Italy

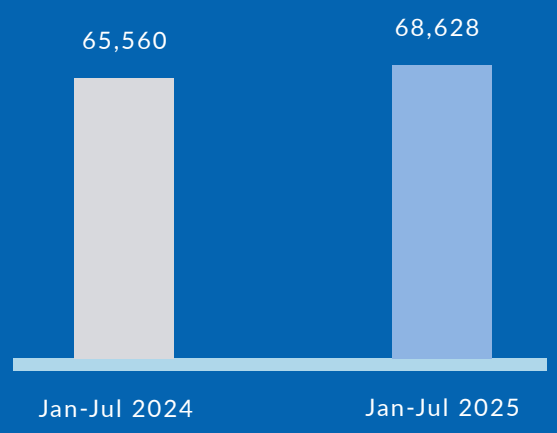
July 2025

In July, **6,485 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (33%), Egypt (15%), and Eritrea (11%). **21 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

From 8 to 11 July, **UN High Commissioner for refugees Grandi was on mission to Italy**, visiting Lampedusa, attending the Ukraine Recovery Conference, and meeting key government officials and civil society actors.

In July, the third cohort of 2 refugees—out of a total of 16 selected—arrived in Italy under the **ReadyForIT – Labour Pathways for Refugees programme**, to begin employment in the ICT sector.

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

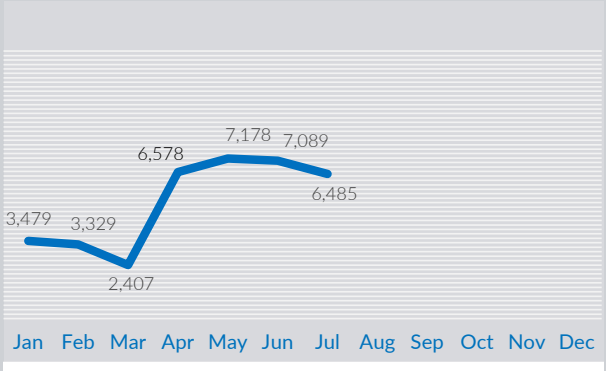
36,545

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-July 2025. 31,964 (87%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

205,307

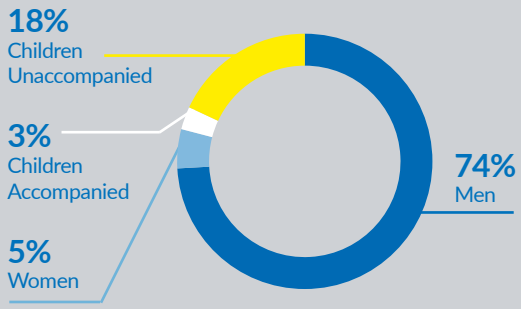
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine, based on the latest available data as of May 2025. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

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 July, **6,485 people reached the Italian shores in 120 disembarkations**, a 13 per cent decrease compared to the same month in 2024. Among the arrivals, 21 per cent were children (same as in June). **Thirty-three per cent originated from Bangladesh** (30% in June), followed by **Egyptians** (**15%**, 16% in June) and **Eritreans** (**11%**, 10% in May). Other nationalities arriving in significant numbers included Sudanese and Somalis (6% each), Pakistanis and Iranians (5% each), Ethiopians (3%), and Afghans, Guineans, Nigerians, Moroccans, Tunisians, and Iraqis (2% each). In July, **the majority of sea crossings departed from Libya (88%**, 5,689 persons), followed by Tunisia and Türkiye (11% each, with 397 and 363 persons respectively), and Algeria (1%, 36 persons). Around **42 per cent of those arriving by sea** (2,735 people) **were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**.[1]
- **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 detected arrivals to around 3,300 as of July 2025. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh**, **Afghanistan, Morocco, Pakistan, and Egypt**. 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.

