

ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

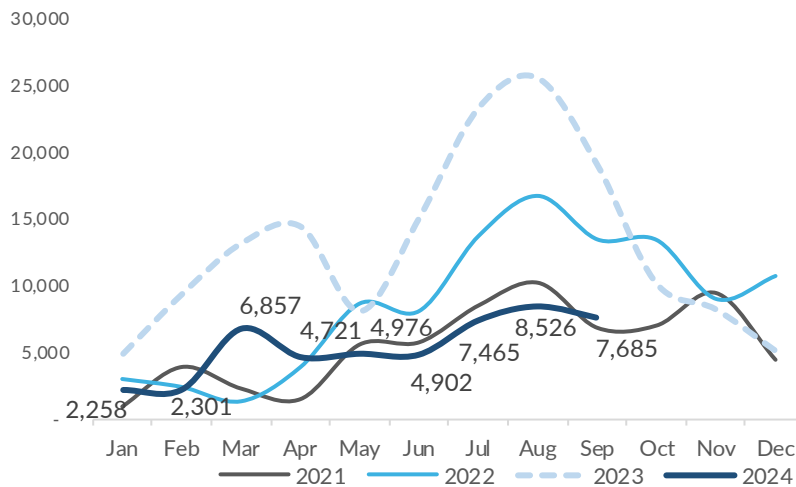
Overview

In the first nine months of 2024, 49,691 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 133,821 in the same period last year, a decrease of 63 per cent. Most of the 7,685 people who arrived in September disembarked in Sicily (6,170), followed by Calabria (653), Lazio (288), Sardinia (281), Liguria (206) and Apulia (87).

