Italy

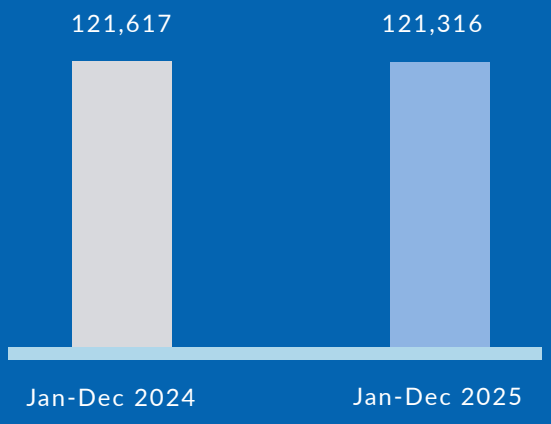
December 2025

In December, **3,010 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. The majority originated from Bangladesh (31%), Egypt (12%), and Sudan (10%). Among arrivals, **20 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 11 December, a **humanitarian evacuation flight with 122 refugees and people in need of international protection** arrived in Italy from Libya, under the MoU signed in December 2023 with the Italian MFA, MoI and Italian NGOs.

The second **Progress Review of the Global Refugee Forum** took place in Geneva from 15–17 December, with the participation of the Italian MFA, Assolavoro, the Municipality of Milan, and other Italian partners to advance shared global refugee goals.

TOTAL ARRIVALS



Source: Ministry of Interior for arrivals by sea. UNHCR estimates for arrivals by land and air. Please note that arrivals from Ukraine are not included in the chart.

KEY FIGURES

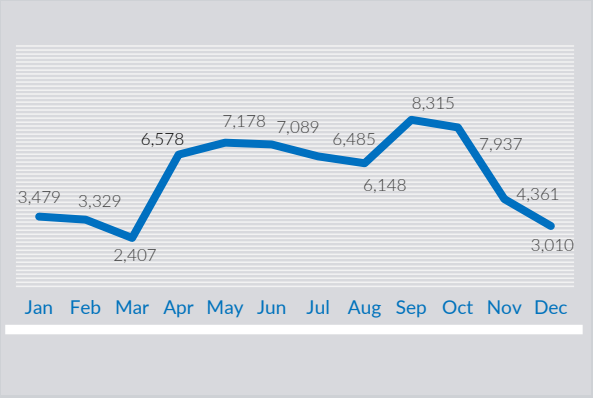
66,316

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-December 2025. 57,508 (87%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

205,307

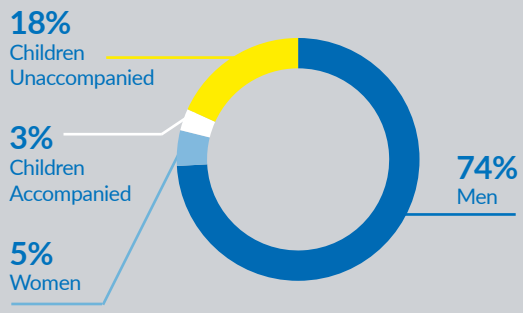
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine, based on the latest available data as of May 2025. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

SEA ARRIVALS BY MONTH IN 2025



Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals only.

SEA ARRIVALS BY GENDER AND AGE IN 2025



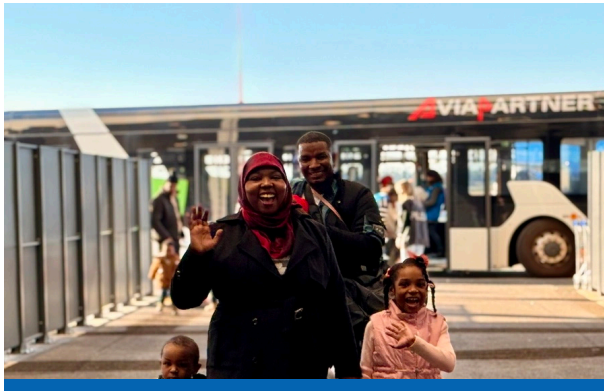
Source: Ministry of Interior. Please note that the chart refers to the latest cumulative data available. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In December, **3,010 people reached the Italian shores in 93 disembarkations**, marking a 2 per cent decrease compared to the same month in 2024. Among the arrivals, **20 per cent were children** (compared to 24% in November). **Thirty-one per cent originated from Bangladesh** (compared to 30% in November), followed by **Egyptians** (**12%**, 15% in November) and **Sudanese** (**11%**, 9% in November). Other nationalities arriving in significant numbers included Algerians (8%), Tunisians (6%), Somalis (5%), Malians and Pakistanis (4% each), Eritreans and Nigerians (3% each), and Ethiopians and Guineans (2% each). In December, **the majority of sea crossings departed from Libya** (**78%**, 2,343 persons), followed by Tunisia (13%, 403 persons), Algeria (9%, 256 persons) and Türkiye (less than 1%, 8 persons). Around **39 per cent of those arriving by sea** (1,161 people) **were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**.[1]
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **400 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in December by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of detected arrivals to around 6,400 in 2025. UNHCR considers that the actual number of arrivals is higher, as some crossing along this route go undetected. In December, those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh**, **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Türkiye** and **Morocco**. Instances of ill-treatment by the Police along the Western Balkan route continued being reported. UNHCR staff conducted outreach activities informing arrivals on their rights and how to apply for international protection in Italy and collecting testimonies. In light of reports of incidents, including fatalities among asylum-seekers, UNHCR continues to advocate with authorities for strengthened local reception capacities for people arriving through the Western Balkan route.

