

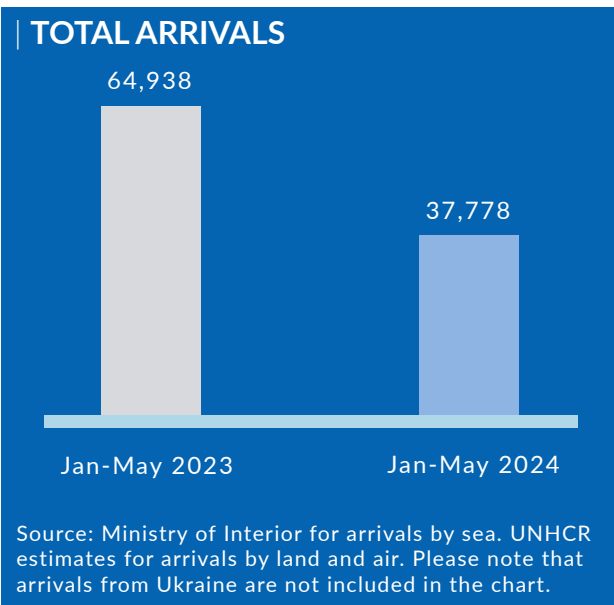
Italy

May 2024

In May, **4,976 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (22%), Tunisia (15%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (13%). **19 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 5 May, **the second humanitarian evacuation flight in 2024 with 119 refugees and people in need of international protection** arrived in Italy, in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in December 2023.

In May, UNHCR signed an **MoU with the National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP)** on protection and referral to social and health services, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health services for people with specific needs (PwSN).



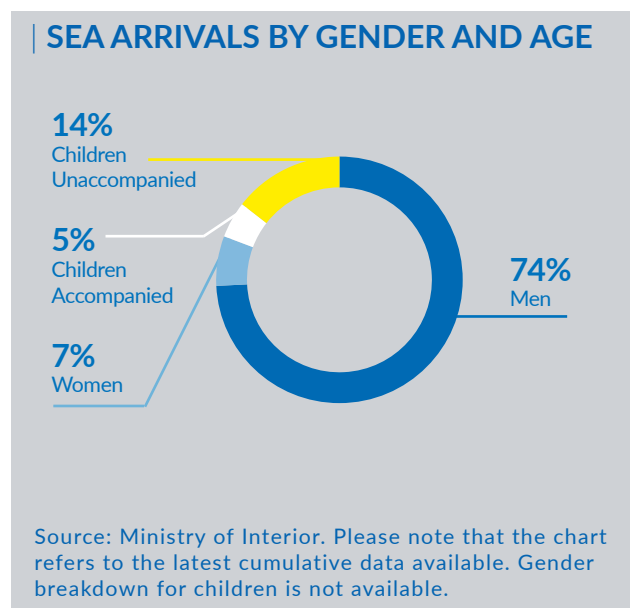
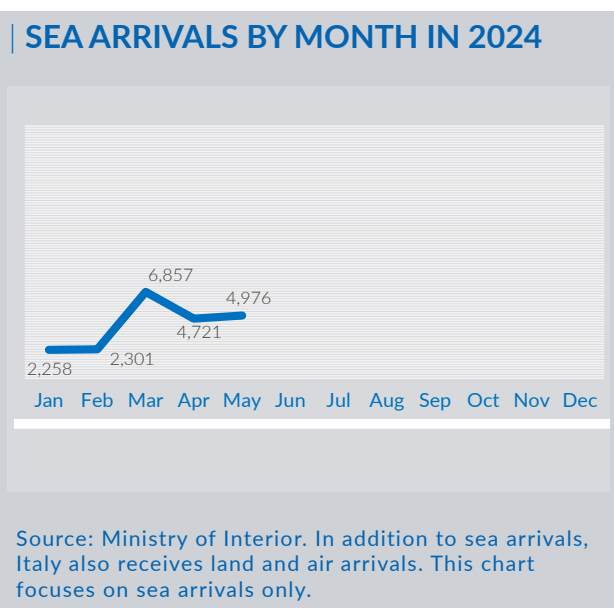
KEY FIGURES

21,113

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-May 2024. 17,490 (83%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

190,104

Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of May 2024. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In May, **4,976 people reached the Italian shores** in 147 landings, representing a 39 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. Among arrivals, **19 per cent were children** (22% in April). Twenty-two per cent originated from **Bangladesh** (16% in April), followed by 15 per cent from **Tunisia** (18% in April) and 13 per cent from **the Syrian Arab Republic** (8% in April). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea were Egyptian (7%), Guinean (5%), Ivorian (4%), Gambian (4%) and Malian, Pakistani and Algerian (3% each). In May, half of sea crossings departed from Libya (52%, 2,573 people), followed by 38 per cent from Tunisia (1,911 people), 7 per cent from Türkiye (372 people) and 2 per cent from Algeria (120 people). More than half of the people arriving by sea (56%, 2,744 people) were disembarked in Italy as a result of **Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**. Tragically, 42 people have died or gone missing in May in the Central Mediterranean, due to several shipwrecks, bringing **the total estimated number of dead and missing since the beginning of 2024 to 535**.¹
- The month of May was characterised by less pressure on the hotspot in Lampedusa, also thanks to several quick transfers to the mainland by special ferry and by air.
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **500 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of arrivals in that area to 2,900 since the beginning of the year. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, Morocco and Afghanistan**. Instances of ill-treatment by the Bulgarian and Croatian Police continued being reported. UNHCR staff conducted outreach activities collecting testimonies and informed arrivals on their rights and how to apply for international protection in Italy.



