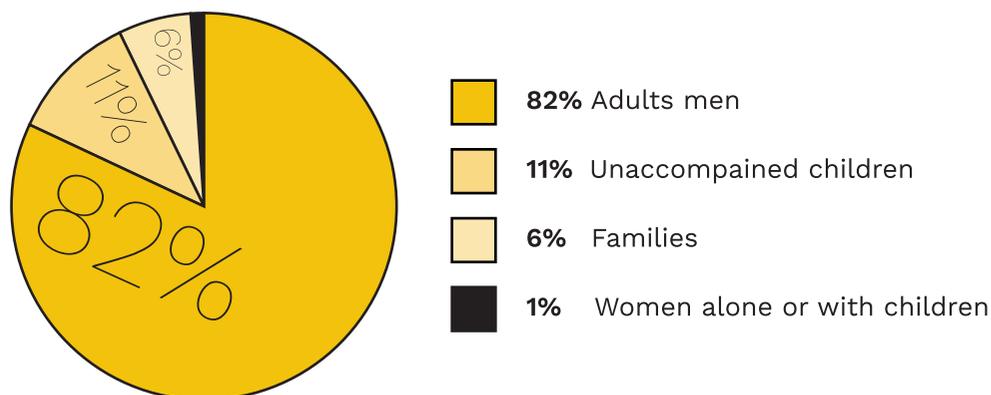


Image 5 – Demographic profiles

As in previous years, the vast majority of arrivals are adult single men (10,771), accounting for 82% of cases. The number of unaccompanied children is very significant - as many as 1,406, representing 11% of the total number of people encountered. Persons belonging to families accounted for 6% of cases (172 families encountered). Finally, the 130 single women or single women with children encountered account for 1% of cases.

3.3 Nationalities

The majority of people arriving in 2022 are fleeing Afghanistan, with Afghan nationals accounting for more than half of the people registered during the year with an increasing trend, as highlighted above (54%).

The high number of Afghans and their increase over 2021 and early 2022 is a consequence of the **worsening living and security conditions in Afghanistan**, a country where an estimated 28 million people need humanitarian aid and 97% of the population is at risk of poverty.¹²

The increase in number of Afghans, both adults and unaccompanied children (see specific table in the section dedicated to unaccompanied children) that

occurred in Trieste is in fact in line with data provided by the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA), which, in its report “Latest Asylum Trends Annual Overview 2022”,¹³ highlights that in 2022 their number in Europe increased by 29% compared to 2021, reaching about 129,000 people - the highest figure since 2016. It is important to highlight that the majority of Afghans who applied for asylum in the EU did so for the first time (92%). Approximately 19,700 asylum applications (i.e., 15% of the total) were filed by Afghan unaccompanied children, nearly half of all unaccompanied children applying for asylum in the EU.

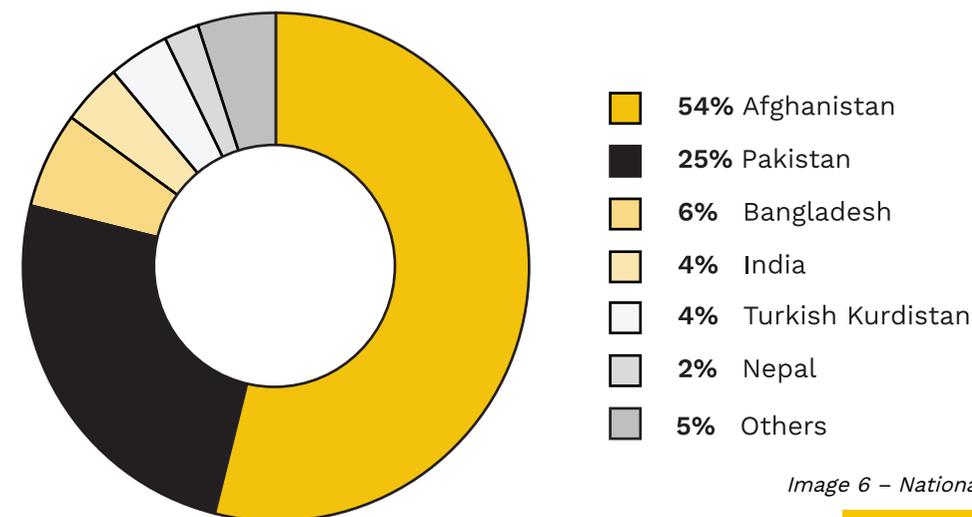


Image 6 – Nationalities

The second largest nationality of origin is Pakistan, accounting for 25% of total arrivals. The high number of refugees from Pakistan can be explained by both the country’s permanent and severe socio-political instability and **its exposure to extreme weather events and food security problems, with periods of heat waves and heavy flooding**. In the summer of 2022, severe floods destroyed most crops and cultivated fields, impacting the lives of more than 33 million people.

The remaining 21% of the arrivals are people originating from Bangladesh (6%), India (4.3%), Turkish Kurdistan (3.9%), Nepal (2.3%), and other nationalities (4.5%) among which are people mainly from Burundi, Iraq, and Iran. The **sharp increase in refugees from Turkey, predominantly of Kurdish ethnicity**, is also in line with data from the EUAA Report showing that Turkish asylum seekers (55,000 in 2022) have become the third largest group of asylum seekers in Europe.

Trust with newly arrived migrants can only be built in an environment of human exchange and assistance that is perceived as clearly distinct from the context of police control



Father and daughter, unknown migratory intentions.
Photograph by Linda Mazzolini

3.4 Declared migration intention

About one third (32%) of people declare they plan to apply for asylum in **Italy**, while two thirds are oriented to other countries, such as France, Germany, Portugal, and Switzerland. The chart confirms that **Italy does not represent**, in most cases, **the final destination of migrants and asylum seekers**, of Afghans in particular, and this can be explained both by the intention to join families, relatives and communities in other European countries and by the fact that Italy is perceived as an unsuitable country to rebuild their lives, also due to the absence of adequate reception and integration policies. These are, as can be seen from the nationalities showcased, people who in **very large part have a clear need for international protection**.

The data collected on migration intentions should be considered with great caution, because it does not necessarily correspond to the actual final decision made by migrants. Such decision is guided by many factors, including the correct information that migrants may or may not receive, and the existence of adequate assistance that is found or not in the places where they transit, including Trieste. Indeed, it has not been uncommon that the information, assistance, and orientation activities dedicated to people in transit have allowed them to become more aware of their rights and the possibilities available to them, empowering them to make informed decisions about their migration path.

