Italy

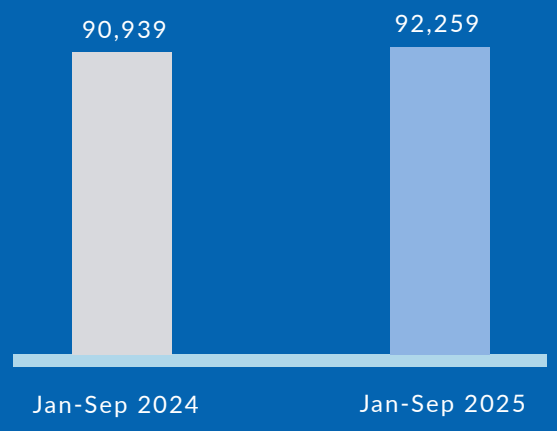
September 2025

In September, **8,315 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (26%), Egypt (17%), and Eritrea and Sudan (9% each). **21 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 17–18 September, the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi** was received in a **private audience by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV** and held meetings with senior Vatican representatives in Rome.

In September, **89 refugees were resettled to Italy through its national resettlement programme**, coordinated by the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, with support from UNHCR 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

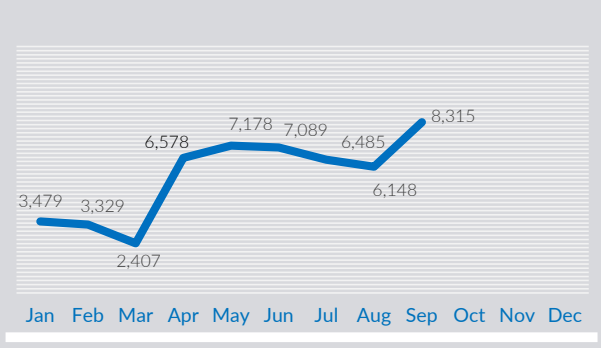
51,008

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-September 2025. 44,021 (86%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

205,307

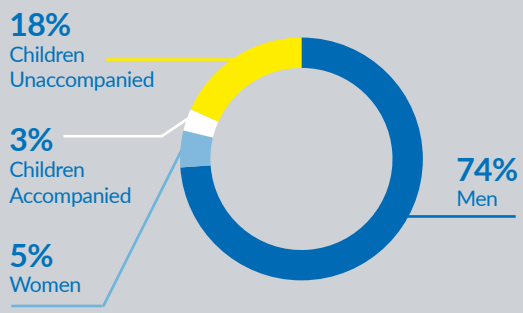
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine, based on the latest available data as of May 2025. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

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 September, **8,315 people reached the Italian shores in 213 disembarkations**, marking an 8 per cent increase compared to the same month in 2024. Among the arrivals, 21 per cent were children (same as in August). **Twenty-six per cent originated from Bangladesh** (21% in August), followed by **Egyptians** (**17%**, same as in August), and **Eritreans and Sudanese** (**9%** each, compared to 12% each in August). Other nationalities arriving in significant numbers included Somalis (6%), Pakistanis and Tunisians (5% each), Iranians (4%), Algerians and Ethiopians (3% each), and Moroccans and Afghans (2% each). In September, the **majority of sea crossings departed from Libya** (**87%**, 7,226 persons), followed by Tunisia (7%, 614 persons), Algeria (3%, 270 persons), and Türkiye (2%, 205 persons). Around **26 per cent of those arriving by sea** (2,893 people) **were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**.[1]
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **700 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in September by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of detected arrivals to around 4,600 as of September 2025. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh**, **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco, and Türkiye**. 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

- Between 10 and 17 September, **89 refugees**—42 from Türkiye and 37 from Pakistan—**were resettled to Italy through its national resettlement programme**, coordinated by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA), and with the support of UNHCR, IOM, and the Reception and Integration System (SAI). The group consisted primarily of Afghan families, many with children—36 of the 89 individuals are minors. All will be hosted within the SAI network.[2]

Arrival of 89 refugees in Italy through the national resettlement programme. ©UNHCR

- In September, a refugee arrived in Italy from Uganda through **ReadyForIT – Labour Pathways for Refugees**, one of four pilot labour mobility programmes led 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 work in the IT company Valuetech. This marks the 13th arrival from Uganda under this pathway, with two additional arrivals expected by year-end. As of September 2025, **a total of 17 refugees from Egypt (4) and Uganda (13) have 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.

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

[2] See also: UNHCR Press Release Riprende il programma di reinsediamento in Italia: in arrivo i primi rifugiati del 2025, 17 September 2025.

