

# ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

## Overview

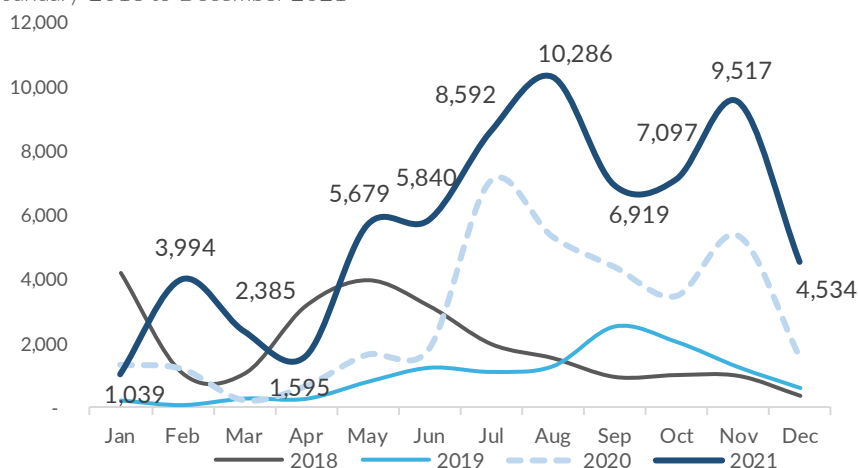
In 2021, 67,477 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, the highest number of the last four-year period and almost double the sea arrivals recorded last year (34,154). In 2021, almost 50,000 persons disembarked in Sicily, with over 35,000 landing on the small island of Lampedusa. Calabria also received a significant proportion of arrivals, as over 11,600 were registered there throughout 2021.

In December 2021, 4,534 refugees and migrants reached the shores of southern Italy, compared to 1,591 (+185%) and 589 (+670%) in 2020 and 2019 respectively. The vast majority (2,993 persons) arrived in Sicily, followed by Calabria (937), Apulia (318) and Sardinia (286).

