ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

Overview

In the first half of the year, 65,519 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 27,633 in the same period last year (+137%). June arrivals increased by 86% compared to May. The vast majority of people arriving in June - 85% - disembarked in Sicily (12,858), followed by Calabria (1,620), Campania (1,711), Sardinia (1,535), Tuscany (1,464), Apulia (86), Abruzzo (49), Marche (38), Lazio (30), Liguria (13).

Yearly sea arrivals
January to June, 2019-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jan-Jun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,779</td>
<td>6,949</td>
<td>20,532</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td>65,519</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td>65,519</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20,532</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td>65,519</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20,532</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td>65,519</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20,532</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td>65,519</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20,532</td>
<td>27,633</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationality of arrivals

Year to date, refugees and migrants reaching Italian shores mainly originated from Côte d’Ivoire (13%), Guinea (12%), Egypt (11%), Bangladesh (10%), Pakistan (9%), Tunisia (7%), Syrian Arab Republic (6%), Burkina Faso (6%), Cameroon (4%) and Mali (3%). In June, Guineans made up 11% of new arrivals, increasing again after the considerable drop registered in May, though not resuming to March and April levels. They were followed by Bangladeshis and Burkinabe nationals, each amounting to 10% of monthly arrivals. Refugees and migrants originating from Bangladesh arrived in stable numbers in June compared to May, while the figure of new arrivals originating from Burkina Faso peaked in the last month (1,471, accounting for 40% of yearly arrivals so far). Other sea arrivals, who reached Italy in significant numbers originated from Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, and Tunisia. Guineans, Burkinabes, Ivorians, and Tunisians almost exclusively departed from Tunisia, while Bangladeshis and Egyptians mainly embarked in Libya.

Most common nationalities of arrivals - January 2022 to June 2023

UNHCR 17 August 2023

more information: data.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean

1 All data are based on official Ministry of Interior figures shared with UNHCR. All figures are provisional and subject to change.
Country of embarkation

In the first half of 2023, 52% of sea crossings departed from Tunisia (34,321 persons; 979 disembarkations), followed by 43% from Libya (27,900 persons; 227 disembarkations), 4% from Türkiye (2,922 persons; 35 disembarkations), and 1% from Algeria (376 persons, 25 disembarkations). In June, 56% of migrants and refugees departed from Tunisia (233 disembarkations), 43% from Libya (64 disembarkations), 8% from Türkiye (15 disembarkations) and 1% from Algeria.

Demographics of arrivals

In the first six months of 2023, most sea arrivals were adult men (73%), followed by unaccompanied children (UAC, 12%), adult women (10%), and accompanied children (5%).

In June 2023, 1,427 adult women reached Italian shores, mainly originating from Guinea (384), followed by Côte d’Ivoire (334) and Afghanistan (114).

In the same period, 1,827 UAC arrived in Italy by sea. Main nationalities were Guinean (267), Tunisian (236), Eritrean (212), and Gambian (191).
Profiles

- Overall, the number of Sudanese sea arrivals reaching Italy has been relatively low during the first half of 2023, with 1,024 Sudanese nationals registered by the end of June (less than 2% of total sea arrivals). However, a gradual increase in Sudanese sea arrivals was recorded throughout the year, except for May - a month with lower arrivals due to bad weather conditions. In June, 425 Sudanese nationals arrived in Italy, accounting for 42% of Sudanese arrivals recorded in 2023 so far.

- Several Sudanese arrivals mentioned that they originated from the regions of Darfur and Khartoum. Most were males, who reported being at risk of being targeted by military groups and facing potential detention or forced recruitment. Children represented 12% of the group, an overall majority was unaccompanied.

Routes

- Traditionally, Sudanese nationals used to cross the central Mediterranean from western Libya. They had typically been residing in the country for long periods, sometimes for years, and decided to move onwards due to a deteriorating situation. On the contrary, Sudanese, who left their country of origin in 2023, either before or after the conflict erupted in mid-April, mostly embarked in Tunisia, trying to avoid the interception-detention spiral in western Libya. Moreover, the price requested for the sea crossing from Tunisia onboard makeshift metal boats (on average EUR 500-600), was lower compared to that from Tripolitania (on average 800-900 USD), making this route more attractive.

- Since early 2023, the number of Sudanese departing from Tunisia grew progressively, surpassing the Libya-sea route as of March and peaking in June (87%). The majority landed in Lampedusa. Many reportedly reached Tunisia travelling via Chad, Niger and Algeria. Once in Tunisia, they headed south to Sfax, the main departure hub for sub-Saharan.

- New arrivals told UNHCR that both Tunis and Sfax host a large Sudanese community. They referred to the difficult living conditions in the country due to discrimination from the local communities, in a context with already limited opportunities for the local population. Other sub-Saharan nationals, who had been residing in Tunisia for long, filling the gap in the Tunisian labour market - such as Ivorians, Guineans and Cameroonian - also left the country in 2023 because of the increasingly difficult economic conditions in Tunisia. The rising insecurity after the 21 February 2023 speech by the Tunisian President, targeting sub-Saharan nationals, contributed to additional movements out of the country. During the first months of 2023, an increasing number of sub-Saharans, who were only transiting through Tunisia to reach the Italian shores, was also observed.