

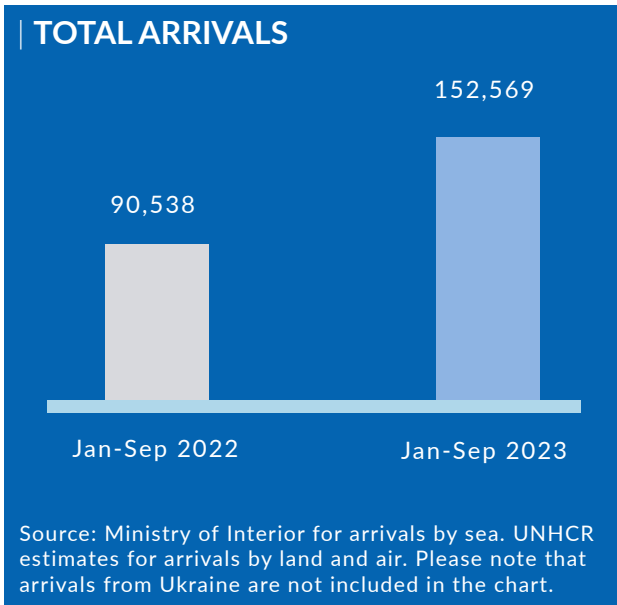
Italy

September 2023

In September, **19,209 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Tunisia, Sudan and Guinea. 13% were children. Additional arrivals reached Italy **via land and air**.

On 17 September, the President of the European Commission and the Commissioner for Home Affairs visited Lampedusa, and presented a **10-point EU action plan** to support Italy.

On 26 September, the **new director of the UNHCR Regional Office for Europe, Philippe Leclerc, was appointed**, indicating an upcoming visit to the UNHCR multi-country office in Italy.



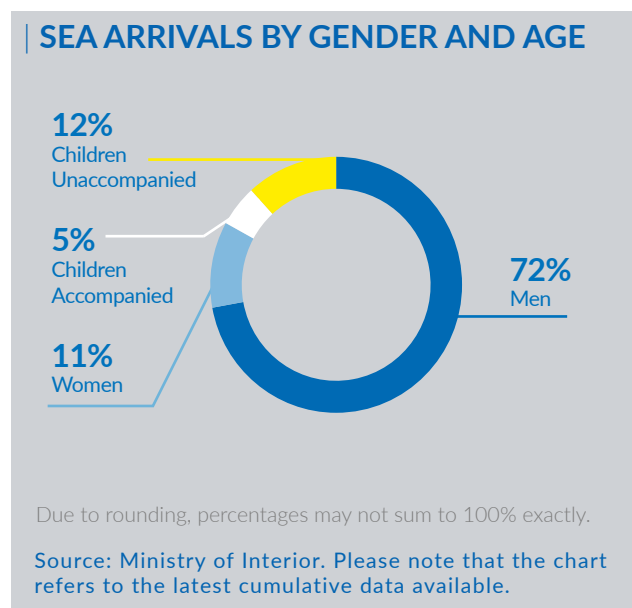
KEY FIGURES

133,821

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-September 2023. 115,557 (86% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

180,989

Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of September 2023. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In September, the monthly number of refugees and migrants arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea decreased compared to August. During the month, **19,209 persons reached the Italian shores**, a 25% decrease compared to the previous month. Among total arrivals, **13% were children**, representing a slight drop from August when the figure was 20%. New arrivals mainly originated from **Tunisia** (13%), **Sudan** and **Guinea** (9% each).¹ Other nationalities arriving during the month were Burkinabes, Ivorians and Malians. As last month, the vast majority departed from Tunisia, representing 85% of monthly arrivals. The rest departed from Libya (13%), Türkiye (3%) and Algeria (1%). Over the month, almost 9,837 people (51% of the total, down 10% compared to August) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search And Rescue (SAR) operations**. In September, **Lampedusa** faced a sharp increase in arrivals, with almost 12,000 people arriving in the week between 11 and 17 September. This put immense pressure on the island's hotspot, which once again far exceeded its maximum capacity. Despite numerous transfers to the mainland, the situation remained challenging for days. During the reporting period, **16,517 people** (around 86% of monthly sea arrivals) were assisted and **informed about asylum procedures** by UNHCR staff following disembarkation.² Due to several shipwrecks, nearly **1,600 people have died or gone missing** in the Central Mediterranean in the first nine months of the year.

