

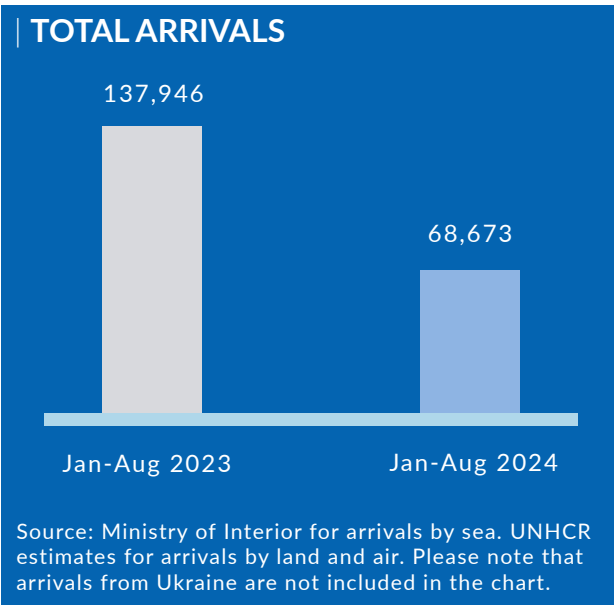
# Italy

## August 2024

In August, **8,526 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from the Syrian Arab Republic (22%), Tunisia (18%) and Bangladesh (16%). **21 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

August was the month of the **Paris 2024 Paralympics**, where a **record number of refugee athletes participated**, including Amelio Castro Grueso, who is hosted in Italy and competed in wheelchair fencing.

On 1 August, UNHCR was heard before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on the Mattei Plan. **UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of forced displacement in the Plan's strategy**.



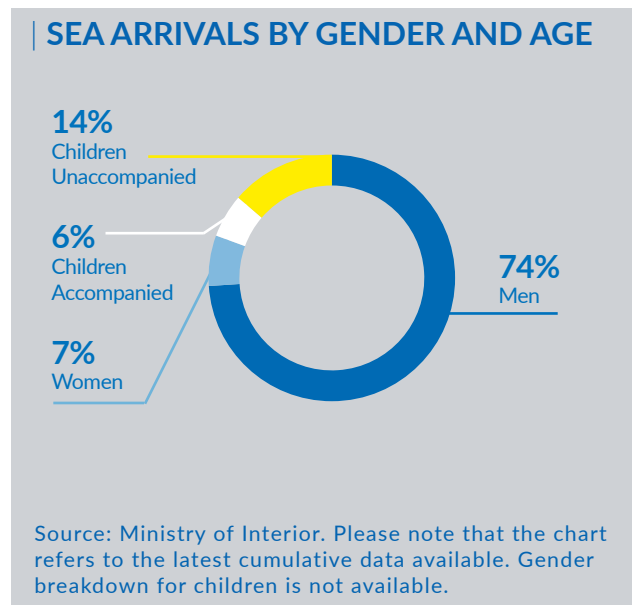
### KEY FIGURES

# 42,006

**People reached Italy by sea** disembarking in different ports across the country in January-August 2024. 34,592 (82%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

# 194,684

**Temporary protection applications** of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of August 2024. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





## Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In August, **8,526 people reached the Italian shores** in 265 disembarkations, a 67 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. Among arrivals, 21 per cent were children (20% in July). **Twenty-two per cent originated from the Syrian Arab Republic** (same as in July), followed by **18 per cent from Tunisia** (16% in July) and **16 per cent from Bangladesh** (21% in July). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea were Eritreans (7%), Egyptians (5%), Pakistanis (4%), Guineans, Sudanese and Iranians (3% each). In August, **almost two-third of sea crossings departed from Libya** (62%, 5,265 people), followed by 29 per cent from Tunisia (2,485 people), 5 per cent from Türkiye (604 people) and 2 per cent from Algeria (172 people). In August, **almost half of the people arriving by sea (48%, 4,123 people) were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.**<sup>1</sup> Tragically, **79 people have died or went missing in the Central Mediterranean** as a result of shipwrecks, bringing the **total estimated number of dead and missing since the beginning of 2024 to 1,214.**<sup>2</sup>
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **600 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in July by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of arrivals to 4,600 since the beginning of the year. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, the Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, Afghanistan 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.



## External engagement

- On 1 August, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino was heard before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies tasked to express an opinion on the Mattei Plan. **UNHCR expressed its appreciation for the Government of Italy's focus on Africa** through the Plan and stressed the importance of addressing forced displacement within the Plan's areas of intervention **to foster sustainable development and stability for the displaced populations**. Moreover, UNHCR highlighted the Plan's potential to support the local integration of refugees, particularly through its training component, which could benefit both refugees and host communities, also referring to **the establishment of "labour corridors"** through recent Italian legislation and related pilot initiatives already launched in partnership with the Gol, the private sector and civil society organizations. The full text of the informal hearing is available [here](#).



## Asylum system

- UNHCR decided **to monitor the implementation of the Italy-Albania Protocol**, through an exchange of letter with the Ministry of Interior, and in line with its mandate under international law to supervise the application of the 1951 Refugee Convention and provide protection for refugees. Based on an exchange of letters with the Italian MoI, UNHCR will therefore undertake **a role of monitoring and consultation of the people to ensure that the right to seek asylum is protected and that the processes put in place under the Protocol are consistent with international law**. In its monitoring role, with an initial duration of 3 months, UNHCR will seek to improve the protection of asylum seekers and refugees by identifying and reporting to the competent authorities any issues of concern and advocate for enhanced protection safeguards. UNHCR will call on the parties to the Protocol **to ensure that the modalities of its implementation do not result in the externalization of asylum obligations and responsibility-shifting, which are contrary to international law**. At the end of the 3-month period UNHCR will make available its recommendations to the Italian government and other interested actors. The full text of the press release is available [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

<sup>2</sup> Data source: Missing Migrants project of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



## Training

- In line with its judicial engagement strategy, UNHCR facilitated a face-to-face module on integration for six new officials of the Ministry of Interior, recruited in July, who will be responsible for conducting remote interviews under the Italy-Albania Protocol.