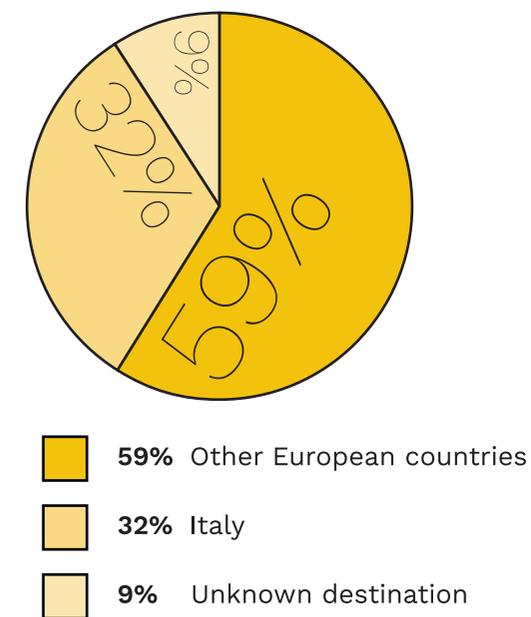


Image 7 - Declared migration intentions by people encountered in Trieste in 2022

However, trust with migrants can only be built in a context where **listening and assisting is possible**, in an environment that is perceived as clearly distinct from the context of police control. This allows for situations of vulnerability that would otherwise not be visible to emerge, and makes it possible to collect testimonies of abuse, extortion, and violence that can be brought before courts to protect victims. Increased humanitarian protection of victims also makes it possible in many cases to loosen the link between the migrants and the criminal organizations of smugglers.

3.5 Most vulnerable profiles

3.5.1 UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN: In 2022, **1,406 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)** were met and assisted. Almost all of them are Afghans (85%), with prevalent age group 15-17 years old. However, children in the 12-14 age group were also encountered. Comparing the data between the last quarter of 2021 (108 children) and the last quarter of 2022 (767 children), **a sharp increase in their presence is clearly visible.**

According to information provided by the children encountered, 88.4% of unaccompanied children claim to be only in transit in Italy. UASC are mainly headed to other European countries, especially Germany, France, and Switzerland. Determination to reach a destination other than Italy that guarantees them a future, mistrust in the Italian reception system and even greater mistrust towards the possible activation in a short time of the procedures for reunification with family members in other countries are some of the elements that seem to characterize the choices of unaccompanied children, particularly Afghans, who transit through Trieste. The organizations of the Network received no request for family reunification by children during 2022, despite migrant children were informed in a child-friendly way about this procedure.

The greatest concern about children in transit is related to **access to basic services**, and in particular to the overnight dormitory system. Even during the winter season, children who do not want to stop in Italy but still have the right to be protected, risk sleeping in the streets or in informal shelters around the central station.

Except in a few cases, no limitations or problems are reported when a child decides to stop in Trieste and access reception at a dedicated center. **Access to reception services for unaccompanied children who choose to stop, at least temporarily, in the territory of Trieste therefore appears to function adequately overall.**

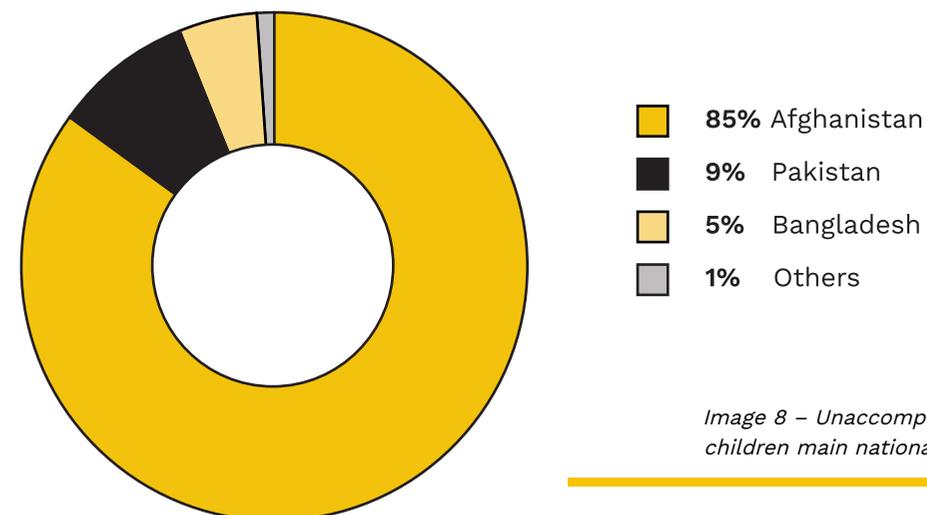


Image 8 – Unaccompanied children main nationalities

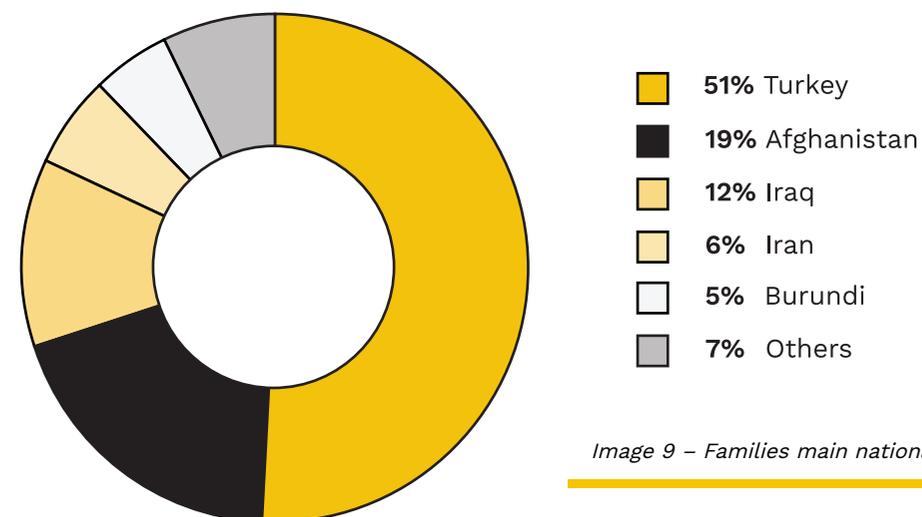


Image 9 – Families main nationalities

3.5.2 FAMILIES:

Over the course of the year, **172 families** were met, consisting of a total of 825 people. Among them, 440 are children. The predominant age group for children is 4-11 years old. Half of the families encountered are from Turkish Kurdistan, while 19% are from Afghanistan. Other countries of origin of families are Iraq, Iran, and Burundi, albeit to a lesser extent.

