

ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

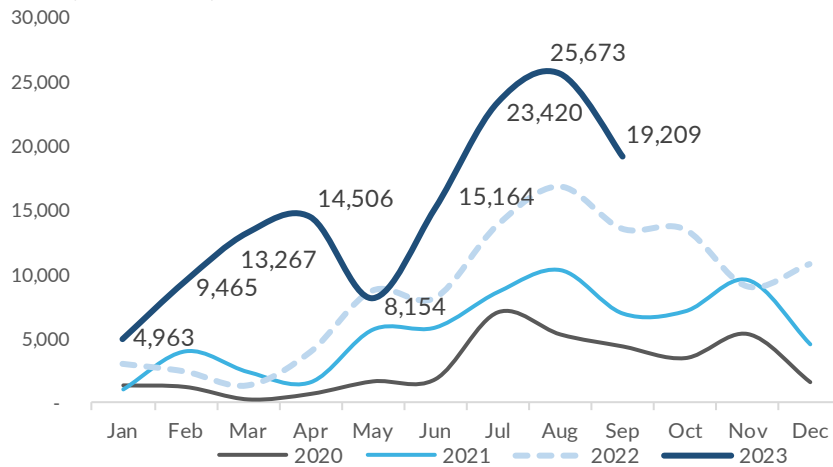
Overview

In the first nine months of the year, 133,821 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 71,790 in the same period last year (+86%). Remarkably, September arrivals decreased by 25% compared to August. The vast majority of people arriving in September (88%) disembarked in Sicily (16,932), followed by Calabria (1,380), Apulia (585), Campania (181), Marche (68), Sardinia (35) and Emilia-Romagna (28).