49,691 Jan-Sep 2024 ¹
133,821 Jan-Sep 2023 ¹

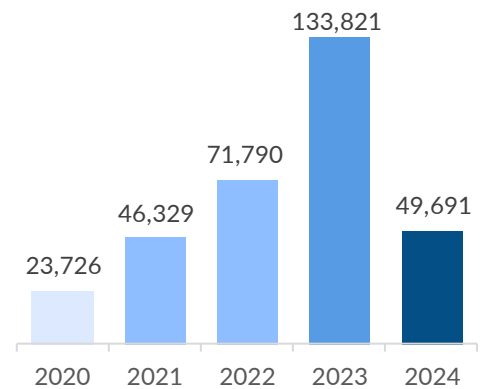
Monthly sea arrivals

January 2021 to September 2024



Yearly sea arrivals

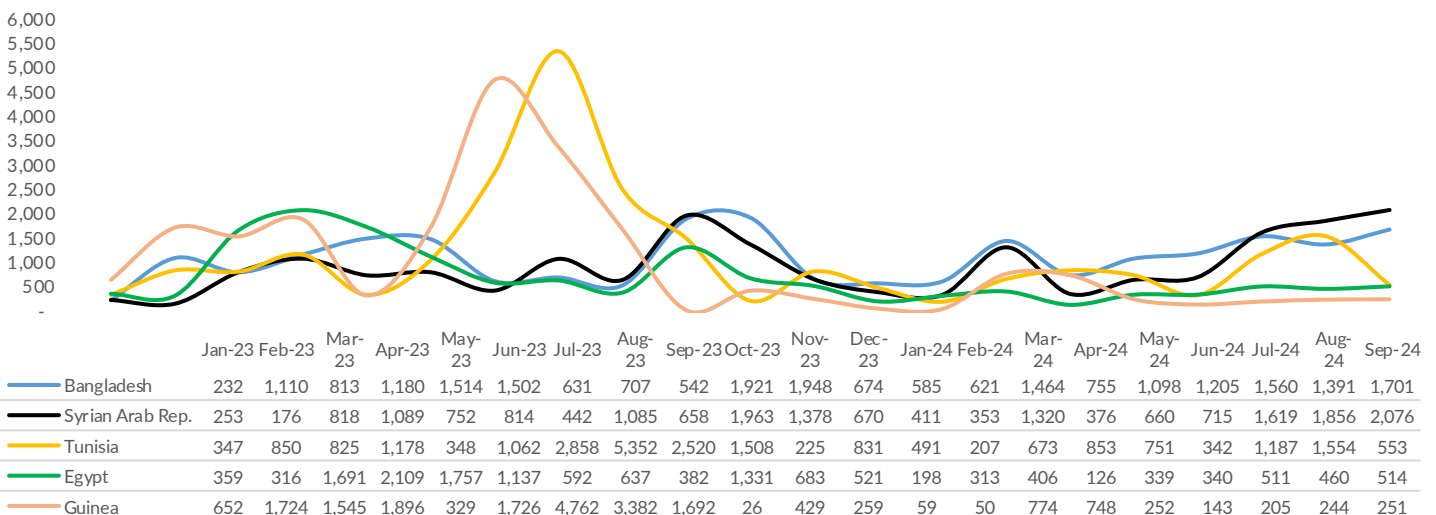
January to September, 2020-2024



Nationality of arrivals

In September, Syrians accounted for 27 per cent of all people arriving by sea (22% in August), followed by 22 per cent Bangladeshis (16% in August) and 7 per cent Tunisians (18% in August). Among other nationalities of people arriving in significant numbers by sea were Egyptians (7%), Pakistanis (5%), and Iranians, Algerians, Guineans, Afghans and Sudanese (3% each). In September, the main nationalities of those departing from Libya were Syrian (39%, 35% in August), Bangladeshi (32%, 26% in August) and Eritrean (9%, 8% in August). Most of those departing from Tunisia were Tunisians (40%, 62% in August), Guineans (17%, 10% in August) and Gambians (10%, 2% in August). Most of those departing from Türkiye were Iranians (35%, 36% in August), Afghans (30%, 31% in August) and Iraqis (24%, 17% in August). Almost all of those departing from Algeria were Algerians (99%, 97% in August) and 1 per cent Moroccans (no Moroccans recorded in August).

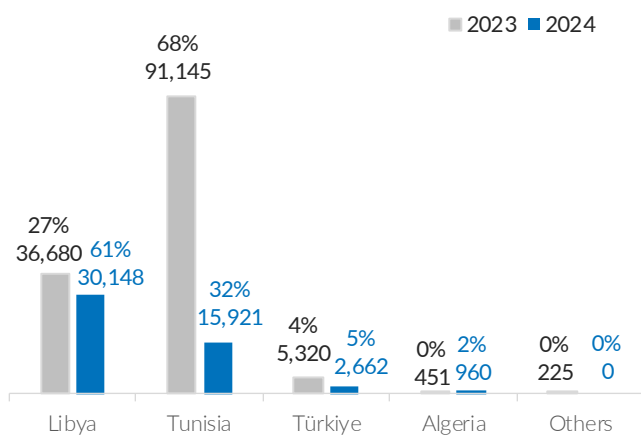
Most common nationalities of people arriving by sea - January 2023 to September 2024



Country of embarkation

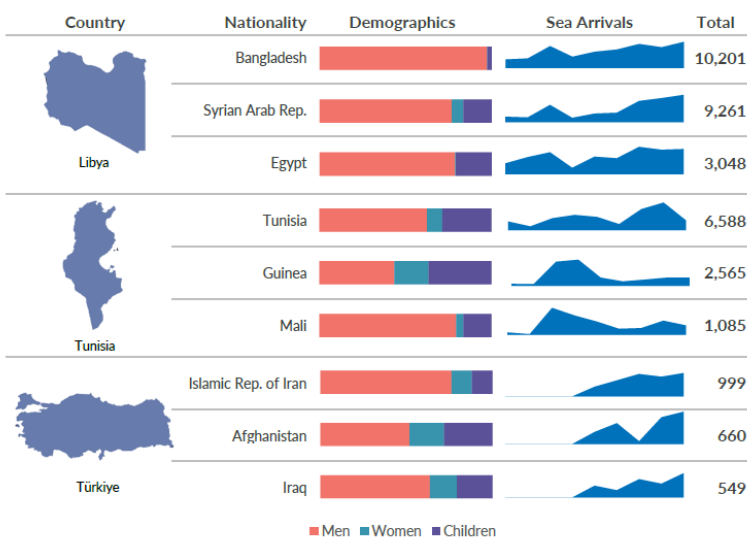
In the first nine months of 2024, 61 per cent of the people reaching Italy via sea departed from Libya (30,148 people in 634 landings), followed by 32 per cent from Tunisia (15,921 people in 555 landings), 5 per cent from Türkiye (2,662 people in 39 landings), and 2 per cent from Algeria (960 people in 103 landings). In September, as in August, Libya was the main country of departure (accounting for 69% of all the people landing in Italy), followed by Tunisia (18%), Türkiye (10%) and Algeria (3%).

January to September 2023 - 2024



Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Top 3 nationalities by country of embarkation, January to September 2024