Almost all (98%) of the families expressed their intention to continue their journey to other European countries.



The immediate reception of asylum seekers without means is in fact a fundamental measure both to ensure compliance with Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which prohibits any person from being subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment (which would also include treatment resulting from being abandoned on the street without any public assistance), and to avoid situations that endanger public safety and health.

*The Silos, outside view.
Photograph by Francesco Cibati*

4. NEEDS AND MAJOR CRITICAL ISSUES

4.1 Access to asylum and (denied) access to reception for asylum seekers

As highlighted above, since the spring of 2022, the total number of arrivals of migrants and, among them, those who intend to seek asylum has significantly increased to become very intense during the summer and fall.

The current legislation (Legislative Decree 142/2015 and subsequent amendments), which transposes the provisions of European Union law (Directive 2013/33/EU), clearly stipulates that in the case of asylum seekers who are found to lack independent means of livelihood, “reception measures are arranged from the moment of the expression of the will to seek international protection” (Art. 1, para. 2) **without any possibility of derogation or exception**. The expression of willingness to apply for asylum (or international protection) should not be confused with the formalization of the

relevant application, which happens even weeks after the expression of willingness to seek asylum - although it must take place within a short time frame according to the provisions of the current legislation (Legislative Decree 25/2008).

From a procedural point of view, the expression of willingness is filed through an “**invitation**” issued by the

territorially competent police headquarters or border police **to formalize the application for international protection on the indicated date**. Except for some dysfunctions that occurred more frequently in the summer period due to a high daily number of asylum seekers, access to the asylum procedure does not register any particular problems in Trieste - unlike what happens instead with access to reception measures, which occurs instead with considerable delays compared to what is provided for by the regulations.

National and European case law are firmly oriented towards the view that **situations of particular pressure in the arrivals of asylum seekers do not relieve states of their obligations**, and therefore do not constitute grounds for derogating from the above

legislation. The **immediate reception of asylum seekers without means is in fact a fundamental measure** both to ensure compliance with Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which prohibits any person from being subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment¹ (which would also include treatment resulting from being abandoned on the street without any public assistance), and to avoid situations that endanger public safety and health. Although the increase in asylum applications in 2022 can certainly not be referred to as an “emergency”, starting from **June 2022 the first-level reception system** represented by two facilities of the Campo Sacro Hostel and the facility of Malala House in Ferneti **quickly reached its capacity** due to the slowdown in the procedures for the transfer of asylum seekers to other Italian regions. In fact, the phenomenon of **asylum seekers abandoned on the streets** has reached unprecedented peaks, with asylum seekers **staying in the streets for 30 to 70 days** before being able to access the first-level reception system provided by law.

“ **the phenomenon of asylum seekers abandoned on the streets has reached unprecedented peaks, with asylum seekers staying in the streets for 30 to 70 days before being able to access the first-level reception system provided by law** ”



Improvised shelter in the Silos, photograph by Francesco Cibati

The intervention of Network organizations

Faced with this scenario, the role of the civil society organizations operating in Trieste has been to monitor developments and make the Prefecture aware of the situation of asylum seekers without reception, with as detailed indication as possible of their num-



Foot care in Piazza Libertà, photograph by Marioluca Bariona

bers, what the waiting times were, and the most vulnerable situations. This work was also carried out by sending **14 formal reports** to the Prefecture of Trieste by the Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS) between July and December 2022 via certified email. Unfortunately, such reports remained unanswered.¹⁵ During the mentioned period, **1,535 asylum seekers in a state of need** who did not have immediate access to reception measures were surveyed.

Report No.	Date	No. of people reported ⁶
1	13/07/2022	59
2	27/07/2022	47
4	04/08/2022	142
5	12/08/2022	90
6	21/08/2022	58
7	31/08/2022	94
8	07/09/2022	273
9	22/09/2022	275
10	06/10/2022	253
11	24/10/2022	244
12	09/11/2022	282
13	22/11/2022	340
14	20/12/2022	126

Tab. 1: Formal reports sent to the Prefecture in 2022 between July and December 2022

The effects of the situation on the city center and the Trieste station area were immediately evident: groups of migrant people forced to live in the streets multiplied, finding bedding in every available space, from flowerbeds, to bus stops, to the corners of construction sites. Recognizable by the metallic reflection of the thermal sheets distributed by solidarity organizations, these encampments scattered just about everywhere and made the scale of the problem and the **absence of support from the relevant institutions** even more visible.

The response of institutions

At an early stage, the relevant institutions, and in particular the Mayor of Trieste, took a security approach, sending local police patrols to remove people from Piazza Libertà and imposing bivouac fines of up to 100 euros on people forced to live on the streets because they were unable to access the reception system and were therefore in a state of need.¹⁷

“ fines of up to 100 euros on people forced to live on the streets because they were unable to access the reception system and were therefore in a state of need

An improved intervention was carried out only at the **beginning of August**, when the Municipality of Trieste allowed the **reopening of the Daytime Care Center in Via Udine** and made funds available for additional 20 places for overnight reception. However, **the costs of running the Daytime Care Center and services for migrants have been and still remain covered almost exclusively by the Comunità di San Martino al Campo, ICS and the other organizations in the Network** that have readily provided resources and offered logistical support.

During the same period, the Caritas Foundation of Trieste increased its activities **by expanding the provision of meals** at its canteen in Via dell'Istria to all people forced to be homeless, including migrants.

The launch of these easy access services has partly mitigated the severity of the situation, although **the response that was provided has remained extremely partial**. The increase of spots in overnight shelters funded by the Municipality of Trieste, which took place on January 1st, 2023, brought the capacity of the city dormitories to a **total of 55 places**. In addition, for the most vulnerable families and situations, there was the possibility

of hosting people in an additional facility with a maximum capacity of 25 places. **This intervention has proved to be of great use, although still insufficient**. Indeed, it should be considered that while leaving no alternative to be homeless during the warmer months represents “only” abandoning people in a degrading situation, in the winter season this same abandonment exposes people to unspeakable suffering and the actual risk of death.

