

ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

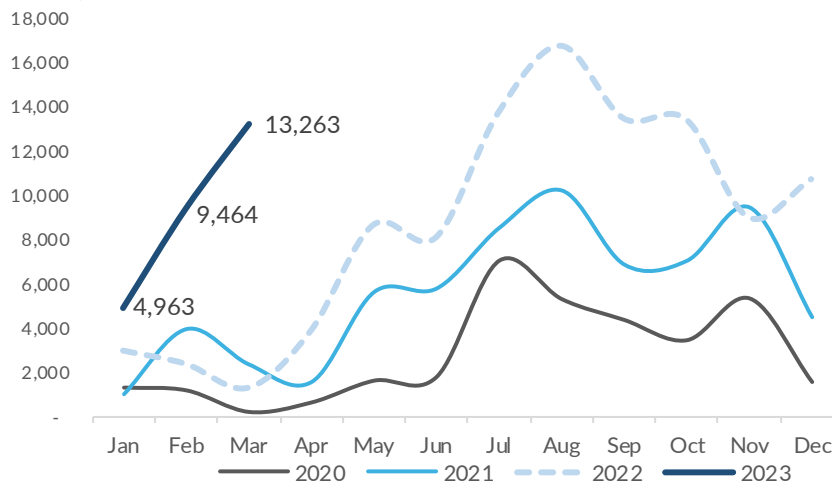
Overview

In the first three months of the year, 27,690 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 6,832 in the same period last year (+305%). March arrivals increased by 40% compared to February. The vast majority of people arriving in March - 76% - disembarked in Sicily (10,142 persons; 202 disembarkations), followed by Calabria (2,650), Apulia (295), Abruzzo (161), Sardinia (15).