133,821 Jan-Sep 2023¹
71,790 Jan-Sep 2022¹

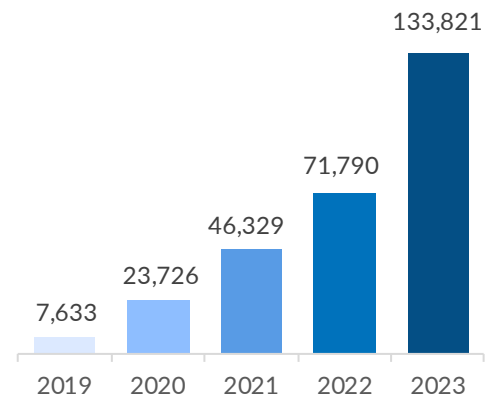
Monthly sea arrivals

January 2020 to September 2023



Yearly sea arrivals

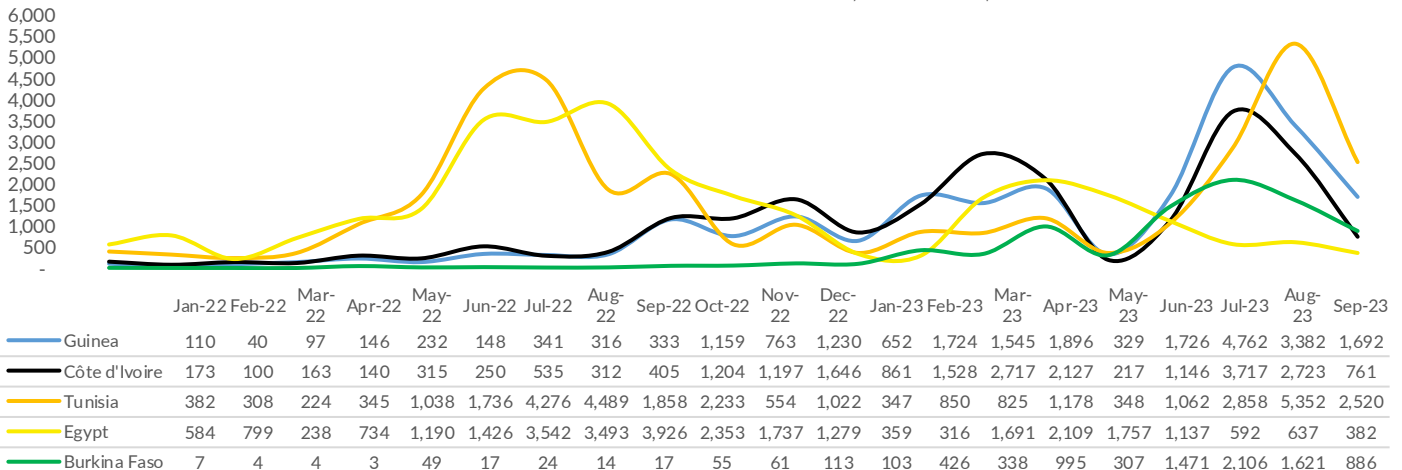
January to September, 2019-2023



Nationality of arrivals

In September, Tunisians continued to represent 13% of new arrivals. Following them were Sudanese and Guinean nationals, accounting for 9% of monthly arrivals, respectively.² The number of Sudanese refugees and migrants has increased steadily since May 2023, likely due to the ongoing armed conflict that erupted in mid-April 2023, peaking in September at 37% of total annual arrivals. Conversely, new arrivals from Burkina Faso peaked in July 2023 at 2,106 people, gradually decreasing thereafter. Other countries of origin with significant numbers in terms of arrivals by sea were those of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali. In September, all top three nationalities primarily departed from Tunisia. Conversely, the top three nationalities to depart from Libya were Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt.

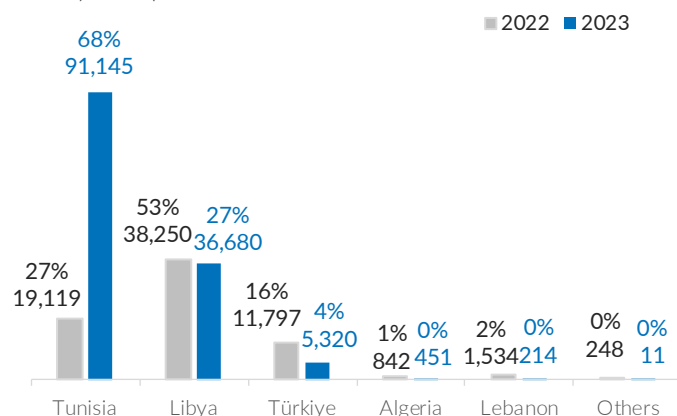
Most common nationalities of arrivals - January 2022 to September 2023



Country of embarkation

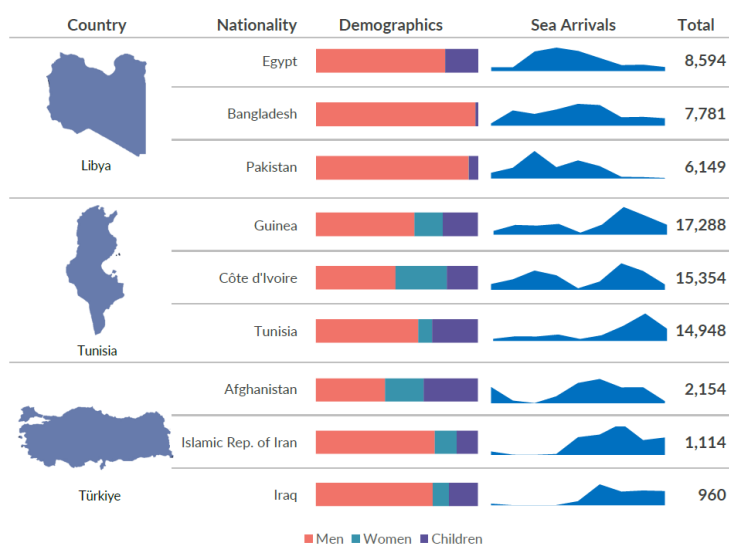
In the first nine months of 2023, 68% of sea crossings departed from Tunisia (91,145 persons; 2,558 disembarkations), followed by 27% from Libya (36,680 persons; 415 disembarkations), 4% from Türkiye (5,320 persons; 69 disembarkations), and less than 1% from Algeria (451 persons, 33 disembarkations) and other countries. In September, 85% of migrants and refugees departed from Tunisia (441 disembarkations), 13% from Libya (53 disembarkations), 3% from Türkiye (7 disembarkations) and 1% from Algeria (2 disembarkations).