“ in winter season the denial of reception and exposes people to unspeakable suffering and the actual risk of death

The appeals of asylum seekers and civil society

Alongside the pressure on the relevant institutions made by associations and volunteers who work every day in contact with migrants, **asylum seekers also began to make their voices heard**. On October 5, exasperated by the situation in which they were living, more than 150 asylum seekers presented themselves in front of the Prefecture demanding explanations for their situation of continued denied access to reception facilities.¹⁸



Asylum seekers asking for reception in front of the prefecture, photograph by Francesco Cibati

A few days later, **more than 600 exponents of the world of culture, sports, science and civil society published an appeal** addressed to the Mayor of Trieste Di Piazza and the Prefect pro tempore Vardè, asking them to act as soon as possible by setting up new reception facilities - including temporary ones - in order to at least provide shelter for the hundreds of people on the streets and to avert possible dramatic situations as winter approached.¹⁹ In that context, Mayor Di Piazza announced on several public occasions the imminent opening of a dormitory of about 100 places in the area of the former central station market.²⁰ After more than a month of uncertainty, however, **the mayor took a step back from his earlier statements**, citing the puzzling argument that the identified location would attract other people in need and that the Municipality “does not want Trieste to become a hub like Lampedusa”.²¹ Following this episode, no proposal for alternative solutions was made by the Municipality.

4.2 Easy access services and the Daytime Care Center

The Daytime Care Center is **open 365 days a year**. Every person in need, without distinction, can have access to the Center during daytime hours to toilets, medical examinations at a small in-house clinic (see specific chapter), distribution of clothing, information and orientation to the asylum procedure and the collection of applications for a place to sleep. In fact, the center has

resumed acting as a referral desk to the various dormitories located in the city, which as mentioned above initially offered 20 places - later expanded to 55 in January 2023 - **to all persons in need, regardless of their legal status**, whether individuals or families.

As the figure below clearly shows, the **reopening of the Daytime Care Center**, with an average daily attendance during the period indicated of 82 users, **immediately**

responded to a huge need that cannot be ignored and that is present, despite a modest decrease, even in the harshest months of winter, in which, moreover, the need to ensure humanitarian support to prevent dramatic situations from occurring is particularly high.

4.2.1 The Local Dormitory Network

Since August 10, 2022, to cope with the high number of migrants arriving in Trieste, the Comunità di San Martino al Campo, with the support of the Municipality of Trieste, has made available additional 10 daily places at the dormitory in Via Udine, and the Caritas Foundation another 10 places at the facility called Casa Maranatha. These places are in addition to those already existing at the previously mentioned facilities.

“ the access to dormitories gives priority to vulnerable people, the elderly, women, medical cases, but the places have never been sufficient to cover the real needs of the city

The access to dormitories gives priority to vulnerable people, the elderly, women, medical cases, but **the places have never been sufficient to cover the real needs of the city**. The allocation of places is on a **rotating basis** and is done from an assessment made by the operators, who struggled every day to assign the few available beds to the most fragile people, having to leave many others on the street who needed a protected place to sleep anyway.

In the last four months of 2022, at the San Martino al Campo dormitory alone, out of a **total of 733 total beds** made available, as many as **604 (82%) were assigned to asylum seekers waiting to enter the reception system**.²²

The total number of asylum seekers who benefitted from a bed on a rotating basis in the San Martino al Campo dormitory is **190 people in total**. The remaining 129 (18%) beds were allocated to **94 migrants** in need, who are often only transiting through Trieste to other destinations.²³

These data refer only to the Dormitory of Comunità di San Martino al Campo, and were taken as an example of the operation of the emergency on a rotating basis. However, they are comparable to those of the Casa Maranatha dormitory run by Caritas, which, at certain times, also comes to accommodate a larger number of asylum seekers and migrants in transit.

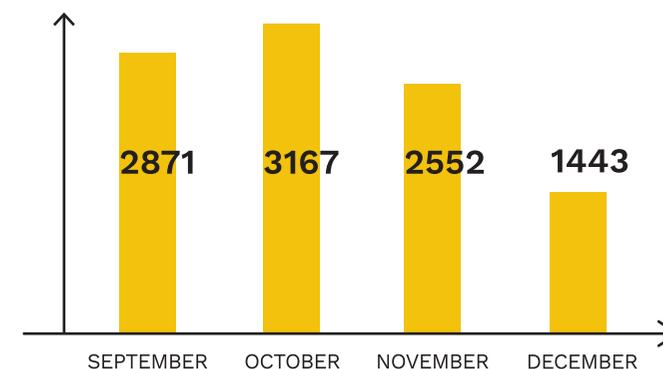


Image 10 – Monthly access to Daytime Care Center (last months of 2022)



*Daytime Care Center,
photograph by Francesco Cibati*

The reported data describe the system of rotating bed allocation (3 nights at a time for asylum seekers and other homeless people; 1 night for people in transit without identification documents), which allows to maximize the distribution of the beds available to people in need. However, despite the efficiency of this system, the support provided is totally insufficient, particularly due to the high number of asylum seekers waiting for first reception measures. In addition, under a temporary emergency program set up by the Municipality of Trieste, from January 1st, 2023, until April (and extended to June)²⁴ a further expansion was made to accommodate fragile homeless people, with a dormitory run by ICS with 20 places and a dormitory set up at the San Martino al Campo Daytime Care Center providing an additional 15 places.²⁵

“ the figure that emerges most clearly is the high incidence of asylum seekers left without reception on the easy access system, representing 82% of those who use the dormitory rotation system

In addition to the dormitories, the presence of an additional facility, managed by the Caritas Trieste Foundation, made it possible to offer shelter **to families and women in transit**, for one night only. This place, which became fully operational in January 2023, makes it possible to have shelter especially for those families that arrive in the city during the evening and night hours.

The data emerging from the use of the local dormitory network during the period under consideration show **the existence of a very high need to which only a partial response can be provided**: in fact, the number of applications for dormitory access is consistently much higher than the number of available places.

The figure that emerges most clearly is the **high incidence of asylum seekers on the easy access system, representing 82% of those who use the dormitory rotation system**. If asylum seekers had immediate accommodation in dedicated facilities, as provided by Legislative Decree 142/2015, the number of emergency beds activated for other situations of need would remain insufficient, but not so far from the number needed.



Daytime Care Center,
photograph by Francesco Cibati

4.3 First assistance activities

The Network's activities are based on the first instance on meeting and listening to the most immediate needs of incoming people. Dozens of migrants, often newly arrived from the Balkan route, congregate daily around the Central Station and Day Center, needing first assistance: health care, a hot meal and a change of clean clothes, timely information about their rights and legal assistance.

“ Overall, 1,088 people received medical assistance from August to December 2022. The diseases encountered were mainly of three types: skin infections (almost always scabies), skin lesions from trauma sustained during the trip, and respiratory infectious diseases

es are encountered as a result of violence suffered by law enforcement officers during pushbacks along the journey to Trieste.