Resettlement and complementary pathways

- In July, two refugees arrived in Italy from Uganda through **ReadyForIT – Labour Pathways for Refugees**, one of four pilot labour mobility pathways spearheaded by UNHCR in collaboration with **Fondazione Italiana Accenture ETS, Diaconia Valdese, Talent Beyond Boundaries, Pathways International, the International Trade Centre, and Unione Industriali Torino**, to support refugee integration into the Italian labour market in the ICT sector. One participant began a placement with Reale Mutua in Turin, while another joined OverIT in Udine. With their arrival, **a total of 15 refugees have now reached Italy through labour mobility pathways**. Italy is among the first countries globally to establish a regular labour mobility pathway for refugees, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, demonstrating the potential of public-private partnerships in advancing protection and inclusion.

Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on labour corridors for refugees to Italy. ©UNHCR

External engagement

- On 15 July, UNHCR's Multi-Country Office in Rome hosted its **biannual diplomatic briefing**, attended by representatives of approximately 30 countries accredited to Italy and the Holy See, including EU Member States, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and Qatar. The briefing provided an overview of forced displacement dynamics in Italy and globally, as well as on legal pathways, integration, and UNHCR's perspectives on the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Training

- On 11 July, UNHCR delivered a **training session on statelessness** as part of the UNICRI Summer School on Migration and Human Rights, in collaboration with John Cabot University. The session included a testimony from a formerly stateless person and a role-play exercise to foster empathy and understanding of how statelessness affects access to fundamental rights.
- From 1 to 14 July, UNHCR and the National Commission for Asylum delivered an **online training on international protection for newly appointed Ministry of Interior caseworkers** assigned to 14 Territorial Commissions. The course, attended by 23 officials, combined lectures and practical exercises, marking the fourth such initiative in 2025 to support the entry of new caseworkers into Italy's Refugee Status Determination system.
- On 17 July, UNHCR joined the **online session "Emerging Flows and Nationalities: Focus on Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Balkan Routes,"** organized by the regional anti-trafficking initiative *Il Friuli Venezia Giulia in rete contro la tratta* in the framework of the Systemic Action SMAC, funded by the Department for Equal Opportunities within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The event aimed to strengthen coordination among stakeholders on migration trends and improve early identification and referral of potential trafficking victims, especially in border areas.

UNHCR report 'On the brink: The devastating toll of aid cuts on people forced to flee'

Following major cuts to humanitarian budgets, UNHCR issued a report aiming to provide a global overview of the impact of aid reductions on people forced to flee. The report presents several countries as case studies to illustrate the on-the-ground impact, highlighting a deadly confluence of factors pummeling millions of refugees and displaced people: rising displacement, shrinking funding, and political apathy.

New arrivals from Sudan in the Renk Transit Centres, Sotuh Sudan. © UNHCR/Reason Moses Runyanga

Based on the report, an estimated **11.6 million people forced to flee are at risk of losing direct assistance in 2025** due to cuts to UNHCR's programmes worldwide. This figure represents about one-third of those reached last year. Altogether, $1.4 billion worth of essential programmes are being cut or put on hold, according to an analysis of UNHCR's programmes and funds received this year.

Millions now face deteriorating living conditions, heightened risks of exploitation and abuse, and may be pushed into further displacement. While UNHCR is grateful to those countries like Italy that have confirmed their support to UNHCR, it calls on governments, institutions, and individuals to urgently increase financial contributions to prevent further deterioration and uphold protection for those most in need. The full report is available here.[2]

[2] See also: UNHCR post on X, 18 July 2025; and UNHCR Briefing note.

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEE MISSION TO ITALY

From 8 to 11 July, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (HC), Filippo Grandi, undertook a mission to Italy to meet with national and local authorities, civil society, and international partners to discuss global and domestic challenges and opportunities regarding asylum, reception, and integration.

Lampedusa. The mission began in Lampedusa, where HC Grandi visited the hotspot facility alongside representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Italian Red Cross, acknowledging the efforts to improve reception conditions for refugees and migrants and the coordination response, observing tangible improvements in reception conditions. He also attended a **remembrance ceremony**, **held by the Italian Coast Guard**, represented by General Commander Nicola Carlone, **to honour lives lost in the Mediterranean sea**. He further met with the **Mayor of Lampedusa**, Filippo Mannino, to express appreciation for the community's continued solidarity with people arriving by sea.

