Italy

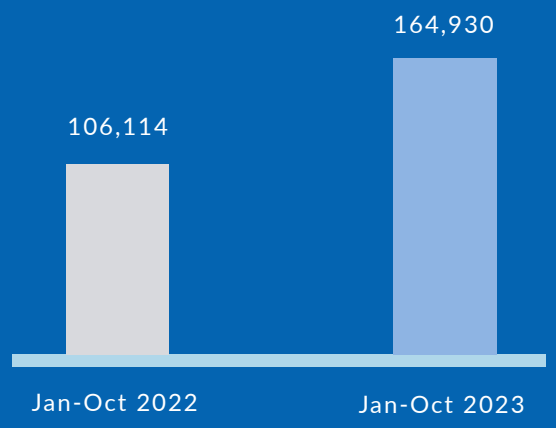
October 2023

In October, **10,277 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh and Tunisia. 17% were children. Additional arrivals reached Italy **via land and air**.

On 3 October, UNHCR, along with IOM and UNICEF, took part in the **National Day of Remembrance and Reception in Lampedusa** to honour the victims of the tragic shipwreck that occurred 10 years ago.

From 24 to 27 October, the newly appointed **UNHCR Director for the Regional Bureau for Europe conducted a mission to Italy**, during which he met with Italian authorities and partners.

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

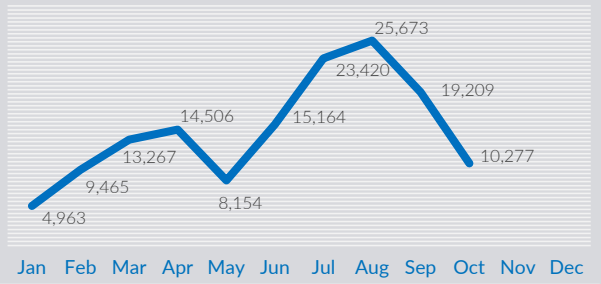
144,098

Sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different ports across the country in January-October 2023. 124,539 (86% of the total) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff, following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

182,597

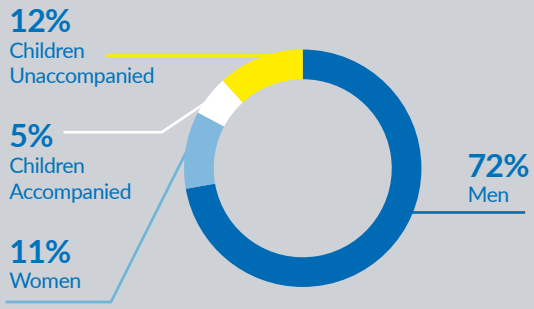
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of October 2023. 71% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

SEA ARRIVALS BY MONTH



Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals only. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

SEA ARRIVALS BY GENDER AND AGE



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

Source: Ministry of Interior. Please note that the chart refers to the latest cumulative data available.

Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In October, refugees and migrants arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea decreased compared to September. During the month, **10,277 persons reached the Italian shores**, a 46% decrease compared to the previous month. Among total arrivals, **17% were children**. New arrivals mainly originated from the **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Bangladesh** (19% each), and **Tunisia** (13%). Other nationalities were Egyptians (13%), Eritreans and Pakistanis (5% each). Differently from last month, the vast majority departed from Libya, around 68% of monthly arrivals. The rest from Tunisia (19%), Türkiye (12%) and Algeria (1%). Almost 4,763 people (46% of the total, down 5% compared to September) were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search And Rescue (SAR) operations. In October, **the situation at the Lampedusa hotspot improved** when the centre di not exceed maximum capacity, compared to the peak of arrivals recorded in September. On 28 October, a shipwreck involving a group of Tunisian nationals occurred off the coast of *Marinella di Selinunte*, Sicily. While the Italian authorities identified more than 30 survivors in various nearby locations, 5 bodies were tragically found stranded and around 15 people were reported missing. During the reporting period, 9,982 people (around 87% of monthly sea arrivals) were assisted and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation.[1] Due to several shipwrecks, nearly **1,600 people have died or gone missing** in the Central Mediterranean in the first ten months of the year.

- **National Day of Remembrance and Reception.** **3 October marks the anniversary of the 368 refugees and migrants who tragically lost their lives in the shipwrecks off the coast of Lampedusa in 2013**. The UNHCR Representative for Italy, San Marino and the Holy See highlighted that to date, more than 28,000 migrants and refugees have lost their lives in the Mediterranean. On average this is almost 8 lives per day - an unacceptable human toll. Stressing the urgency of the situation, she underlined that cooperation and solidarity among States are crucial in addressing this complex humanitarian and political challenge.[2] On the 10th anniversary of the tragic shipwreck, UNHCR, together with IOM and UNICEF, recalled that **saving lives must be the absolute priority** and called for increased European resources to support dedicated, proactive and coordinated search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean.[3] On the same day, numerous students from various schools across Italy took part in the UNHCR workshop "**Refugees Need Peace and Opportunities**" held on the island as part of the Day of Remembrance and Reception organized by the *Comitato 3 Ottobre*.