Resettlement and complementary pathways

- On 5 May, the second group in 2024 was evacuated from Libya and involved **119 refugees and people in need of international protection**. Among them were 30 women, 57 men and 11 families of Eritrean, Ethiopian, Egyptian, Somali and Sudanese nationality. The evacuation was possible thanks to the **MoU signed last December 2023 between the Ministry of Interior (Moi), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA), UNHCR, and several civil society organisations** (CSOs), including ARCI, Comunita' di Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy and NIHMP. The MoU aims to give access to Italy, over the next three years, to a total of 1,500 people who have been forced to flee their home countries due to war, violence, and other dire circumstances, and who are temporarily residing in Libya. Upon their arrival, the 119 refugees and people in need of international protection were transferred to reception centres managed by ARCI and Comunita' di Sant'Egidio. A third flight is scheduled for July.²
- Following the launch of the **Community of Practice online platform** on family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection and migrants in September 2023 by UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ARCI, *Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati* (CIR), the Italian Red Cross and Save the Children, **the first two trainings on the use of the platform**, out of six planned, were held on 15 and 22 May. The trainings involved around 35 people, including legal advisors and people working in the reception system.



Arrival of the second humanitarian flight of 2024 to Rome Fiumicino airport. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

¹ For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

² See also, UNHCR, [Arrivati in Italia altri 119 rifugiati grazie alle evacuazioni d'emergenza dalla Libia](#), 5 May 2024.

- In the 6th edition of the [UNICORE programme](#), 39 Italian universities have committed to offering 70 scholarships to refugee students from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This marks an increase in the number of participating universities, available scholarships, and countries of departure from previous editions. One significant improvement in the 2024 edition was the centralisation of the application process through the [UNICORE website](#), which streamlines application procedures across all universities, making it easier for both refugee students and universities to navigate the process. In its 6th edition, UNICORE recorded a total of 1,065 applications, twice the number received in 2023, with universities expressing high satisfaction. Interviews based on admission criteria of each university are still underway, with an expected arrival date of refugee students in Italy in September 2024.

External engagement

- UNHCR Representation to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino facilitated a meeting on 2 May in Dakar, Senegal, between the **UNHCR Regional Director for West and Central Africa** and the **Director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**. The purpose of the meeting, also in light of Italy's renewed engagement in Africa, was **to discuss common priorities between UNHCR and the Italian Government concerning the overall humanitarian situation in the region**. The discussion had a particular focus on the Central Sahel and Chad and its impact on neighboring countries, particularly in the context of forced displacement. During the meeting, **UNHCR underscored the critical need for continued investment in both humanitarian and development responses**, and to **ensure protection and solutions to people forcibly displaced along their migratory routes**, in line with UNHCR's Route-based Approach.
- On 10 and 11 May, the UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, participated in the **World Meeting on Human Fraternity, 'Be Human 2024'**, organized by the *Fratelli Tutti* Foundation in Rome and the Vatican City. The event featured a high-level meeting of Nobel Laureates, inaugurated by the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin. During the gathering, the **'Be Human' and 'Peace' Declarations** were presented, building upon the process initiated on 10 June 2023, with the involvement of UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. The UNHCR Representative, alongside Nobel Laureates, also had private audiences with the Holy Father and Italian President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella.³
- From 15 to 17 May, UNHCR participated in the **Codeway fair**, a platform bringing together stakeholders from the international cooperation field, providing support tools and incentives to both public and private businesses for engagement within the Italian and European development aid strategy, **under the patronage of the MFA and by AICS**, among others. During the event, UNHCR's Head of Procurement, Fabrizio Bertora, highlighted procurement opportunities available to Italian businesses, while the UNHCR Representative presented **the Melkadida Compact in Ethiopia**—a multi-sectoral programme recognized as a good practice, with a scalable, transformative whole-of-society approach building upon humanitarian interventions and fostering a stable and adaptive plan for social cohesion in the region.⁴



³ See also, [Chiara Cardoletti's post on X](#), and [Fratelli Tutti Foundation website](#).

⁴ See also, [Chiara Cardoletti's post on X](#).