Demographics of arrivals

January to September 2021 - 2024



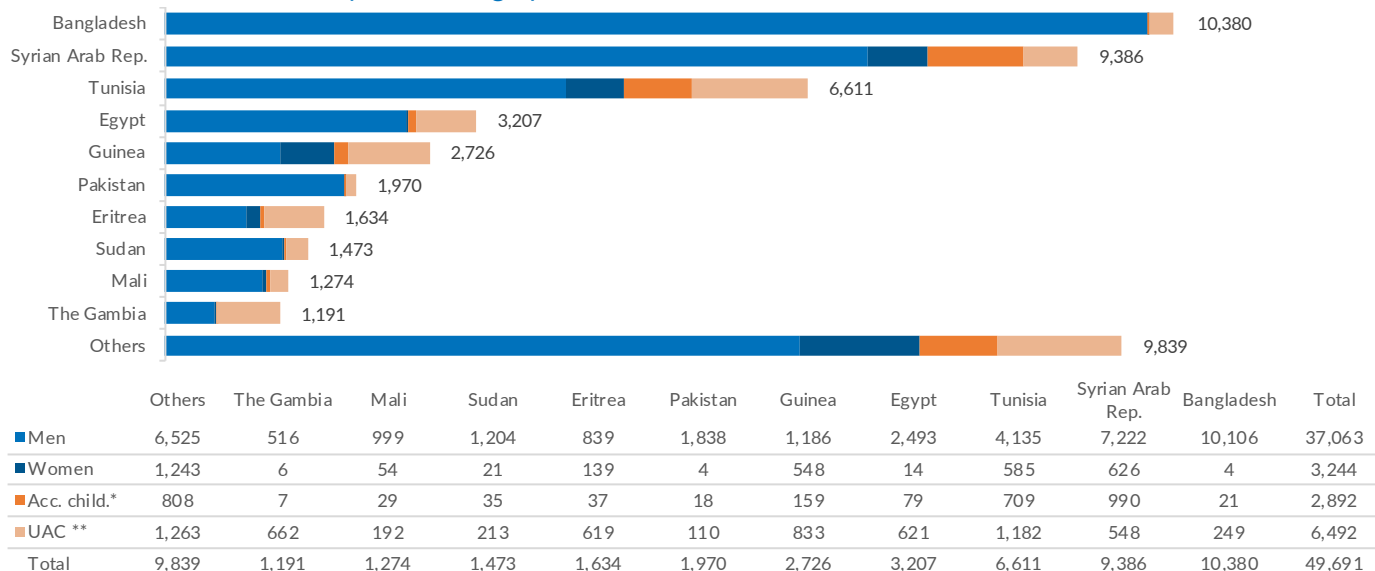
Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

In the first nine months of 2024, most people arriving by sea were adult males (75%), followed by unaccompanied children (UAC, 13%), adult females (7%) and accompanied children (6%).

In September, 459 adult females reached Italian shores, mainly originating from the Syrian Arab Republic (133), Tunisia (63), Afghanistan (40) and Guinea (39).

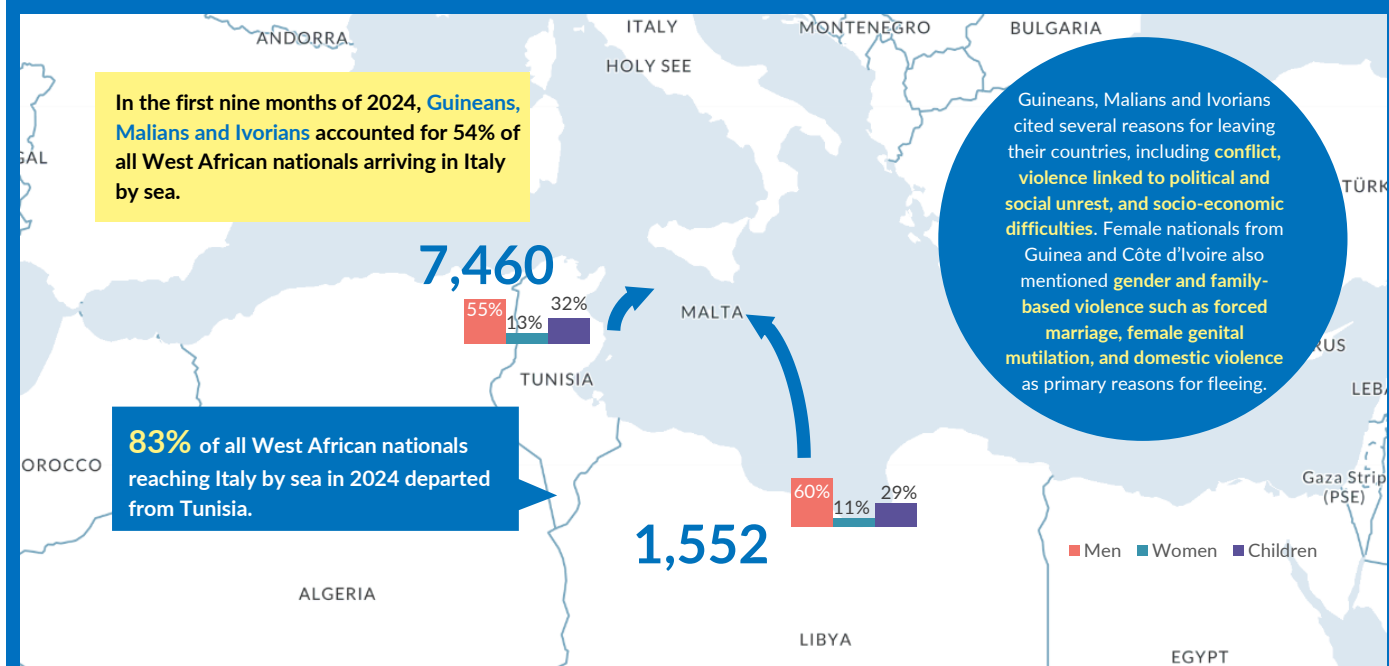
In the same month, 734 UAC arrived in Italy by sea. The main nationalities were Syrian (128), Egyptian (102), Tunisian (88) and Gambian (87).