Every year the UNCHR participates in the commemorations organized by the Comitato 3 Ottobre. ©UNHCR/Michele Cirillo

- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** **Some 1,300 land arrivals were also intercepted at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia in September**. Since the beginning of 2023, more than 9,000 new arrivals were reported in this area. Those travelling by land via south-east Europe mainly originated from **Afghanistan**, **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. New arrivals reported **systematic ill treatment and pushbacks** by the Bulgarian, Croatia and Turkish Police. UNHCR staff continued to conduct outreach activities, collecting testimonies and informing new arrivals on their rights and ways to apply for protection in Italy.

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

[2] See also, Twitter post from Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, 3 October 2023; La Repubblica, Interview with Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, 3 October 2023

[3] See also Joint press release from UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, 2 October 2023.

Child protection

- Following September's webinars introducing the Vademecum for the identification, referral and care of persons with vulnerabilities, the implementation phase began. Notably, on 5, 17 and 30 October, meetings were held for the establishment of the local Working Groups (WGs) in Milan and Rome, and coordination meetings of the Crotone and Lampedusa's WGs to work on the drafting of local Standard Operating Procedures.

- On 12 October, as part of National Civil Protection Week, a technical roundtable was held in Rome to discuss the outcomes of the joint training held by UNHCR and UNICEF, *Umana Solidarietà Consortium*, and CIDAS on the operational tools of the practical guide "**Mitigating the risk of gender-based violence and protection mechanisms for minors in the widespread reception system**". Participants included reception entities, partner CSOs implementing the tool, particularly in the context of the Ukrainian fleeing population, and representatives from the National Committee of Civil Protection Volunteers.

Resettlement and complementary pathways

Refugees arriving to Italy through the UNICORE University Corridors project, implemented by UNHCR and partners. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

- **University corridors.** On 13 October, **the first group of 34 refugee students arrived in Italy,** out of an expected 51, from Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. They will pursue 2-year degree programmes at 32 different Italian universities, in this fifth edition of the UNICORE - University Corridors for Refugees project.[4] The scholarshipswere awarded through a selection process by the universities themselves based on academic merit and motivation. The University Corridors for Refugees programme is coordinated by UNHCR and involves 41 universities that have offered over 200 scholarships to refugee students over the past five years. The project is made possible thanks to the collaboration of partners such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, *Caritas Italiana*, *Diaconia Valdese*, *Centro Astalli*, *Fondazione Finanza Etica*, Gandhi Charity, and a wide network of local partners, who support the students in their studies and integration.

Training

UNHCR delivering a session to students as part of the Day of Remembrance and Rceptions organized by Comitato 3 Ottobre. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

- On 2 October, **UNHCR and Programme Integra organized a workshop within the Statelessness Legal Clinics project**, with the participation of students and supervisors from three partner universities; Università Roma Tre, Università Federico II and International University College, who currently offer legal aid to stateless persons in Turin, Rome and Naples. The workshop was a forum to review the cases assisted so far and exchange legal strategies, approaches and best practices among students. Professor Katie Robertson, Director of the Stateless Legal Clinic at Melbourne Law School, one of the few other existing legal clinics worldwide focusing on statelessness, joined the discussion as a legal clinic expert.

- On 9 October, UNHCR took part in a **training session on Credibility Assessment in the asylum procedures** organized by *Scuola Superiore della Magistratura*, Turin. This event was designed for asylum lawyers, judges, and court staff. On the same day, UNHCR, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), and quality experts from the National Asylum Commission trained 30

[4] See also, UNHCR, Arrivato in Italia il primo gruppo di studenti rifugiati vincitori di borse di studio, 13 October 2023.

eligibility officers from the Ministry of Interior. The purpose was to introduce a training package for interpreters of the Territorial Commission, aimed **to ensure quality standards for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interpreting services**.

- On 19 and 20 October, UNHCR conducted **two online trainings on Child Protection and International Protection for voluntary guardians** in the Sardinia region, and Lodi and Mantua provinces. On 23 and 24 October, UNHCR organised a two-day workshop on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for partners. On 27 October, **UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint session on guardianship** on the UNICEF live-chat U-Report for children and adolescents.

- On 24 October, UNHCR took part in the first session of the new "**Know Your Rights**" course organised by UNHCR partner DLA Piper, which kicked off in Milan; the course, in eight lessons, is a **legal education programme for refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons stateless persons**, providing an overview of different legal aspects (from housing, health, work).