Until July, care was offered solely in Piazza della Libertà. Since August, those in need of a more thorough medical examination have been cared for inside the Daytime Care Center in Via Udine, where an outpatient clinic has been set up and run by the association Donk - Humanitarian Medicine ODV, already active in health care at shelters and for the indigent, with two openings per week and from September with five openings per week, Monday through Friday, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

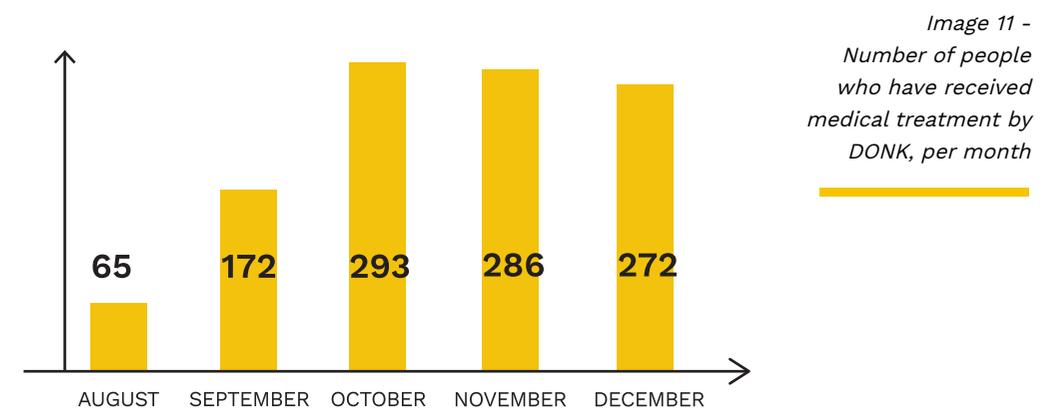
4.3.1 Health care

Every day, from the afternoon and often until late evening, the association Linea d'Ombra provides nursing care in Piazza Libertà. These are vital activities that allow to monitor and care for fragile people who are often just transiting through Trieste and need care after the long and tiring journeys they have faced.

The main illness encountered by Linea d'Ombra volunteers and activists regard feet and legs: abrasions, punctures, rushes, sprains, and trauma from crossing the woods. Cases of coughs and bronchitis, febrile states, and ongoing infections are also common. With less frequency than in the past, serious cas-

As a rule, the outpatient clinic has been led by two healthcare professionals, volunteer physicians, and/or nurses, often with the presence of a cultural mediator. This was made possible by the arrival of new volunteers with long experience but also by young recent graduates and medical students.

Overall, **1,088 people received medical assistance** from August to December 2022. This figure is to be considered underestimated due to tracking problems: sometimes, in fact, so many people were seeking treatment that volunteers gave priority to rescue, neglecting to keep track of the implemented activity. In August, the number of accesses is lower than average because the data was collected only from the middle of the month, i.e., when the Daytime Care Center opened.



The diseases encountered were mainly of three types: skin infections (almost always scabies), skin lesions from trauma sustained during the trip, and respiratory infectious diseases (mainly viruses, but not only), with a few cases of bronchopneumonia.

Less frequent diseases included joint disorders due to strain or resulting from trauma, digestive problems (mainly due to poor or lack of nutrition, especially during the last days of travel), and often long-standing dental conditions. In addition to these more common pathologies, a number of situations were treated where urgent hospital investigations were necessary: in these cases, the network of collaboration with hospital colleagues and in particular with colleagues in the Emergency Room and the Infectious Diseases Department of the Maggiore and Cattinara Hospitals was invaluable.



Donk's medical visit at the Day Care Center, photograph by Filippo Gobbato

Cases of skin infections often overlapped with scabies lesions, and deserve further consideration. Cases of the severe Impetigo lesions were frequent, requiring not only local therapy but also general antibiotic therapy, and sometimes - as in the case of deep abscesses or soft tissue involvement - hospitalization was necessary. People in these conditions are in **absolute need of a sheltered and clean place to sleep** and of a change of clothing, as well as adequate sanitation for treatment. For this reason, efforts have been made with the Daytime Care Center workers to give these people priority for admission, but this has not always been possible due to the lack of places. There were also several cases in which people preferred to continue their journey immediately, accepting only immediate aid and refusing more decisive treatment.

The problem of reception was aggravated by the simultaneous presence of numerous people with seasonal, epidemic, (but largely Covid-negative) respiratory diseases: they, too, particularly those with febrile forms, needed sheltered and warm reception.

Finally, several people who were basically healthy or with mild common illnesses, but **visibly impacted by the journey**, approached the outpatient clinic with a specific request for a sheltered place to rest.

The following main critical issues were recorded during the period examined:

- 1) **Unusual increase in the need for medicines**, particularly antibiotics, permethrin, and anti-inflammatories, which was satisfied at least in part by the Network organizations with their own funds and, particularly for permethrin, by the local Health Authority ASUGI.
- 2) **Difficulties in the proper treatment of individuals with scabies**, both due to lack of clothing changes and lack of adequate facilities, despite the great willingness to provide support by the Center's workers.
- 3) **Lack of more places in reception, including temporary ones, particularly for those with intercurrent and/or seasonal illnesses or for those who are particularly impacted by the journey.** Indeed, some seasonal respiratory illnesses can run into non-negligible complications when not adequately treated with common expedients, particularly heat, rest, and control of the evolution of the disease.
- 4) **Lack of linguistic mediation services to cover all needs, given the high number of cases and the different backgrounds of those being cared for.** The presence of language mediation support turns out to be essential, as it is precisely in the conversation between doctor/nurse and patient that the patient's health condition or illness with its varying degree of severity is understood, and it is always in the conversation that therapy is discussed and its modalities, limitations and even possible adverse effects are explained. Finally, it is with verbal communication that the patient is warned or reassured, and this is an integral part of care. The lack of these tools thus results in a limitation of the effectiveness of the services themselves.

Food distribution in Piazza Libertà,
photograph by Francesco Cibati



4.3.2 Meals and distribution of basic necessities

Throughout the year, and with a sharp increase starting in the summer, dozens of people newly arrived in Trieste are in **urgent need of food** daily.