## Child protection

- In August, the Brescia Juvenile Court authorized the repatriation of over 60 Ukrainian minors who had been residing in Rota d'Imagna, Bedulita, and Pontida for more than two years. UNHCR acknowledged the decision but raised concerns about the potential international protection needs of the group and the risks associated with returning them to a war-torn country. Following UNHCR-led protection briefings, some children expressed a desire to seek asylum. Consequently, the Court paused their repatriation, pending further evaluation by Ukrainian psychologists. UNHCR stressed the importance of making informed decisions that prioritize the children's best interests, including ensuring continuity of care for those with specific needs. For more information, please refer to [UNHCR position on voluntary return to Ukraine](#) and to [UNHCR position on the voluntary repatriation of unaccompanied Ukrainian children](#).

## PARIS 2024 PARALYMPICS

On 28 August, the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games kicked off with the Paralympic Refugee Team, featuring a record eight athletes from six countries, including Italy, competing in six different sports: para-athletics, para-lifting, para-table tennis, para-taekwondo, para-triathlon, and wheelchair fencing. Among them was [Amelio Castro Grueso](#), hosted in Italy, whose story is one of incredible resilience. He was paralyzed from the waist down following a car accident, and he spent four years in hospital for rehabilitation. Two years ago, Amelio arrived in Italy forced to flee his country. Despite the many challenges, he found solace and purpose in wheelchair fencing. His hard work paid off when he won a gold medal at the Italian Paralympic Fencing Tournament, leading to his selection for the Paralympic Refugee Team. "Having a refugee team is a very nice thing because it allows us to feel more human," said Amelio. "You really feel like you are part of a community, and I am proud to be among them."

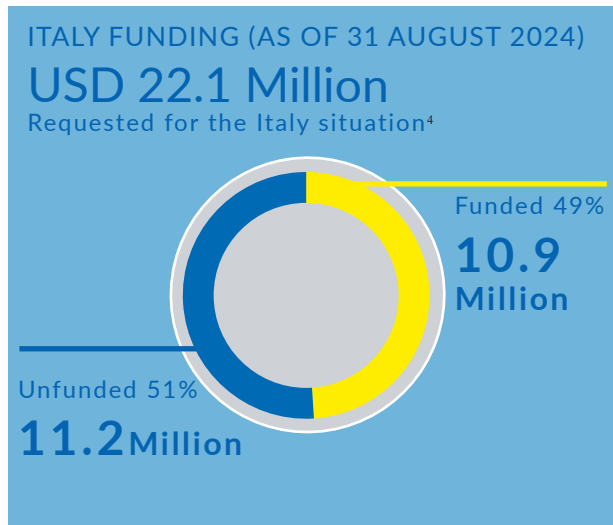
This year's Paralympic Games marked a significant achievement for refugees worldwide, with the largest refugee team ever and the first medal won by an athlete from the Refugee Olympic Team. It is estimated that at least 18 million people with disabilities have been forcibly displaced by war, conflict, violence, and human rights violations. They are often at increased risk of violence, discrimination, exploitation, and abuse, and face barriers to accessing support, care, education, sport, and livelihood opportunities. As recalled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, who participated in the inauguration of the Paralympic Games: "These incredible athletes have overcome unimaginable odds to reach the pinnacle of sporting success; their presence on the world stage sends a message of hope to millions of refugees around the world and to all of us. This extraordinary team reminds us how important it is for people with disabilities to have the opportunity to participate fully and equally in society."<sup>3</sup>



Amelio Castro Grueso from the Paralympics Refugee team, in Paris © Elif Gulec

<sup>3</sup> See also, [Cindy Ngamba vincerà la prima storica medaglia per la Squadra Olimpica dei Rifugiati](#), 6 August 2024; [UNHCR celebra le Olimpiadi che hanno fatto la storia con la squadra di rifugiati più numerosa di sempre e la prima medaglia](#), 12 August 2024; [La squadra paralimpica dei rifugiati brillerà a Parigi, inizia il conto alla rovescia finale](#), 24 August 2024.

## Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors to the Italy operation:

- **Private donors in Italy**
- **Italy**
- **United States of America**
- **The European Union**
- **Other private donors**

UNHCR is also grateful to the donors who have contributed to UNHCR operations globally, with unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.<sup>5</sup>

## Fundraising

- In August 2024, UNHCR raised **2.4 million euros from private donors in Italy**. Among them, UNHCR extends its gratitude to Intesa Sanpaolo Fondo di Beneficenza, AB Medica, PFC Family Office and Isacchi Samaja Onlus for their contributions.
- In the month of August, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation allocated **1 million euros** in support of UNHCR project "Enhancing refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to WASH services in the Saharawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria".

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**LINKS** [UNHCR data portal](#) - [UNHCR Italy](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Global Focus](#)

<sup>4</sup>Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities.

<sup>5</sup>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, España con ACNUR, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan for UNHCR, Private donors in the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Belgium, Ireland, Private donors in Italy, Australia.