**67,477** Jan - Dec 2021 <sup>1</sup>  
**34,154** Jan - Dec 2020 <sup>1</sup>

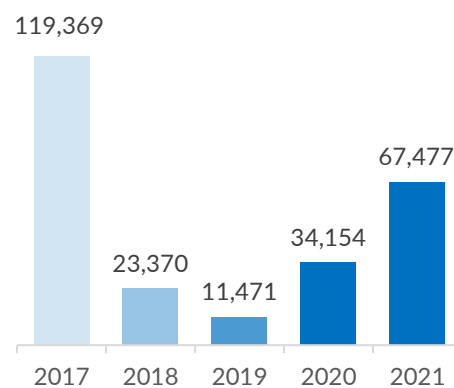
## Monthly sea arrivals

January 2018 to December 2021



## Yearly sea arrivals

January to December, 2018-2021

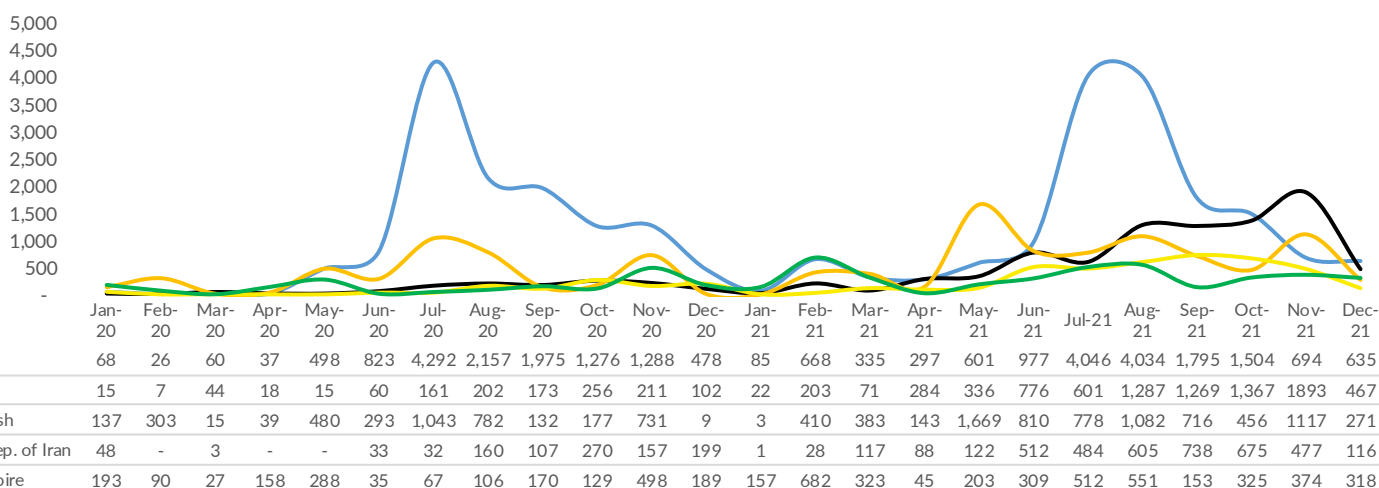


## Nationality of arrivals

In 2021, the most common country of origin recorded among refugees and migrants reaching Italian shores was Tunisia (23%), followed by Egypt (13%), Bangladesh (12%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (6%), Côte d'Ivoire (6%), Iraq (4%), Guinea (4%), Eritrea (4%), the Syrian Arab Republic (3%) and Morocco (3%). While the numbers of total sea arrivals in 2021 are lower than peaks recorded in the 2014-2017 period, 15,671 Tunisians, 8,576 Egyptians, 3,963 Iranians and 2,665 Iraqis arrived by sea, namely the highest numbers on record for these nationalities since sea arrivals data became systematically available in 2013.

Consistent with yearly trends, in December 2021, Tunisian nationals constituted the largest nationality of arrival (635 persons), followed by Egyptian (467). Unusually, Afghans represented the third most common nationality arriving in December, with 421 persons reaching shore having departed from Turkey, accounting for 19% of all Afghan nationals landing in Italy in 2021.

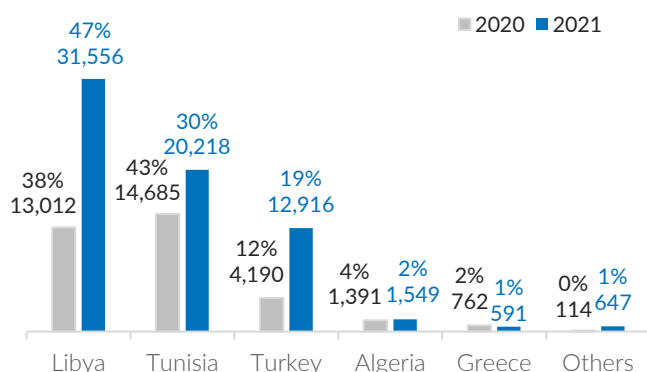
## Most common nationalities of arrivals - January 2020 to December 2021



## Country of embarkation

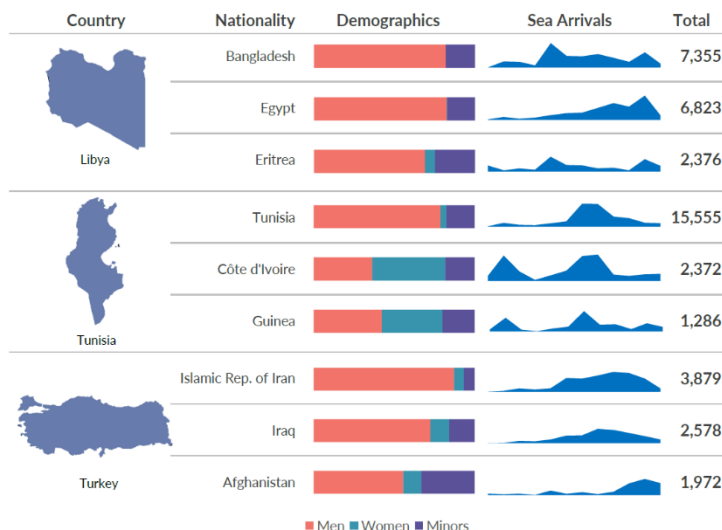
In 2021, 47% of sea arrivals in Italy (31,556 persons) departed from Libya, followed by 30% (20,218 persons) departing from Tunisia, 19% (12,916 persons) departing from Turkey, 2% (1,549 persons) departing from Algeria, 1% (591 persons) departing from Greece and 1% (647 persons) departing from other countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Montenegro and Albania). The majority of persons departing from Libya originated from Bangladesh, Egypt and, to a lesser extent, Eritrea, while the majority of those departing from Tunisia were Tunisian nationals. Refugees and migrants embarking in Turkey most commonly originated from the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by Iraq and Afghanistan.