- Amidst increased arrivals leading to overcrowding of Lampedusa hotspot, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See, and San Marino stressed the urgent need to prioritise assistance to the most vulnerable, especially survivors of violence and those in fragile conditions. She also underlined the role of supporting the Italian authorities while ensuring assistance and information for newcomers.³

In response to the unfolding situation, the President of the European Commission and the Commissioner for Home Affairs visited the island, where they presented a **10-point action plan for Lampedusa** that offers a multi-faceted approach, including support systems, preventive measures, reinforced border management, return initiatives, and collaborative partnerships with international bodies and States to address the complex challenges intertwined with migration in the Mediterranean region.



Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission visiting the Lampedusa hotspot. ©LaPress

- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** In addition to arrivals via sea, **some 1,300 land arrivals were intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in September**. Since the beginning of 2023, more than 9,000 new arrivals were reported in this area. Those travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. New arrivals mostly reported **systematic ill treatment and pushbacks** by the Bulgarian, Croatia and Turkish Police. UNHCR staff continued to conduct **outreach activities**, collecting testimonies and informing new arrivals on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.

¹ Please note that there is a significant proportion of sea arrivals for which nationality is 'unknown' as the Ministry of the Interior has not provided this information.

² For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

³ See also, [Press release from UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino](#), 15 September 2023.



Child protection

- On 20 September, the Ombudsperson for Infancy and Adolescence (AGIA), presented the report **Listening and Participation of Unaccompanied Foreign Children as an Intervention Methodology**, which is the result of a collaborative effort with UNHCR, UNICEF and the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI). The report, dedicated to understanding and engaging unaccompanied foreign children, draws insights from visits to those residing in *Sistema di Accoglienza e Integrazione* (SAI) facilities across several municipalities, including Amelia (Terni), Aradeo (Lecce), Bologna, Cremona, Pescara, and Rieti. Through visits, the report sheds light on the needs and vulnerabilities of children in reception, offering essential recommendations. On the occasion, Carla Garlatti, the Italian Ombudsperson for Infancy and Adolescence, emphasized the importance of recognizing three fundamental rights for every child: presumption of minority, access to facilities exclusively designed for children, and the availability of a voluntary guardian.⁴



Resettlement and complementary pathways

- On 22 September, at the occasion of the **20th Anniversary of the EU Directive on the right to family reunification** (Directive 2003/86/EC)⁵ UNHCR, IOM, ARCI, Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati, Croce Rossa Italiana and Save the Children organized an event in Rome for the launch of the **Community of Practice on Family Reunification** for beneficiaries of international protection and migrants. This is an online platform, aiming to promote and facilitate access to family reunification by fostering knowledge exchange among international organizations, non-governmental organizations, institutions, social and legal professionals, and sector experts.
- **Labor pathways.** The Working Group on labour pathways convened its third session in September with the aim of further exploring measures and protocols for implementing the regulatory clause outlined in law 50/2023 ("*Decreto flussi*"). This sets aside a labour integration quota 250 refugees or stateless persons annually, from 2023 to 2025, specifically designated for subordinate, self-employed, or seasonal work. The session built upon previous discussions held in June and July, with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Labour, alongside a number of CSOs operating in the sector.



Training

- In September, a series of **four training webinars** introduced and kicked off the **roll-out of the Vademecum for the identification, referral and take in charge of people with vulnerabilities**, including all actors involved in the response to mixed movements, with focus on persons with special needs. The webinars involved almost 1,800 participants, both online and in person. The next phase will include in-person training sessions in the four selected pilot locations - Lampedusa, Crotone, Rome and Milan - where the *Vademecum* will be put into practice.
- On 22 September, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Department of Civil Protection, supported capacity-building sessions on the **Mitigation of the risk of gender-based violence and protection mechanisms for children in the widespread reception system**. This is a toolkit developed jointly by UNHCR and UNICEF and piloted by partner CSOs to prevent and respond to different types of violence, abuse and exploitation, that may happen be exacerbated or identified in the reception context. The Umana Solidarietà consortium and CIDAS were involved in the delivery of these capacity building sessions

⁴ See also, UNHCR, *Minori stranieri non accompagnati, ecco cosa serve*, 22 September 2023.

⁵ See also, UNHCR, *Ricongiungimento familiare: almeno 280 milioni di migranti nel mondo, 100 milioni di persone che fuggono da guerre e violenze - l'unità familiare è un diritto fondamentale*, 22 September 2023.