January to September 2022 - 2023



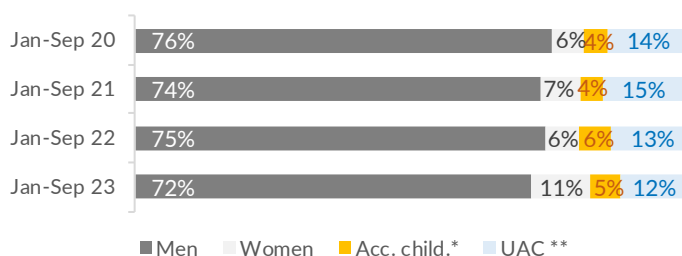
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly

Top 3 nationalities by country of embarkation, January to September 2023



Demographics of arrivals

January to September 2020 - 2023



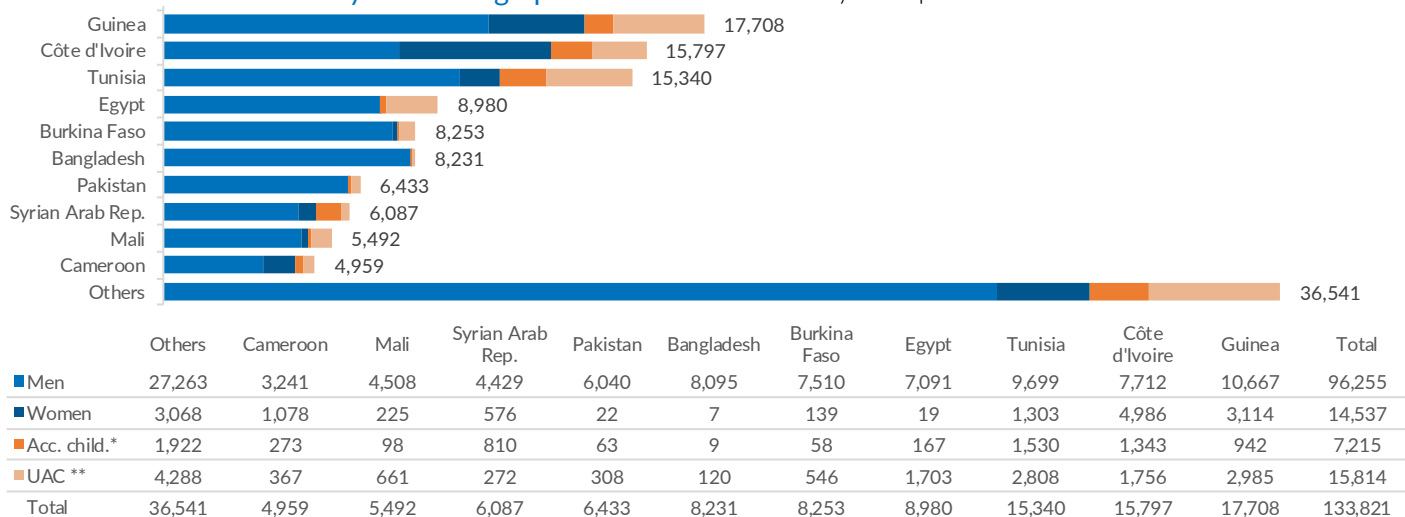
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In the first nine months of 2023, most sea arrivals were adult males (72%), followed by unaccompanied children (UAC, 12%), adult females (11%), and accompanied children (5%).

In September 2023, 1,730 adult females reached Italian shores, mainly originating from Guinea (257), followed by Tunisia (254) and Côte d'Ivoire (243).