Resettlement and complementary pathways

- **Resettlement.** On 10 and 18 December, **two groups of refugees — 24 from Egypt and 28 from Pakistan** respectively — were resettled to Italy **through the national resettlement programme**, coordinated by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA), and with the support of UNHCR, IOM, and the Reception and Integration System (SAI). Upon arrival, all refugees were hosted within the SAI network.



Arrival thorugh the national resettlement programme of 122 refugees from Libya to Italy. © UNHCR/Gaetana Corvaglia

- **Humanitarian corridors.** On 11 December, **122 refugees and people in need of international protection were evacuated from Libya to Italy** on a UNHCR-organized charter flight. Members of the group originated mainly from Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea and included 31 women and 62 children. The evacuation was carried out under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2023 between the MoI, the MFA, UNHCR, ARCI and Comunità di Sant'Egidio, which has so far enabled the safe arrival of 659 persons to Italy. Following arrival, 39 individuals were accommodated within the SAI network, 30 were hosted by ARCI through its *Circoli Rifugio* network with the support of the Italian Buddhist Institute Soka Gakkai, and the remaining 53 were received by Comunità di Sant'Egidio in several Italian regions.[2]

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

[2] See also: UNHCR Press Release Libia: arrivati a Fiumicino 122 rifugiati grazie ad un'evacuazione umanitaria, 11 December 2025; see also Comunità Sant'Egidio post on X.

High-level mission

- On 9 December, the **UNHCR Regional Director for West and Central Africa** and the **Chief of Mission to Libya** met in Rome with representatives of the Italian Prime Minister's Office, the MoI, the MFA, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, and held a parliamentary hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence to strengthen cooperation on refugee protection. Discussions focused on solutions with particular attention to the Sahel and protection interventions along migratory routes.[3]

UNHCR Regional Director for WCA and the UNHCR Chief of Mission in Libya giving a hearing at the Senate. ©UNHCR

Asylum system

- On 12 December, UNHCR hosted the closing workshop of the **Statelessness Legal Clinics project** with the universities of Turin, Rome and Naples, bringing together students, tutors and legal practitioners to review the year's achievements and identify opportunities to further strengthen support for persons at risk of statelessness.
- Throughout December, UNHCR carried out missions to the Territorial Commissions of Brescia, Palermo, Trapani, Genoa and Cagliari as part of its Refugee Status Determination (RSD) strategy to contribute to enhancing the quality of Italy's asylum procedures through technical guidance and engagement with local actors.
- In December, UNHCR organized and co-facilitated an **online training cycle for the Territorial Commission of Turin** on addressing specific needs within the RSD procedure. MoI caseworkers and UNHCR-designated experts participated in sessions on child protection, protection from violence against women and children, trafficking, female genital mutilation and forced marriage, strengthening their capacity to identify and support applicants with heightened vulnerabilities while promoting protection-sensitive procedures and referrals to specialized local services.

Echoes of Resilience: DG ECHO–UNHCR Public Art Installation in Rome

On 3 December, a public art installation was inaugurated in Rome's Tor Marancia neighborhood as part of Echoes of Resilience, an EU-funded project developed with UNHCR to highlight cooperation between the European Union and UNHCR in supporting people who have been forced to flee their homes. Backed by the EU's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the project brings public art into cities across Europe to promote shared values of solidarity, resilience, and inclusion. Alongside Rome, similar installations can be found in Paris and Copenhagen. The Rome artwork, **Nurturing Hope** by artist Alice Pasquini, explores ideas of displacement, dignity, and renewal.[4]

[3] See also: UNHCR Italia Post on X, 9 December 2025.