- On 17 May, the UNHCR Representative participated in the **international forum 'Verso Sud'**, a public-private high-level platform launched by **The European House - Ambrosetti** in collaboration with the Government of Italy. UNHCR stressed the importance of not overlooking the forced displacement angle and the protection of refugees, within ongoing key Italy-led processes, including the Italian G7 Presidency, the Rome Process and the implementation of the 'Mattei Plan', as well as the European strategy in the Mediterranean.⁵
- On 27 May, the UNHCR Representative attended the **exhibition 'OUT OF PLACE - Art and Stories from Refugee Camps Around the World'** in Treviso, held under the patronage of UNHCR. The exhibition was organized by the **Imago Mundi Foundation**, founded by renowned Italian fashion entrepreneur and art collector Luciano Benetton. The event also featured the participation of Giles Duley, photographer, writer and activist, founder of the NGO Legacy of War.



Training

- On 4 May, UNHCR delivered a session on the **Age, Gender, and Diversity approach and Community-based Protection principles** at LUMSA University in Rome. On 6-7 May, UNHCR co-facilitated with the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA) an online training module on **interviewing techniques for new Mol caseworkers of the Territorial Commissions (TCs)**. On 10 May, UNHCR co-facilitated with EUAA and Mol staff the second **training session for interpreters of the Rome TC and its Sections**. On 23 May, UNHCR facilitated a training session for interpreters of the Catania TC, and on 27 May for the TC and Sections in Trieste.
- On 8-9 May, UNHCR and IOM co-facilitated a session at the **National Anti-Trafficking Toll-free Number's (Numero Verde anti-tratta) summer school** in Padova, attended by anti-trafficking organizations. On 10-11 May, UNHCR and *Tavolo Apolidia* conducted a **workshop on statelessness** for high school students in Catania and Reggio Calabria.
- On 17 May, UNHCR delivered a **training session on unaccompanied children** at the Post-Graduate Course on Migration and Development at La Sapienza University of Rome. On 21 May, UNHCR conducted a **training session on the protection system for refugees and victims of trafficking** at the LLM in Transnational Crime and Justice in Turin, organized by UNICRI. On 22 May, UNHCR conducted a **training on child-specific forms of persecution for guardians** in Messina, organized by CIR and the Sicily Regional Guarantor for minors.
- On 26 May, UNHCR facilitated an **online session on trafficking in the context of Refugee Status Determination (RSD)** for students of the Master for specialists in supporting gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, organized by IGEA Health Promotion Centre. On 31 May, UNHCR facilitated a **training session on trafficking in the context of RSD and on the identification of PwSN referral pathways** at the Post-Graduate Course on Migration and Development at La Sapienza University of Rome.

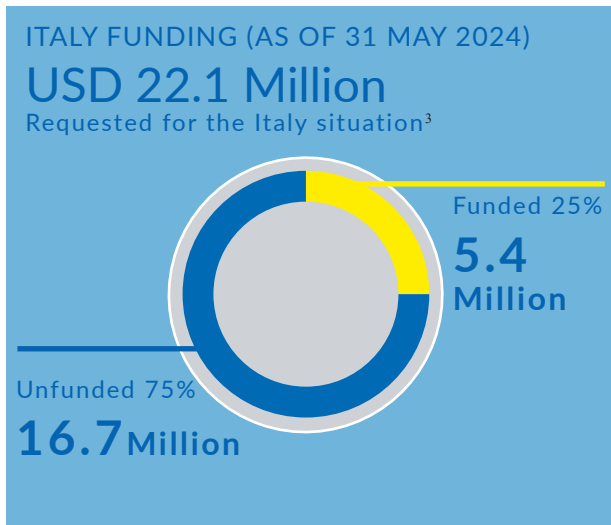


Specific needs

- In May, the UNHCR Representation to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino signed a **MoU with the NIHMP on protection and referral to social and health services**, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health services for PwSN. The MoU focuses on information sharing, capacity building, advocacy on access to health, and includes the ongoing support to the governance and implementation of the Mol **Vademecum for the identification, referral and care of persons living with vulnerabilities** developed with UNHCR support.

⁵ See also, [Chiara Cardoletti's post on X](#), [Chiara Cardoletti's post on X](#), [Chiara Cardoletti's post on X](#); [The European House Ambrosetti website](#).

 **Financial information**



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors to the Italy operation:

- **Private donors in Italy**
- **Italy**
- **The European Union**
- **Other private donors**

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.⁴

 **Fundraising**

- In May 2024, UNHCR raised **2.5 million euros** from private donors in Italy. Among the private sector donors, UNHCR extends its gratitude to Mediobanca, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, De la Costa S.r.l., Giovanni Croci and Maria Edmea Balbo Bertone di Sambuy for their contributions.
- In the same month, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Public Security / Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police allocated **904,000 euros** to UNHCR to provide temporary support to the Italian Government in registration activities aimed at reducing the backlog and improving the overall efficiency of access to the asylum procedure in Italy.

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

³ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

⁴ 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, Netherlands, Denmark, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, España con ACNUR, Republic of Korea, Ireland, Belgium, Australia, Japan for UNHCR.