- On 28 and 29 September, **UNHCR facilitated two training sessions on human trafficking and international protection** as part of the joint seminar organised by the National School of Magistrates and the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA) in Naples. Around 60 magistrates, mainly from the first-instance courts' specialized divisions on immigration and international protection, including a contingent of anti-mafia prosecutors, and 27 EUAA staff, deployed in support of the first-instance courts' specialized divisions, participated. The sessions focused on exploring the potential international protection needs of victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking, elaborating on the guidelines established by UNHCR and the National Asylum Commission to identify and address trafficked asylum seekers within Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures.
- In September, **UNHCR facilitated three training sessions for volunteer guardians**, covering a variety of topics, including the UNHCR mandate, international protection, RSD procedures, UNHCR guidelines on child asylum applications, best interest' determination and age assessment. These sessions were part of an initiative organised by the Ombudsperson for Infancy and Adolescence in the Marche region. The training sessions included 18 participants. Following the completion of the sessions, the participants were formally registered as voluntary guardians of the Ancona Juvenile Court.
- UNHCR conducted an **online training on child protection and RSD** for Prefectural staff, law enforcement staff, labour inspectors, managers of first reception centres, social services, trade unions and employers' organisations in Lodi and Mantua. In addition, UNHCR held a **training focused on GBV survivors within RSD procedures** with Di.Re, one of its main partner organisations.

External engagement

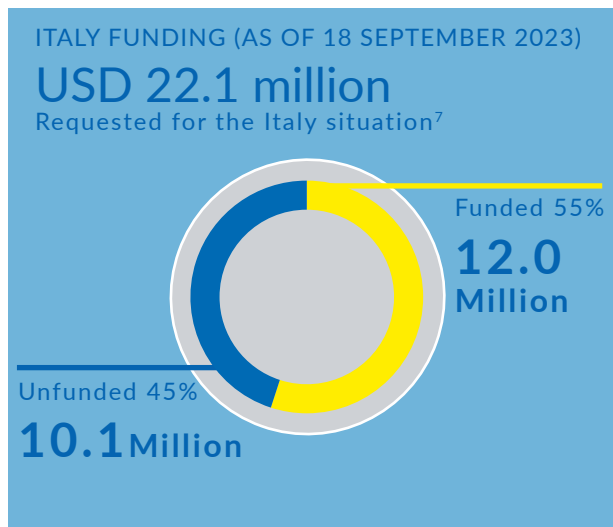
- On 24 September, UNHCR joined the Catholic Church's celebration of the **109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees**, echoing Pope Francis' message on the need to address the root causes of forced migration and build a world of peace together.⁶
- On 26 and 27 September, the Representative conducted a **high-level mission in Brussels, engaging with various EU stakeholders**, including DG Home, DG NEAR, and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Discussions centred on Italy's protection situation and UNHCR conclusions from the Rome Conference, especially on **Route-based Approach**, jointly developed with IOM. The approach promotes targeted programmes along migration routes to provide stable alternatives by addressing needs closer to departure and ensure access to protection at all displacement stages, thus reducing risks during the journey.
- On 28 September, the Representative met in Rome with H.E. Uzra Zeya, the Undersecretary of State for Civil Security, Democracy and Human Rights. They focused on the key challenges of combating human trafficking and expressed gratitude for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration contribution to UNHCR in the issue of trafficking.
- In September, UNHCR formalized a **three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Milan Prefecture**, which outlines the guiding principles for the collaboration, including the deployment of one UNHCR staff to the Prefecture on a weekly basis.



Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino meeting with Uzra Zeya, U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Civil Security, Democracy and Human Rights, in Rome. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

⁶ See also, UNHCR, *Giornata del Migrante e del Rifugiato dalla Chiesa Cattolica*, 24 September 2023.

Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors, who have contributed to the Italy operation:

L'Istituto Buddista Italiano Soka Gakkai | Mediobanca SpA | Enel Cuore Onlus | European Union | Other private donors

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors, including Italy, who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.⁸

Fundraising

In September, UNHCR raised **2.1 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, bringing the total raised since the beginning of the year to 24.8 million Euros. In particular, during the month, the Fondo Beneficienza of Intesa Sanpaolo SpA donated 266,000 euros to UNHCR as a contribution to the **Welcome. Working for refugee integration** project.⁹

CONTACTS

Giulia Manni, Senior Reporting Assistant, manni@unhcr.org
Cristina Franchini, Senior External Relations Associate, franchin@unhcr.org

LINKS

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

⁷ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

⁸ Unearmarked contributions are without restrictions on their use, allowing UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk globally. Softly earmarked contributions allow UNHCR to use them across the range of countries, activities or themes in a given region or situation in accordance with identified priorities; softly earmarked contributions can potentially be used for the Italy operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region. Donors of unearmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Sweden; Norway; Private donors Spain; Netherlands; Denmark; Private donors Japan; United Kingdom; France; Private donors Republic of Korea; Germany; Switzerland; Private donors Italy; Belgium; Ireland. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: United States of America; Private donors Sweden; Private donors Germany; Private donors Canada.

⁹ See also, [Welcome. Working for refugee integration](#)