External engagement

- On 10 October, H.E. Ambassador Grassi, Italy's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Geneva, spoke to the UNHCR Executive Committee about **Italy's complementary pathways for refugees,** including humanitarian corridors, emergency evacuations, education and labour pathways.[5] He also called for pledges and contributions for the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December.[6] The UNHCR Office for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino is presently supporting Italian actors in making pledges and commitments.

Ambassador Grassi speaks at the UNHCR High Commissioner Executive Committee in Geneva. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

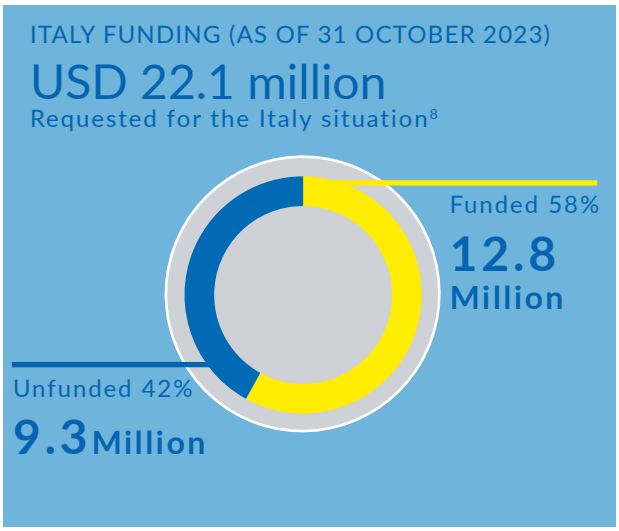
- On 17 October, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, San Marino and the Holy See, outlined UNHCR's positions and commented on the new provisions of Decree Law 133/2023 at a hearing in Parliament. She reiterated **UNHCR's commitment to collaborate and dialogue with Italy to enhance its protection system for refugees and asylum seekers**.[7]

- From 24 to 27 October, **the Director of UNHCR Regional Office for Europe (RBE)**, Philippe Leclerc, **conducted a mission to Italy** where he met with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/General Directorate for Development Cooperation, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Police, the Police of Border, local representatives and civil society organisations. Notably, on 27 October, UNHCR Director RBE, alongside the UNHCR Representative for Italy, San Marino and the Holy See, **met with Minister of Interior Piantedosi to discuss current challenges and possible solutions to protect refugees along the Mediterranean route and in Italy**.

UNHCR's new Regional Director for Europe meets with UNHCR team present on the island of Lampedusa. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

[5] See also, UNHCR, Twitter post, Ambassador Grassi intervention at the UNHCR ExCom, 10 October 2023.
[6] The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) is a platform for stakeholders to share good practices and pledge support for refugees and the communities that host them. It is part of the Global Compact on Refugees, a global agreement that aims to protect and assist refugees and their hosts. The GRF is held every four years and brings together decision-makers and stakeholders from around the world, including refugees, States, cities, the private sector, UN agencies, and others. It reflects the belief that lasting solutions must involve everyone in society and be guided by those directly affected. The GRF also provides the opportunity for States and stakeholders to announce concrete pledges and contributions, highlight progress made, and take stock of the challenges and opportunities ahead. The next GRF will take place from 13 to 15 December 2023 in Geneva.
[7] See also, UNHCR, Chiara Cardoletti Twitter post, Thanks to Montecitorio for the opportunity, 17 October 2023

Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors, who have contributed to the Italy operation:

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UNHCR is also grateful to the donors, including Italy, who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.[9]

Fundraising

In October, UNHCR raised **2 million euros from private donors** in Italy, bringing the total raised since the beginning of the year to 26.8 million euros. The main contributors from the private sector in October were H&M Italy and Fondazione Ernst & Young, who supported the Climate Response portfolio and the DAFI scholarships, respectively. The Climate Response portfolio aims to address the impact of climate change on refugees and displaced people, while the DAFI scholarships provide higher education opportunities for refugee students.

In the month of October, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation/ Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies contributed **1.5 million euros** to support the UNHCR project "Delivery of protection to refugees in Gedaref, Kassala and White Nile State, Sudan". In the same month, the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of Interior made a **99,610 euros contribution** to support UNHCR's monitoring activities of the management of facilities intended for the widespread reception of Ukrainian refugees in Italy.

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LINKS

UNHCR data portal - UNHCR Italy - Twitter - Facebook - LinkedIn - Global Focus

[8] Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.
[9] 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; Private donors Spain; Netherlands; Denmark; France; Private donors Republic of Korea; Germany; Switzerland; Private donors Italy; Private donors Sweden; Belgium; Ireland; Private donors USA. Donors of softly earmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Private donors Germany; United States of America; Private donors Sweden; Private donors Canada; Private donors USA; Private donors Switzerland.