27,690 Jan-Mar 2023 ¹
6,832 Jan-Mar 2022 ¹

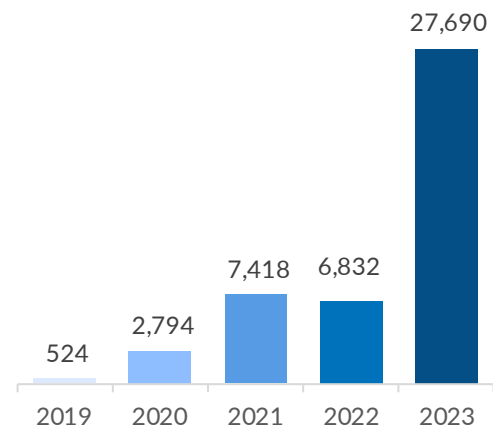
Monthly sea arrivals

January 2020 to March 2023



Yearly sea arrivals

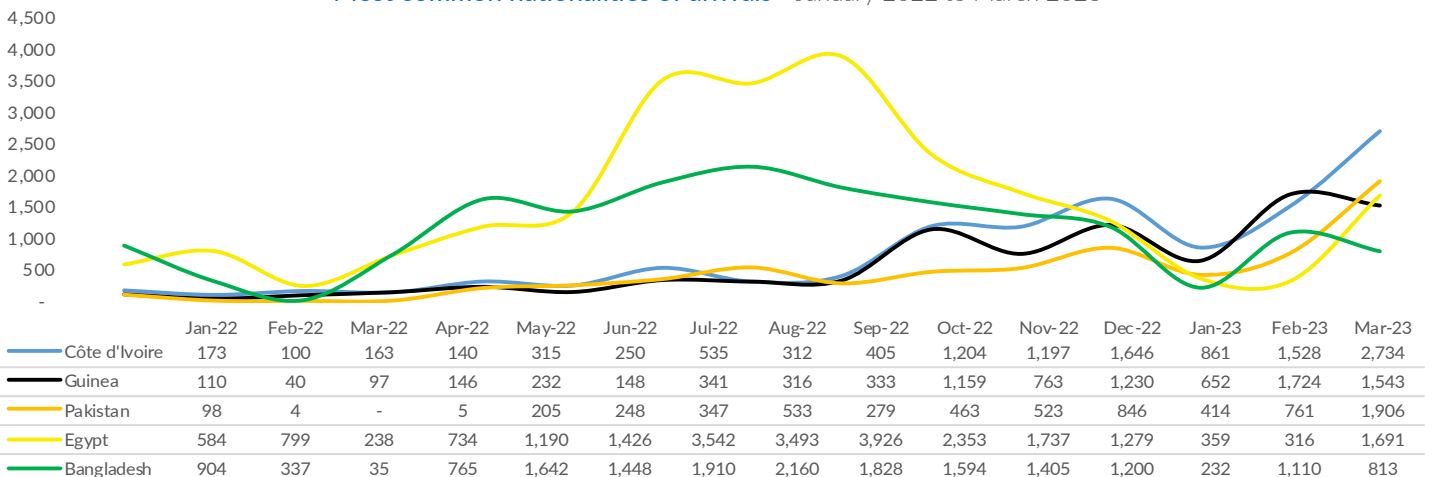
January to March, 2019-2023



Nationality of arrivals

Year to date, refugees and migrants reaching Italian shores mainly originated from Côte d'Ivoire (19%), Guinea (14%), Pakistan (11%), Egypt (9%), Bangladesh (8%), Tunisia (7%), Cameroon (5%), Syrian Arab Republic (5%), Mali (4%), and Burkina Faso (4%). In March, Ivorians made up 21% of new arrivals, growing by 79% compared to the previous month. They were followed by Pakistani nationals (14% of arrivals), who increased by 150% compared to February. The third main nationality of the month was Egyptian (13% of arrivals), registering a more than five-fold increase. Guinea ranked fourth, with a slight decrease compared to the previous month, but still representing 12% of monthly arrivals. Nationals originating from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea mostly embarked in Tunisia, while Egyptians and Bangladeshis departed from Libya.

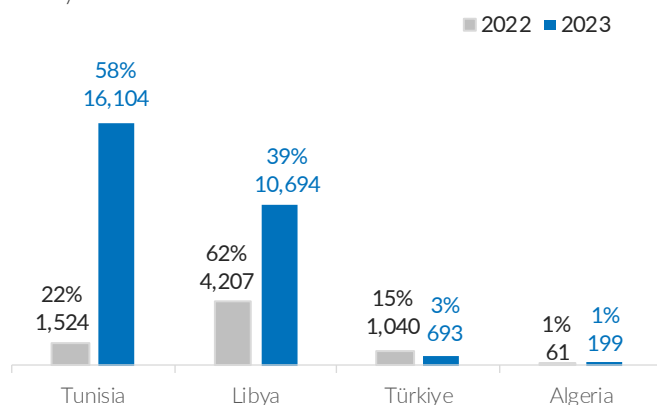
Most common nationalities of arrivals - January 2022 to March 2023



Country of embarkation

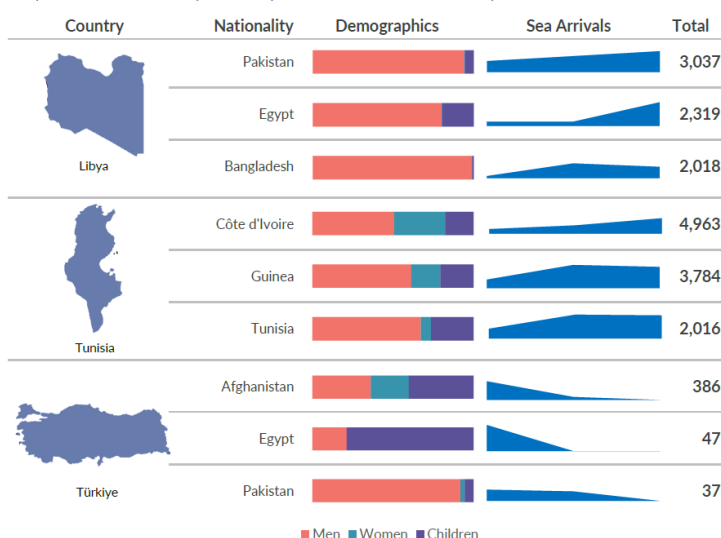
In the first three months of 2023, 58% of sea crossings departed from Tunisia (16,104 persons; 464 disembarkations), followed by 39% from Libya (10,694 persons; 83 disembarkations), 3% from Türkiye (693 persons; 8 disembarkations), and 1% from Algeria (199 persons, 12 disembarkations). In March, 57% of migrants and refugees departed from Tunisia (200 disembarkations), 43% from Libya (26 disembarkations) and less than 1% from Algeria.

January to March 2022 - 2023



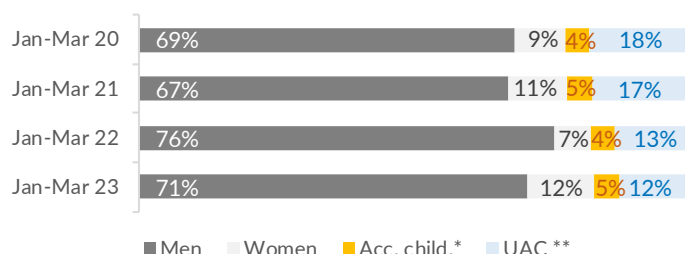
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly

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



Demographics of arrivals

January to March 2020 - 2023



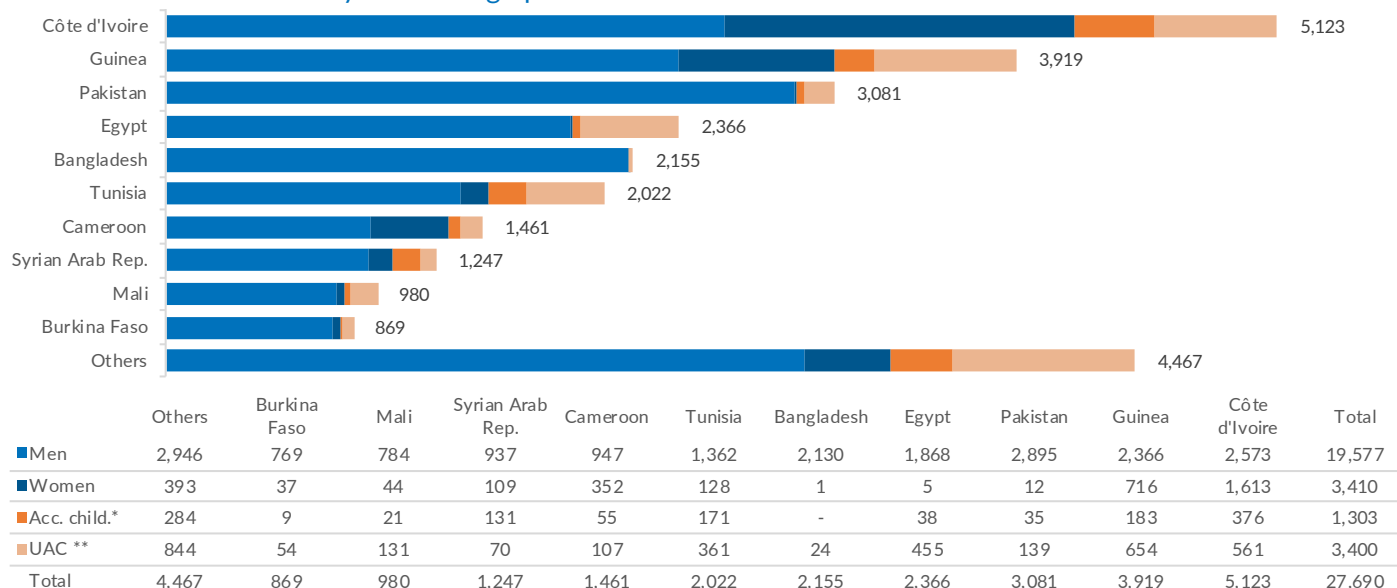
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly

In the first three months of 2023, most sea arrivals were adult men (71%), followed by adult women (12%), unaccompanied children (UAC, 12%), and accompanied children (5%).

In March 2023, 1,679 adult women reached Italian shores, mainly originating from Côte d'Ivoire (941), followed by Guinea (259) and Cameroon (181).

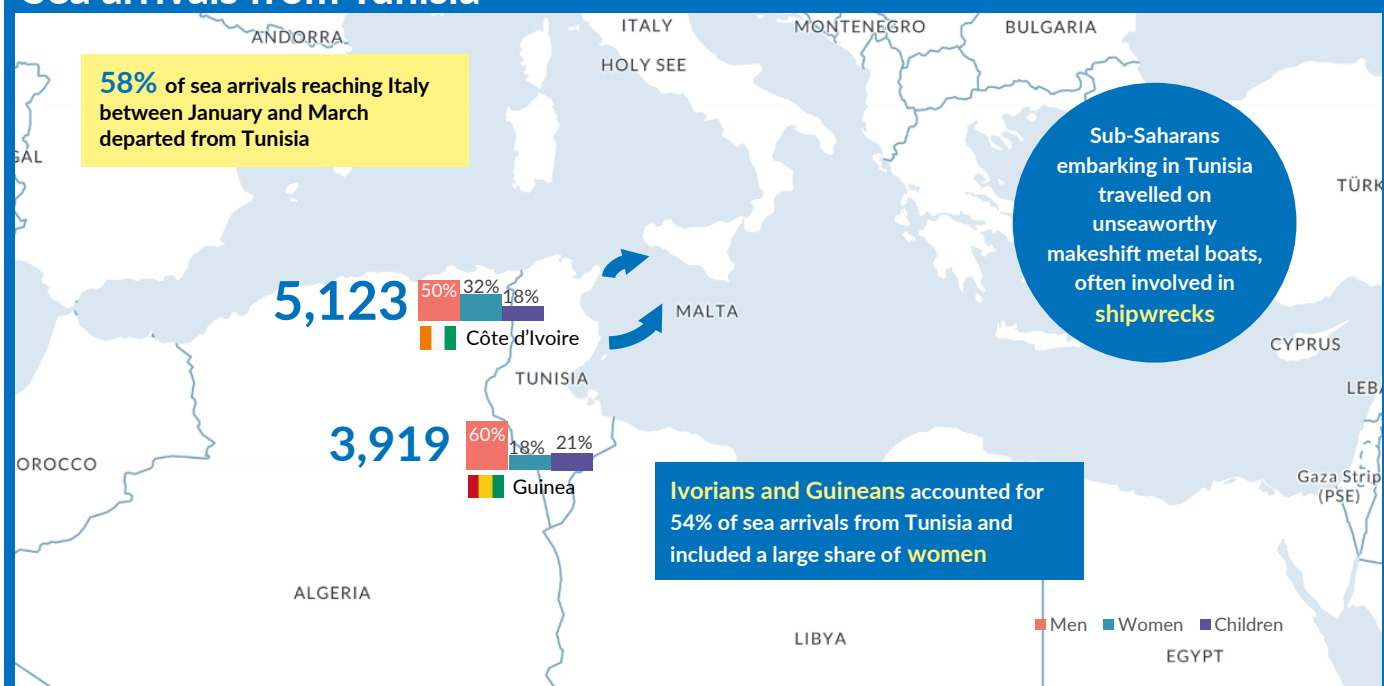
In the same period, 1,341 UAC arrived in Italy by sea. Main nationalities were Egyptian (336), Guinean (198), Ivorian (190), and Tunisian (143).