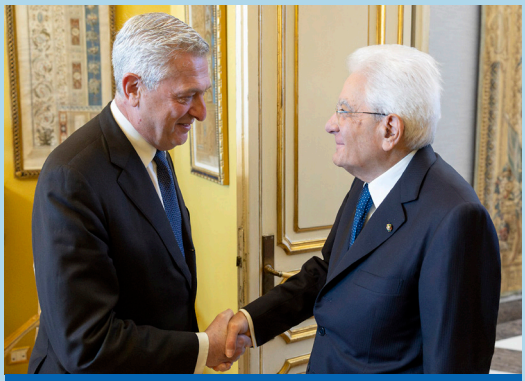
Remembrance ceremony for the victims of the 2013 Lampedusa Shipwreck. © UNHCR/Alessio Mamo

Ukraine Recovery Conference. On 10 July, HC Grandi participated in the **Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025**, where he highlighted the urgent need for support to displaced populations and early reconstruction efforts.

UN High Commissioner Grandi at the Ukraine Reconstruction Conference. © MAECI

Parliamentary informal hearing. HC Grandi also addressed a joint session of the Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, the Senate's Human Rights Committee, and the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee, where he discussed the global rise in forced displacement, the impact of funding shortfalls on humanitarian operations, and the importance of Italy's strategic role in addressing migration challenges along key routes, including in North Africa.

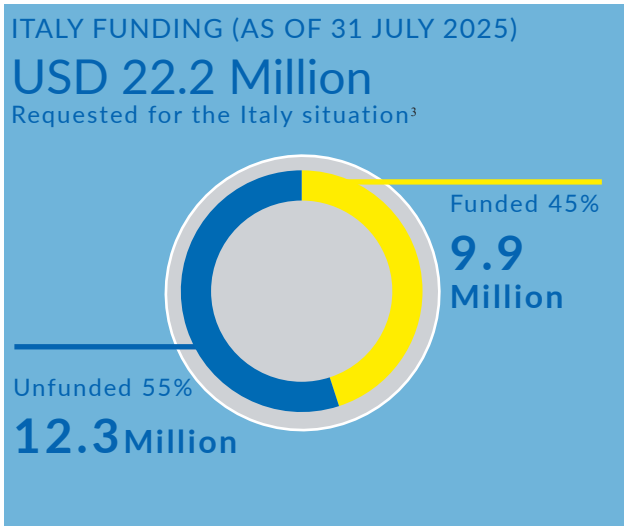
Institutional engagement. Moreover, HC Grandi held a high-level meeting with the **President of the Republic,** Sergio Mattarella, and with **Interior Minister**, Matteo Piantedosi reaffirming the strong partnership between UNHCR and Italy. High Commissioner Grandi also held discussions with the **Mayor of Rome,** Roberto Gualtieri, and engaged with a wide range of **civil society actors**, including UNHCR implementing partners, refugee-led organizations, NGOs active in search and rescue and development cooperation, and faith-based organizations working in the field of asylum and migration.



UN High Commissioner Grandi meeting President of the Republic Mattarella. © Quirinale

The mission reaffirmed and further strengthened UNHCR's solid engagement with several Italian stakeholders and Italy, which, despite the challenging global funding environment, has maintained sustained support for UNHCR's operations—underscoring Italy's strategic role in global protection efforts.

Financial information



- UNHCR is thankful for the critical support provided by donors to the UNHCR Multi-country office (MCO) in Italy in July, and throughout 2025, including for unearmarked, softly earmarked, and tightly earmarked contributions.[4]

Fundraising

- UNHCR MCO Italy is thankful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In July, **3.1 milllion euros** were raised. Among the private donors, a special thanks goes to Fondazione Generali - The Human Safety Net, Fondo di Beneficenza di Intesa Sanpaolo, The Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation for their contributions.

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[3] 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.

[4] 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), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan for UNHCR, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Private donors in the Republic of Korea, Australia, France, Ireland, Private donors in Italy, Germany, Belgium.