January to December 2020 - 2021



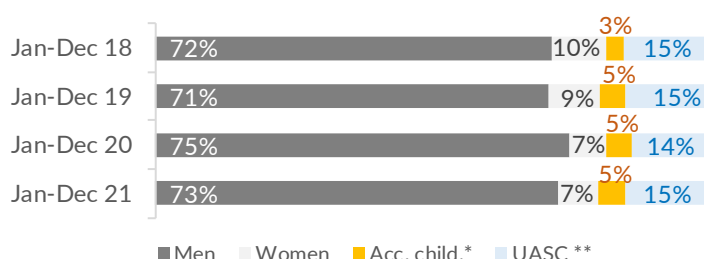
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly

Top 3 nationalities by country of embarkation, January to December 2021



## Demographics of arrivals

January to December 2018 - 2021



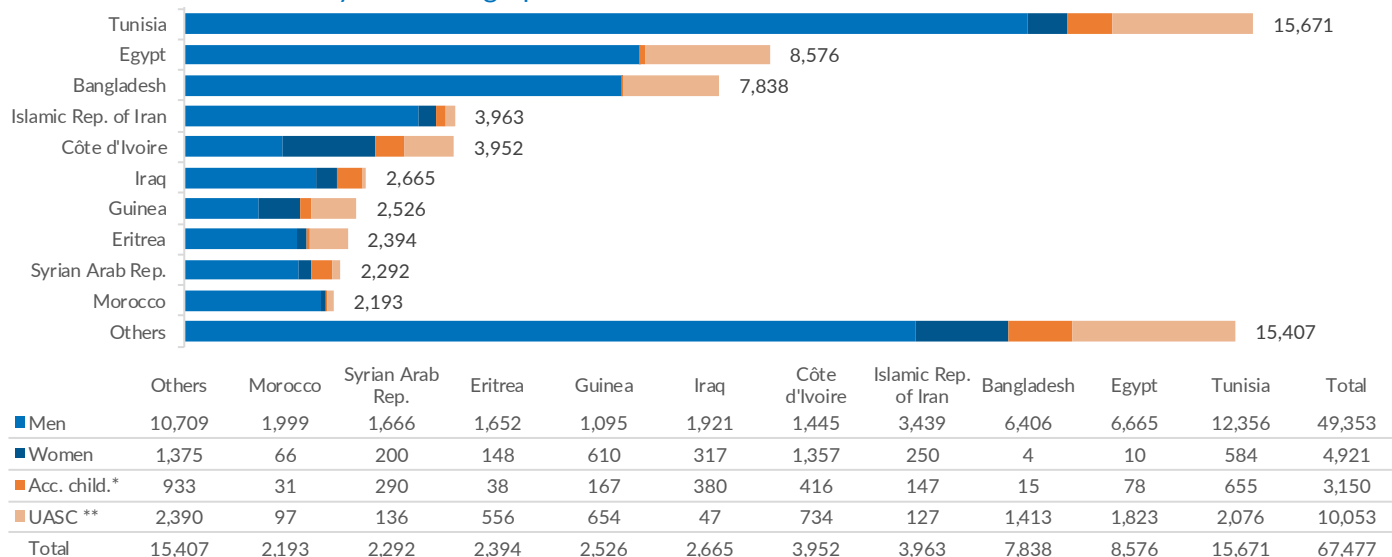
Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly

In 2021, most sea arrivals were adult men (73%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (UASC, 15%), adult women (7%) and accompanied children (5%).

In 2021, 4,921 adult women reached Italian shores, the vast majority of whom originated from Côte d'Ivoire (1,357) followed, to a lesser extent, by Guinea (610) and Tunisia (584).

In the same period, 10,053 UASC arrived in Italy by sea: the most common nationalities recorded are Tunisia (2,076), Egypt (1,823), Bangladesh (1,413), Côte d'Ivoire (734), Guinea (654) and Eritrea (556).