During the day, people find a little refreshment at the Daytime Care Center in Via Udine with **hot tea, cookies and snacks** donated by supportive citizens and served throughout the day. In the evening, the Linea d'Ombra association distributes, with food brought by volunteers and additional purchases as needed, an **average of about 50 meals a day** in Piazza Libertà, giving priority to those who have just arrived in the city; the peak was reached on one day in August during which 174 meals were distributed. Also starting in the summer, the Caritas Foundation of Trieste began to provide meals at its canteen in Via dell'Istria **to people forced to live on the streets**, as well as people in transit, almost always managing to offer one meal for lunch and one for dinner. The difficulty in reaching the soup kitchen, located far from the center, for people in total destitution who cannot afford the bus fare daily should be noted.

4.3.3 Clothes

The conditions in which a person arrives after a long journey, often by foot, require a **hot shower and a change of clothes**. The distribution of clean clothing is particularly important both because of the many cases of scabies (as it allows treatment to be effective) and to ensure better hygienic conditions for people arriving in Trieste.

Therefore, those who have just arrived in the city and are in need are given **clothing and shoes**, according to the available resources of the associations in the Network. All the clothing that is distributed is the result of **private donations**: the clothes and shoes are **partly second-hand donations, partly new purchases** to meet the great need. For this reason, this Network is committed to raising funds through fundraising campaigns,²⁶ as well as managing the many donations from the citizens who have responded to humanitarian appeals.

Until the end of August 2022, the need was met almost exclusively by Linea d'Ombra through the widespread daily street distribution of backpacks containing a complete change of clothes and shoes. Since September, when the Daytime Care Center reopened, a small warehouse was set up to store all donated and purchased materials, which are distributed by operators as needed throughout the day. The Daytime Care Center's warehouse serves as a collection center for donations of clothing and blankets from the townspeople, who have been very sensitive and supportive of the cause.

4.4 Information and orientation

In addition to food, clothing and medical care, each person who arrives at Piazza Libertà or at the Day Center receives **legal information and support in accessing services in the area** thanks to mediators and workers from the Network organizations.

Where further investigation is needed, or it is appropriate to conduct an interview

in a suitable setting, including for the purpose of supporting access to asylum application or for other reasons, people are referred to the nearby ICS office, open Monday through Friday, where legal assistance is provided.

The complex of orientation and information activities is essential, first of all, to be able to have an initial contact with people and, subsequently, to provide them with **accurate information about their rights** in order to enable people to make decisions freely and consciously.

The Network has produced **informational material**, in both digital and printed versions, in the languages most frequently spoken by the people encountered (Urdu, Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Turkish, Bengali, Kurdish), regarding the asylum procedure, the identification process, and access to basic assistance services in the area. The distribution of information materials is paired with informational moments organized collectively.

A delicate and very important task is, after an initial listening phase, to identify any **vulnerabilities and specific needs** and react promptly for the protection of the people encountered. This is only possible when a relationship of trust is established allowing urgent issues to emerge even in the difficult and not necessarily privacy-friendly contexts in which Network organizations operate.

“ **All newly arrived people in Piazza Libertà or at the Day Center receives legal orientation and support in accessing local services thanks to the work of the organizations. These moments are crucial also to identify vulnerable people and specific needs** ”



Legal orientation session to a group of newly arrived people, photograph by Carlo Iernetti

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of its geographic location, Trieste is and will remain a place of arrival and transit for large numbers of people fleeing dramatic situations in their various countries of origin. As has been pointed out, some of the main nationalities of people encountered in Trieste are the same ones that have a major impact on the asylum system in the entire European Union. There are many studies and analyses conducted at the international level that indicate that the causes producing those fleeing movements are decreasing, but if anything, as in the case of Afghanistan, are increasing.²⁷

“ Trieste is and will remain a place of arrival and transit for large numbers of people fleeing dramatic situations in their various countries of origin

People who flee have a clear need for protection, whether they intend to formalize their asylum application in Trieste or go elsewhere. Thus, the need to address these issues in a forward-looking way is highlighted, understanding that the phenomenon of forced migration is a structural

part of contemporary society, in the interest of both the people to be assisted and the local population.

In practical terms, this means that the city of Trieste should be provided with a comprehensive migration management program that go far beyond what would be required of any medium-sized city, and instead resembles the typical programming of a metropolitan border area.

Public interventions should aim to pursue the following **three priority objectives**:

1. Setting up a public plan capable of providing humanitarian assistance, medical screening, and high-turnover temporary shelter under safe conditions for several thousand people throughout the year;

2. Ensuring the immediate access of foreign nationals applying for asylum in Trieste to the reception system and services dedicated to them;

3. Foster a management of reception that guarantees people's freedoms, promoting social inclusion, and avoids forms of marginalization..

In relation to Objective No. 1, it is therefore **recommended that the City of Trieste:**

→ Supports the activities of the Daytime Care Center in Via Udine as a crucial place of first humanitarian assistance;

It is emphasized again that the essential assistance interventions carried out today at the Daytime Care Center in via Udine are almost entirely supported by the voluntary associations for what concerns the costs of the interventions and that related to the staff running the facility, as well as linguistic mediation. This is an unsustainable situation in the long run; in fact, if due to lack of resources the current activity at the Daytime Care Center were to cease, the humanitarian situation in Trieste would become dramatic, and institutions must be aware of this.

→ Arranges an increase in overnight shelter places within the dormitory system that provides for a high turnover and an overall capacity of at least 100 beds per day.

Such services should be provided to any person in need, without distinction. In this report, the issue of the condition of people in transit, who wish to reach other European states in central and northern Europe, has emerged with great prominence.

The reasons for such choices, which are often quite understandable, can be traced partly to the presence of family ties or other ties with people in other countries that they intend to join as soon as possible, and partly to a very negative perception of Italy as a destination country that would not offer them an adequate welcome and future life prospects.

Among those in transit, as highlighted by this report, there are many unaccompanied foreign children who, to an even greater extent than adults, choose not to stop in our country (see section 3.5.1), remaining exposed on their journey to all forms of deprivation and concrete risks of violence. It should be emphasized that the choice to continue the journey without formalizing the asylum application in the first country of entry represents a phenomenon by no means limited to the Trieste situation; on the contrary, according to many studies²⁸ it seems to concern most asylum seekers entering Europe. The majority of people in transit are severely impacted by their journeys, both by land and sea, and their psycho-physical conditions require immediate help in terms of material, health and psychological assistance, as well as legal information that would give them the tools to make the most appropriate choices.

Stating that people in transit cannot be the target of an institutional intervention of a humanitarian nature is a legally unfounded thesis, and contradicts at root the very meaning and purpose of emergency humanitarian interventions because it results in an abandonment of precisely those most in need of immediate intervention who have no connection with the territory in which they are temporarily located.