[4] See also: UNHCR Press release, UNHCR e UE presentano un progetto di street art in diverse città per

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM PROGRESS REVIEW 2025

Between 15–17 December, the second Progress Review of the Global Refugee Forum was held in Geneva, co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland, reinforcing international solidarity and shared responsibility to enhance protection, solutions and inclusion for refugees and host communities.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi at the closing session of the GRF Progress Review 2025. © UNHCR/Pierre Albouy

Held midway between Global Refugee Forum (GRF) — the high-level meetings held every four years under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to mobilize political, financial, and technical support for refugees and the countries that host them — the event brought together nearly 1,500 participants from around 150 countries. They reviewed progress since the first GRF in 2019 and announced new commitments in key areas, including employment, education, safe and dignified voluntary returns, and complementary pathways. The discussions reaffirmed the Forum's role as a central platform for advancing the objectives of the GCR — the 2018 UN General Assembly-endorsed framework aimed at strengthening international responsibility-sharing and expanding access to durable solutions for refugees.

Contributions by Italian actors during the event highlighted a strong whole-of-society approach to implementing the GCR:

- The **MFA** reaffirmed Italy's leadership in promoting safe and legal pathways, including labour and educational corridors, as effective tools to expand access to protection and durable solutions.
- **Assolavoro** underscored the role of the private sector in advancing refugee labour inclusion through partnerships among businesses, social partners and institutions.[5]
- The **Municipality of Milan** illustrated how local authorities translate global commitments into concrete actions for reception, protection and integration.

President of Assolavoro Baroni intervening at the GRF Progress Review 2025. ©UNHCR/Michele Ferrauto

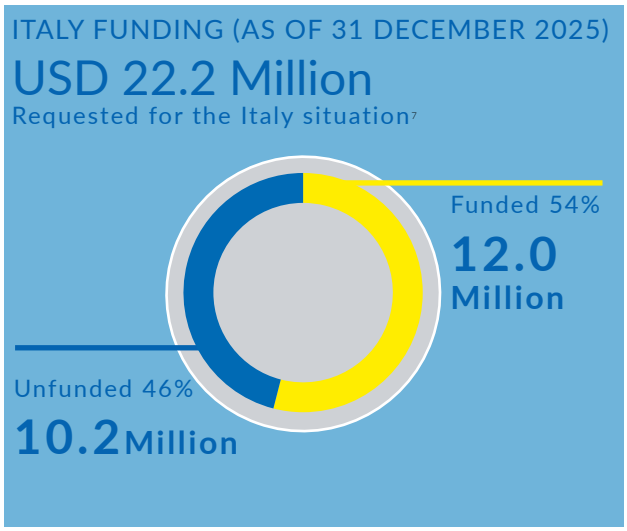
With contributions from academia, faith-based organizations, and the world of sport, Italy's engagement showcased national efforts and shared initiatives that can be adapted elsewhere, showing how, even in a global context of growing challenges, solutions can be strengthened over time.[6]

The event also marked the last official engagement of UN High Commissioner Filippo Grandi at the conclusion of his ten-year mandate. The day after the GRF Progress Review, the UN Secretary-General announced Barham Salih as the new UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

[5] See also: Assolavoro's Post on X, 15 December 2025.

[6] See also: International Institute of Humanitarian Law's Post on LinkedIn, 17 December 2025.

Financial information



- UNHCR is thankful for the critical support provided by donors to the UNHCR Multi-country office (MCO) in Italy in December, and throughout 2025, including for unearmarked, softly earmarked, and tightly earmarked contributions.[8]

Fundraising

- In December, the Italian MFA, through its Directorate General for Development Cooperation, allocated a total of **20 million euros** in support of UNHCR's humanitarian and protection response across a range of complex crises worldwide, including in **Syria, Mauritania, Sudan, Brazil, Niger, Chad, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq**.
- In 2025, Italy ranked among **UNHCR's top 10 donors worldwide**, following increased financial support provided across its ministries and reflecting its long-standing commitment to addressing forced displacement.
- UNHCR MCO Italy is thankful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In December, **3.9 milllion euros** were raised. Among the private donors, a special thanks goes to Banca Ifis, Barilla, GS1, Zac Srl.

CONTACTS
Giulia Manni, Reporting Assistant, **manni@unhcr.org**
Maria Giovanna Pietropaolo, External Relations Associate, **pietropa@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. The funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Italy MCO shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to indirect support costs and carry-over.

[8] 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: España con ACNUR, Sweden, Norway, Japan for UNHCR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Denmark, Private donors in the Republic of Korea, Private donors in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden for UNHCR, Private donors in the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Japan, USA for UNHCR, France, Australia, Ireland, Belgium, Private donors in Canada, Private donors in China.