Nationality and demographics of arrivals – January to September 2024



Quarterly focus

Arrivals by sea of West African nationals



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. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding. UNHCR purposely concentrated the quarterly analysis on three specific nationalities within the broader group of West African nationals, while other nationalities may be more prominently represented in certain criteria and profiles.

Sea arrivals

Based on substantive testimonies collected by UNHCR staff, this Quarterly focus analyses trends among West African nationals, particularly Guineans, Malians, and Ivorians, who continue to represent a significant proportion of arrivals despite an overall decrease in sea arrivals compared to 2023, offering deeper insights into their migration patterns. In the first nine months of 2024, **about 9,000 West African nationals** reached Italy by sea, **accounting for 18 per cent of all sea arrivals**, and originating from fourteen countries: Guinea, Mali, Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Liberia, and Guinea-Bissau. Of the **about 9,000 West African arrivals**, **nearly 5,000 (54%) were Guineans (2,726, 30%), Malians (1,274, 14%), and Ivorians (844, 9%)**. While most West African individuals arriving in Italy were adult males, age and gender profiles varied by nationality. **A significant proportion of adult females** were among Guineans and Ivorians (20% and 24% respectively of the total number of people arriving from those countries), and **unaccompanied children** (mostly aged 16-18) accounted for 31 per cent among Guineans, 30 per cent among Ivorians, and 15 per cent among Malians.

Guineans, Malians and Ivorians met by UNHCR cited several reasons for leaving their countries, including **conflict, violence linked to political and social unrest, and socio-economic difficulties**. Female nationals from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire also mentioned **gender-based violence** such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and domestic violence as primary reasons for fleeing. Most Malians, Ivorians and Guineans told UNHCR they planned to move on to **France**, to join family or an extended network.

Almost all disembarked in **Lampedusa**. The majority (83%) embarked in Tunisia, despite intensified border controls in the country which reduced departures since October 2023, with only a few crossings from Libya (Tripolitania) to Italy. In Tunisia, increased controls by authorities in 2024 led many West Africans interviewed by UNHCR to report hiding in the olive fields in the Sfax area (Tunisia) for several months, working occasionally until they have enough money for a smuggler to arrange their journey. The oil fields in the south of the country are said to host a significant number of sub-Saharan of various nationalities. They reported violent incidents and discrimination. Several West African individuals who had departed from Tunisia informed that the sea crossing on unseaworthy **makeshift metal boats**, costing around 300-500 euros, remains the only option for many, as the most affordable solution.

Migration routes and journeys

Most **Malians** told UNHCR they travelled through the town of Elkhail in Mali, at the border between Mali and Algeria, to reach the Bordj Badji Mokhtar town in Algeria. Reportedly, the most expensive part of the journey is between Bordj Badji Mokhtar and Algiers, over 2,000 km, usually costing about 250,000 CFA (400 euros). Malians also mentioned that those with an identity card can enter Algeria with an entry visa allowing them to work, thus facilitating their travel, while others take a desert route to evade controls. From Algeria, many Malians travel to Tunisia to take the sea journey to Italy. Most **Guineans** UNHCR spoke to have started their journey on a regular minibus trip from southern Guinea to Bamako in Mali, where they spent only a few days arranging with smugglers the next leg of their journey to Timbuktu. From there, they crossed the Algerian border at Bordj Badji Mokhtar town. Like the Malians, Guineans reached Algiers via the towns of Tamanrasset, In Salah, and Ghardaïa resorting to smugglers. Once in the capital, smuggling facilitators assist them in identifying Algerian nationals who take them by bus to Tebessa at the Tunisian border, from where it takes about four days to cross the border and travel to Sfax, before leaving for Italy. Unlike the previous two nationalities, most **Ivorians** reported to UNHCR that they left their country by plane, directly reaching Tunisia, where at Tunis airport, they met with smuggling facilitators, usually fellow nationals, who facilitate their transfer to Sfax to wait for the sea crossing.