As highlighted by the Guidelines for Countering Severe Adult Marginality in Italy, *“ignoring these situations creates serious health and public safety issues producing increased costs of interventions and exacerbating widespread social perceptions of insecurity and disorder.”*²⁹

Also, in relation to Objective 1, ASUGI (Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Giuliano Isontina, i.e. the local Health Authority) is requested to:

→ **Prepare an intervention plan to address the numerous medical care needs of migrant people including undocumented migrants, moving beyond mere referral to emergency rooms.**

→ **Provide more support in the constant and systematic supply of medicines and the provision of key human resources such as the cultural mediator at the Daytime Care Center.**

Regarding the interventions to be carried out in pursuit of objective number 2, it is recommended that the Prefecture of Trieste to:

→ **Systematize the transfer to other locations of foreign nationals applying for asylum in Trieste in order to transfer an average of 10 asylum seekers per day from December to May and 25 asylum seekers per day in the period from June to November (estimate made on the basis of the number of approximately 6,000 asylum applications and related reception requests submitted during 2022).**³⁰

As emerged in this report, the main problem that made the Trieste situation severely critical in 2022 and in the first months of 2023 was in fact the very serious dysfunction related to the implementation of a mechanism for transfers and relocation throughout the country of foreign nationals applying for asylum in Trieste. The failure to accommodate asylum seekers at the facilities dedicated to them

has subtracted 82% of the available places at the easy access dormitories, which should instead remain allocated to people in the territory who are in need and to foreign nationals whose migration path does not end in Trieste;

→ **Ensure a system of facilities for the first-level reception of asylum seekers waiting to be relocated to the national territory that has a minimum capacity of 300 places to be ensured in dignified conditions.**

In order to cope with the increase in arrivals, and in anticipation of a gradual closure of the Scout Hostel (which has been confirmed as a valuable but temporary place of reception), the goal of finding additional first reception places, in addition to the 95 already existing ones at Casa Malala, is in fact confirmed as necessary to bring Trieste's first-level reception system to the number of at least 300 places. Finding new first reception facilities (see Recommendation No. 3) and the need for a sharp increase in relocations in the rest of the country are not conflicting goals. In fact, both should be pursued, giving priority to relocations since no increase in first reception places in the territory will be adequate to meet the needs if it is not accompanied by a functioning national plan for the redistribution of arrivals.

→ **Avoid the creation of a large hotspot, which would represent a de facto detention rather than reception facility.**

In relation to the issue of first reception, the need for the opening of “hotspot” facilities, which have never been present in the territory of Trieste, has recently been insistently mentioned. However, this intention lies on the indefinite and ambiguous nature of such places; in fact, hotspots are not simple first reception facilities, as they are commonly presented. Instead, hotspots are de facto detention facilities in which to carry out, according to the provisions of the recent law no. 50/2023, the identification procedures and where detention can be continued even after the conclusion of the identification procedures to screen asylum applications based on the so-called fast-track border procedure. The issue of deprivation of liberty within such centers has already raised enormous legal issues regarding the conformity of such an approach with the Italian Constitution and European Union law 1 and the opening of such facilities would not bring any benefit to the proper functioning of the system of first reception of asylum seekers. Therefore, there is no perceived need to provide for the opening of any hotspots in Trieste.

Regarding the interventions to be carried out in pursuit of **objective number 3**, it is **recommended that the Prefecture of Trieste:**

→ **Protects and strengthens the extraordinary first-level reception system marked by the model of widespread reception.**

The system of territorial reception of asylum seekers in Trieste has been set since its origins (2001) on the model of widespread reception, that is, on the choice of giving reception to people seeking asylum in ordinary housing facilities (apartments) placed throughout the urban area, so as to foster as much as possible a relationship with the local society and accelerate paths of social inclusion.³² Unlike in the rest of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, this model of intervention has been preserved even after the national crisis of the reception system followed by the legislative and administrative interventions of the years 2018-2019. Although the decades-long experience of widespread reception has had profound positive effects on Trieste's society in terms of the quality of reception, the strengthening of social cohesion, and the prevention of marginalization phenomena, the widespread reception system has often been the target of unjustified political attacks. The cultural richness that the Trieste area expresses is a heritage that should instead be preserved and nurtured, strengthening the model of widespread reception and avoiding that the Trieste area is also affected by the spread of huge reception facilities, with very low standards of reception, and without any path of support for social inclusion addressed to the people received.

Finally, again in relation to the achievement of **Objective No. 3**, it is **recommended that the Municipality of Trieste**, responsible for the local Reception and Integration System:³³

→ **Expands the current intervention**, whose size (less than 100 places) is totally insufficient compared to the actual need to ensure support for the integration of protection holders whose path to social inclusion has already started in the territory but has not been entirely concluded.

The absence in the Trieste territory of a Reception and Integration System program effectively adequate to the number of refugees residing in the territory, and the parallel absence of a path of reception and care for victims of torture and serious violence, has a paradoxical consequence of not accessing state resources that would be available to the territorial social services system, increasing the expense supported by the Municipality of Trieste itself for interventions of a social welfare nature that in the final analysis must still be ensured to those resident protection holders who have an objective need.