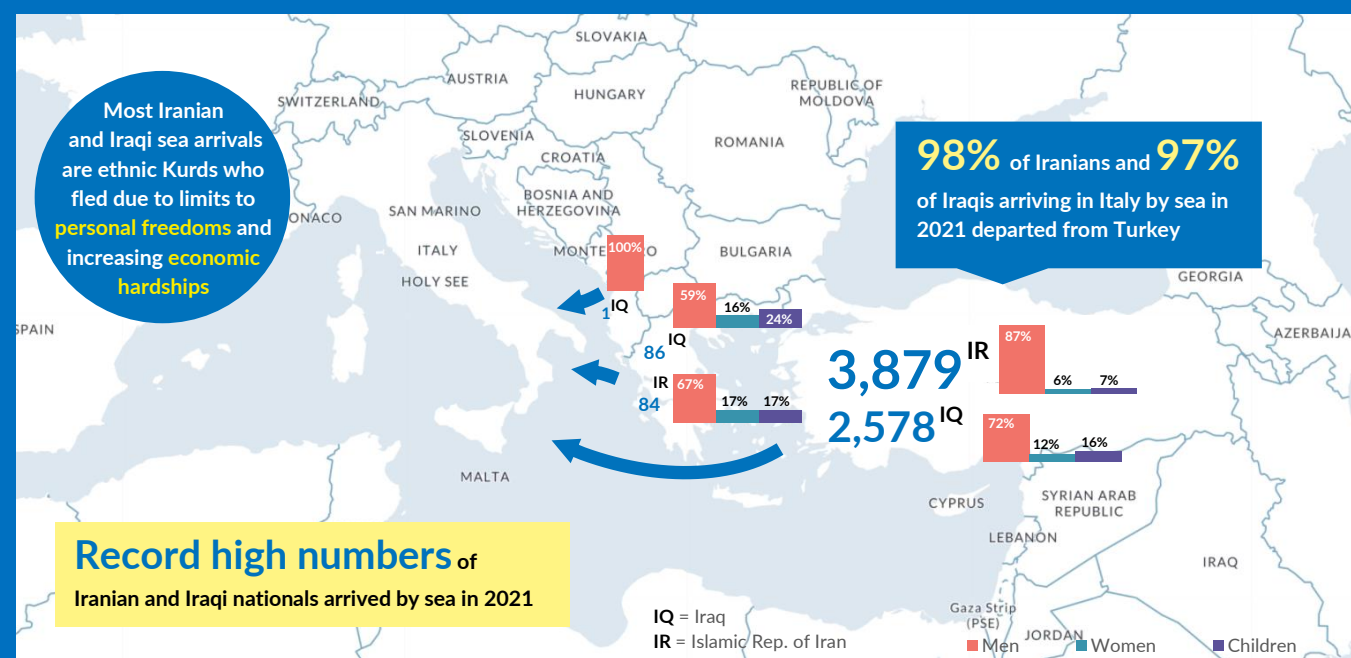
### Nationality and demographics of arrivals – January to December 2021



\* Accompanied children \*\* Unaccompanied and separated children

## Quarterly focus

### Iranian and Iraqi nationals



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. The accompanied/unaccompanied children breakdown by country of embarkation is unavailable. Due to rounding percentages may not sum to 100% exactly.

#### Profiles

- In 2021, 3,963 Iranian refugees and migrants arrived by sea in southern Italy, the highest number on record since authorities started systematically collecting sea arrivals data in 2010 and four times the previous record high of 2020 (1,009). This year, 2,665 Iraqis were registered at landing points in southern Italy, outnumbering any yearly total of the last eleven years. The numbers of Iraqi nationals arriving by sea increased steadily from 67 persons in 2013 to 1,744 in 2018, subsequently dropping to under 1,000 yearly arrivals in 2019 (972) and 2020 (778). Some 20% of 2021 Iraqi sea arrivals disembarked in August.
- The vast majority (87%) of Iranian sea arrivals this year were adult men, with adult women accounting for 6% of the total, followed by accompanied children (4%) and unaccompanied children (3%). Most Iraqis reaching Italian shores (72%) were also adult men, followed by accompanied children (14%), adult women (12%) and unaccompanied children (2%). The larger proportion of women and accompanied children among Iraqis compared to the demographic characteristics of total sea arrivals most likely reflect the relatively common presence of families with children among this national group.<sup>1</sup>
- UNHCR staff at disembarkation sites noted that most Iranian and Iraqi nationals arriving by sea were ethnic Kurds. They reported leaving their countries of origin because of ethnic discrimination, resulting in difficulties in accessing public services and employment with ensuing economic hardship. This situation was reportedly further aggravated by socio-economic crises, especially in Iran. New arrivals also told UNHCR staff that there were increased restrictions on freedoms in their countries of origin, with many activists and protesters allegedly being arbitrarily arrested in both Iran and Iraq.

#### Routes

- Many Iranian and Iraqi nationals reported choosing to reach Italy by sea because, while the sea journey is more dangerous, land routes through South-East Europe are perceived to take longer and to entail the risk of facing violent pushbacks in conjunction with border crossings. Such increasing preference for sea routes over land routes may partially explain the significant rise in the numbers of Iranians and Iraqis reaching Italian shores in 2021 compared to previous years.
- Overwhelmingly, Iranians and Iraqis embark in Turkey, with respectively 98% (3,879 persons) and 97% (2,578 persons) of yearly sea arrivals from these nationalities departing from there. Most reported travelling through Istanbul and subsequently crossing on sailing boats toward Italy, most commonly disembarking in Apulia and Calabria. Fewer Iranians (84 persons) and Iraqis (86 persons) departed from Greece, while one Iraqi national embarked in Albania.

<sup>1</sup> For further details on total sea arrivals, see the *Demographics of arrivals* section at page 2 of this dashboard.