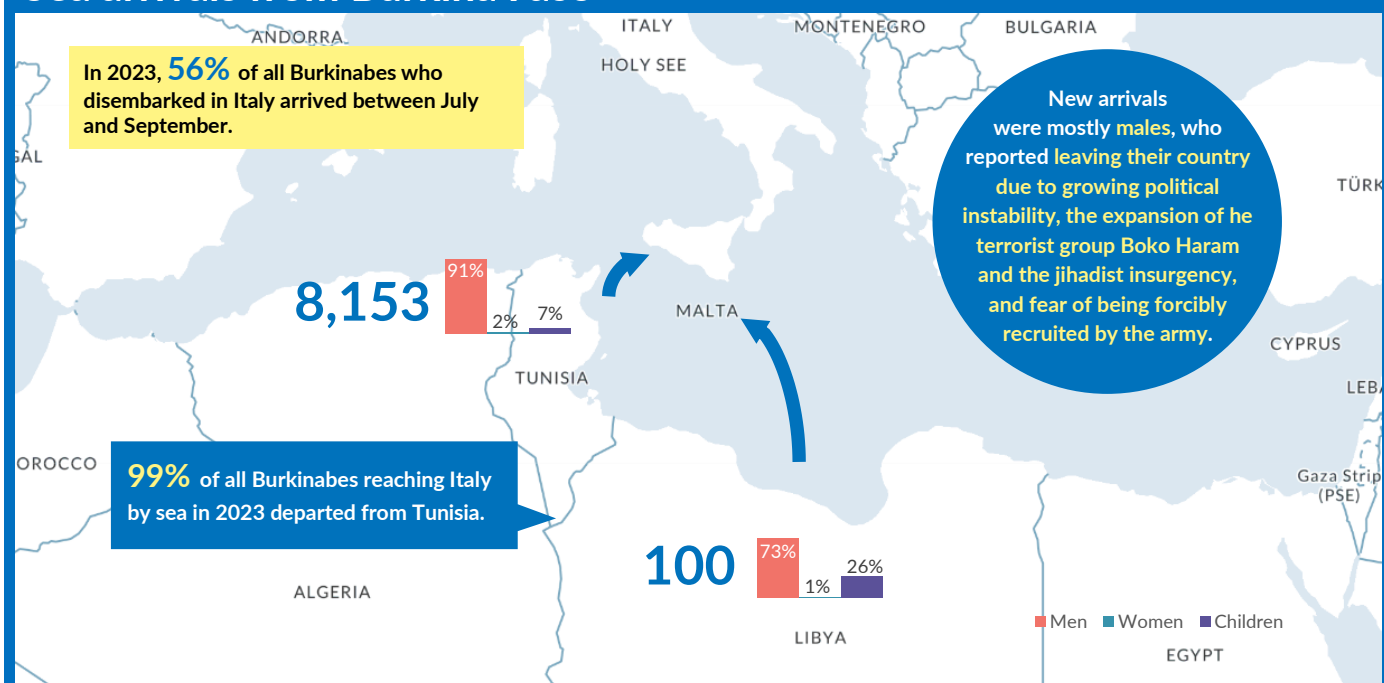
In the same period, 1,507 UAC arrived in Italy by sea. The main nationalities were Tunisian (376), Guinean (299), Gambian (174), and Sudanese (131).

Nationality and demographics of arrivals – January to September 2023



Quarterly focus

Sea arrivals from Burkina Faso



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Please note that 'children' in this map refers to both accompanied and unaccompanied children. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly.

Profiles

- From January to September 2023, 8,253 nationals of Burkina Faso arrived in Italy by sea, making them the fifth top nationality (eq. 6% of sea arrivals in the first nine months of 2023). Their numbers showed a substantial increase from earlier years, with only 368 arrivals in 2022 and 194 in 2021.
- Most sea arrivals from Burkina Faso in 2023 were male (91% of the total arrivals). Adult females account for less than 2%, while 7% were children, predominantly unaccompanied. This gender distribution differs markedly from arrivals from other sub-Saharan countries, where women account for 32% of arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire, 22% from Cameroon, and 18% from Guinea. Reportedly, the main reasons for leaving the country were increasing political instability, the expansion of groups like Boko Haram and jihadist insurgencies, and fear of being forcibly recruited by the army. Notably, many reported losing family members to terrorism. Remarkably, many reported having no family contacts or networks in Italy or Europe and were therefore the first in their community to undertake this journey.

Routes

- Most Burkinabes left Tunisia on makeshift metal boats, with less than 1% departing from Tripolitania, in western Libya, leading the majority to disembark in Lampedusa. Many told UNHCR they had contact with Tunisia-based smugglers, frequently sub-Saharan nationals through social media, before the journey who facilitated accommodation in Tunisia and sea crossing to Italy.
- Several arrivals traveled through Burkina Faso to reach Tunisia via Niger and Algeria, using various transport modes. Some chose a longer route through Togo and Benin to enter Niger due to jihadist control at the Niger-Burkina Faso border. Crossing from Burkina Faso to Niger often happens around the Tera area. They then traverse Niger by truck towards the Algerian border, continuing on foot. Once in Algeria, they walk into Tunisia at Kasserine. The journey progresses in small groups from Kasserine to Sfax, where the risk of encountering bandits and theft is significant. The total cost of the journey from Burkina Faso to Italy is reported to be around 1,200 euros.

Stay in Tunisia

- Several reported that Sfax area host a large Burkinabe community. Once in Tunisia, Burkinabes are often taken directly to the olive groves, living in dire conditions, with no adequate shelter, access to drinking water or medical care. UNHCR noted that many suffer from scabies, skin diseases, and other health issues.