*Kurdish child just arrived in Trieste,
photograph by Francesco Cibati*



NOTES

- 1 See reports of RiVolti ai Balcani: <https://www.rivoltiaibalcani.org/la-rotta-balcanica/>, <https://altreconomia.it/il-viaggio-senza-diritti-lungo-le-rotte-balcaniche-il-punto-della-situazione-dalla-grecia-allitalia/>, Border Violence Monitoring Network: <https://borderviolence.eu/databases/monthly-reports/>, Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/06/greece-pushbacks-and-violence-against-refugees-and-migrants-are-de-facto-border-policy/> and Protecting Rights at Borders (PRAB): <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/cxihgutp/prab-rapporto-january-to-december-2022.pdf>
- 2 See e.g., Summary and analysis of pushback and internal violence documented by BVMN during the month of December 2022.
- 3 See data from International Organization for Migration (IOM) https://bih.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1076/files/documents/WB_Annual_rapporto.pdf
- 4 La Repubblica, 29 March 2022 “Fedriga avvisa, stop agli altri migranti”: https://www.repubblica.it/politica/2022/03/29/news/ucraina_lega_fedriga_fermare_altri_migranti_africa_rotta_balcanica-343220181/
- 5 Post on Facebook profile of President Fedriga: <https://m.facebook.com/massimilianofedriga/photos/la-sentenza-che-vorrebbe-impedire-le-riammissioni-in-slovenia-degli-immigrati-en/10165428673185393/>
- 6 Interland, Social group, “La strada e la stazione”, the experience of the Help Center di Trieste, 2020
- 7 Comunità di San Martino al Campo, “Volti Visibili. Dieci anni di Centro Diurno”, 2018
- 8 See specific focus in section 4.2
- 9 In the first part of 2021, the activity of the Network was not widespread enough to enable an accurate collection of data on migrant arrivals. In addition, the years 2021 and 2022 are not comparable due to the very different context conditions (Covid19 emergency, quarantine, and migration policies in transit countries).
- 10 https://www.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2022/06/09/slovenia-nuovo-governo-eliminera-barriere-a-confine-croazia_6556e075-ef4c-45ff-8e31-3397b7f7ed0a.html
- 11 See specific focus in section 4.1
- 12 https://eu.rescue.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/CS2301_Watchlist%20Project_Report_Final.pdf
- 13 European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA), Annual Review 2022: <https://euaa.europa.eu/latest-asylum-trends-annual-overview-2022>
- 14 European Court of Human Rights, Grand Chamber, Khlaifia and others v. Italy, 12/15/2016, Kaak v. Greece, 03/10/2019
- 15 On October 2, 2022, Trieste Prefect Vardè during an interview with the newspaper “Il Piccolo” denied the presence of hundreds of asylum seekers abandoned in the streets, claiming that it was maximum 20 people.
- 16 The total number of people reported does not correspond to the number of asylum seekers in need, because some people, waiting for reception for up to 70 days, were counted several times in consecutive reports.
- 17 <https://ilpiccolo.gelocal.it/trieste/cronaca/2022/07/15/news/prime-multe-da-100-euro-l-una-per-i-bivacchi-in-piazza-liberta-1.41568251>
- 18 https://www.ansa.it/friuliveneziaigiulia/notizie/2022/10/05/migranti-davanti-prefettura-trieste-in-attesa-accoglienza_5051f597-1066-4cf5-83c3-3f9357841712.html
- 19 <https://ilpiccolo.gelocal.it/trieste/cronaca/2022/10/11/news/la-lettera-aperta-a-sindaco-e-prefetto-di-trieste-decine-di-migranti-al-freddo-fra-cartoni-e-fogli-di-plastica-vi-chiedia-11346227/>
- 20 <https://ilpiccolo.gelocal.it/trieste/cronaca/2022/11/08/news/nuovo-dormitorio-per-i-migranti-in-via-gioia-il-comune-di-trieste-fa-retromarcia-12225979/>
- 21 <https://telequattro.medianordest.it/24492/trieste-dietrofront-dipiazza-il-dormitorio-puo-trasformarsi-in-calamita-per-migranti/>
- 22 Specifically, the beds made available to asylum seekers at the San Martino al Campo dormitory were: 182 beds in September, 148 in October, 207 in November and 67 in December. The December figure is particularly low because a portion of the places in the winter period are also allocated to other homeless people.
- 23 Specifically, 24 beds in September, 53 in October, 28 in November, and 24 in December.
- 24 Although the report analyzes data from the year 2022, it is important to highlight also this information referring to the winter of 2022/2023.
- 25 During the three months of cold emergency in 2023, 309 beds for asylum seekers (for a total of 58 people) and 38 beds for transients (29 people) were made available in the San Martino al Campo dormitory alone, broken down as follows:
 - January 2023: 74 beds occupied by asylum seekers (15 people); 20 beds for people in transit (18 people)
 - February 2023: 116 beds for asylum seekers (26 people); 8 beds for people in transit (4 people)
 - March 2023: 119 beds for asylum seekers (28 people); 10 for people in transit (9 people)
- 26 In December 2022, the Network launched this fundraising campaign, coordinated with a call for donations of used goods in good condition: <https://www.produzionidalbasso.com/project/la-frontiera-della-solidarieta-per-i-migranti-dalla-rotta-balcanica-a-trieste/>
- 27 2023 Emergency Watchlist, Ex multis, ISPI, Crisis to Watch 2023: migrations, December 2022 , Openpolis, L'emergenza afghana non è finita, July 2022.
- 28 ISMU, Fondazione Studi sulla Multietnicità, 2019: <https://www.ismu.org/en/eu-secondary-movements-of-asylum-seekers-a-matter-of-effective-protection-and-solidarity/> Fabienne Keller, Commission LIBE del Parlamento Europeo (A9 -0245/2020) Relazione sull'attuazione del Regolamento Dublino III: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/LIBE-PR-648425_IT.pdf
- 29 “International humanitarian law and the international conventions also signed by Italy make us affirm that taking charge of these situations and finding a positive solution, which solves the administrative problem as well as the problem of social and housing hardship, are a duty. Such taking charge should be practiced by recognizing a humanitarian right and not only by taking a position of human charity. Ignoring these situations creates serious health and public safety issues by producing increased costs of interventions and exacerbating the widespread social perception of insecurity and disorder. To this end, it is recommended not to place barriers to the access of such people with respect to basic services for the protection of dignity and survival (showers, food, emergency night shelter, and essential medical care) as well as to supervise compliance with the ban on reporting” (...) “Ignoring these situations creates serious health and public safety issues producing an aggravation of the costs of interventions and exacerbating the widespread social perception of insecurity and disorder”, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Guidelines for combating severe adult marginality in Italy, November 2015
- 30 Statistical Report on the Reception System in Trieste, Year 2022, by ICS and Caritas Fondazione Diocesana of Trieste
- 31 “Questione Giustizia” 2019: The relevance of the Khlaifia case. Hotspots in light of Law 132/2018: the politics of extralegal detention continue https://www.questionegiustizia.it/articolo/l-attualita-del-caso-khlaifia-gli-hotspot-alla-luc_12-06-2019.php
- 32 Balkans and Caucasus Observatory, 2020: Taking back spaces: building new narratives for reception. The case of Trieste <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/Occasional-paper/Riprendersi-gli-spazi-costruire-nuove-narrazioni-per-l-accoglienza.-il-caso-di-Trieste>
- 33 ANCI, I numeri del SAI, 2022: https://www.anci.it/wp-content/uploads/I-numeri-in-sintesi_RapportoSAI_ucraini_afgani.pdf

ABANDONED --- LIVES

Report on the situation
and needs of migrants
arriving from the balkan
route to Trieste

Year 2022

June 2023

Front and back cover:
People preparing a chai (black tea)
in the Silos, improvised night
shelter in Trieste.

Photo by Lorenzo Maiolo