Nationality and demographics of arrivals – January to March 2023



Quarterly focus

Sea arrivals from Tunisia



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

- Starting from the last quarter of 2022, Tunisia became the main country of embarkation of sea arrivals heading to Italy surpassing Libya, which has traditionally recorded the highest number of departures to Italy. This trend continued during the first quarter of 2023, during which 58% of all sea arrivals reaching shore departed from **Tunisia**. The sharp increase in the number of **sub-Saharan nationals** departing from Tunisia largely accounts for this phenomenon. Since October 2022, sub-Saharanans became the main group of persons travelling on this route, traditionally mostly used by Tunisian nationals.
- Ivorian and Guinean** were the two main nationalities of sea arrivals from Tunisia, accounting for 54% of total sea arrivals from this country in 2023. They were followed by Tunisians. **Other sub-Saharan nationalities** have also been steadily growing since October 2022, with rising numbers of nationals from Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Mali, in addition to those from The Gambia and Senegal. High relative and absolute numbers of women, were recorded among Ivorians (32%) and Cameroonians (24%), contributing to make this **the sea route with the highest share of women among sea arrivals to Italy**. Many were **pregnant women**.
- Most nationals from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Cameroon mentioned to UNHCR that they had been **residing in Tunisia for long periods** (at times, for several years), working in sectors such as construction, agriculture and domestic aid, often underpaid and in precarious conditions. As **reasons for leaving Tunisia**, many referred to the increasingly difficult economic conditions in the country, following COVID and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The **insecurity** fueled by the February declarations against sub-Saharan migrants made by the Tunisian President contributed to additional movements out of Tunisia. In the first months of the year, there was also a growing number of sub-Saharanans only **transiting via Tunisia** en route to Italy.

Routes

- Several sub-Saharan nationals told UNHCR that they reached Tunisia via **Niger** and **Algeria**, and a minority via **Libya**. Movements were facilitated by the existing **visa-free regime** in Tunisia for most countries belonging to the west-African region. Trips from countries of origin were often organized with the support of sub-Saharan smugglers based in Tunisia, while the sea crossing was reportedly arranged by Tunisian smugglers. Many people told UNHCR that they intended to reach other European countries, **especially France**, because of their personal networks.
- Points of departure in Tunisia, as well as type of vessel, varied according to nationalities: sub-Saharanans almost exclusively departed from the southern city of Sfax on **unseaworthy makeshift metal boats**, while Tunisian nationals mainly left from coastal cities up north, such as Mahdia and Monastir, using fishing vessels. **Landings from Tunisia almost exclusively occurred in Lampedusa**, with a very small percentage of Tunisian nationals reaching Pantelleria or western Sicily. The use of **makeshift metal boats** (carrying around 50 persons on average), first appeared on this route in the autumn of 2022. These vessels, **exclusively used by sub-Saharanans**, are reportedly assembled overnight directly on the beaches. Their lower prices compared to fishing vessels and large availability, contributed to the increase of sea departures involving sub-Saharan nationals. Such unseaworthy makeshift metal boats were often involved in **shipwrecks**, increasing the deadliness of this sea route.