- On 19 September, UNHCR hosted an event on labour mobility pathways at its Rome premises. The event provided a platform for dialogue among key institutional stakeholders — such as the Ministry of the Interior (MoI), MFA, and Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, which recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR to support the establishment of labour mobility corridors — as well as private sector actors involved in pilot projects, including Orienta S.p.A., Unindustria, Unione Industriali Torino, Aviapartner, and Fondazione Italiana Accenture. Other participants included UNHCR's implementing partners, such as Pathways International, the International Trade Centre, Talent Beyond Boundaries, and Diaconia Valdese, and the European Commission. The event facilitated constructive exchanges on future collaboration aimed at scaling up labour mobility initiatives in support of displaced persons.[3]

High-level event on labour mobility pathways. ©UNHCR

Specific needs

- On 24 September, a joint delegation visited Como, comprising UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti; the Swiss Ambassador to Italy, Roberto Balzaretti; the Consul General in Milan, Stefano Lazzarotto; and Deputy Prefect Roberto Leone from the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the MoI. The delegation visited one of the 34 reception centres for unaccompanied children supported under the project "**Enhancing Reception and Protection Services for Unaccompanied Children in Italy**", launched by UNHCR in October 2024 in collaboration with the Italian MoI and with the critical contribution of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration. The initiative aims to strengthen institutional responses for unaccompanied foreign minors and supports national and local authorities in identifying needs and developing tailored inclusion and protection pathways.[4]

Joint mission to Como with UNHCR, Swiss Embassy and the Ministry of Interior. ©UNHCR

Asylum system

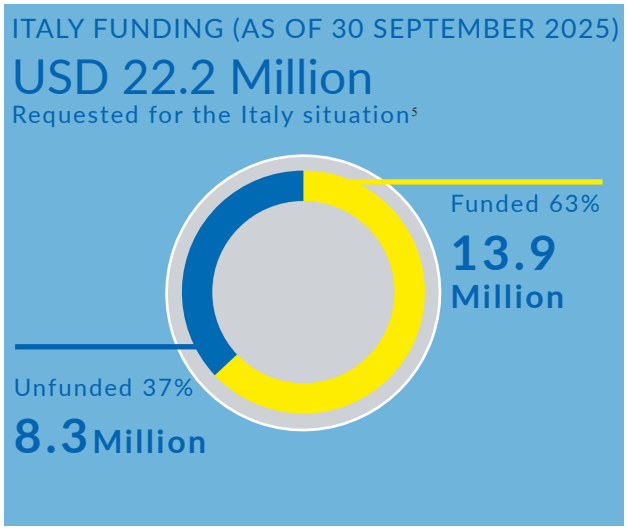
- **Trafficking in persons.** On 25 and 26 September, UNHCR participated in the National Meeting of legal operators of the anti-trafficking network, held in Ragusa, Sicily. The meeting was part of the multi-agency cooperation framework set out in the National Anti-Trafficking Plan, representing a practical implementation of this approach. UNHCR's contribution focused on the application of the Guidelines on the Identification and Referral of Trafficking Survivors among Asylum Seekers, developed jointly with the National Commission for the right to Asylum. Through its engagement in this framework, UNHCR supports improved identification and protection of trafficking survivors within the asylum system in Italy.

[3] See also: Chiara Cardoletti's twit on X, 19 September 2025.

[4] See also: UNHCR Press Release Minori stranieri non accompagnati: la Svizzera al fianco dell'Italia e di UNHCR, 24 September 2025.

- As part of UNHCR's ongoing support to asylum procedures, including the judicial phase, a **training cycle was launched for the Specialized Division of the Court of Bologna**. The initiative aims to contribute to strengthening judicial expertise on key aspects of the **Refugee Status Determination procedure**.
- On 22 September, the UNHCR Representative for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino participated in a podcast interview in the context of a training on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, organized by the EU Asylum Agency (EUAA) together with the Superior School of the Judiciary (*Scuola Superiore della Magistratura*), and addressed to Italian judges. The podcast interview focused on **UNHCR's recommendations for the implementation of the EU Pact**, emphasizing the importance of applying the Pact with appropriate safeguards to ensure protection. Key points included the early identification of individuals with specific needs and the application of safeguards in detention, particularly within border procedures.

Financial information



- UNHCR is thankful for the critical support provided by donors to the UNHCR Multi-country office (MCO) in Italy in September, and throughout 2025, including for unearmarked, softly earmarked, and tightly earmarked contributions.[6]

Fundraising

- UNHCR MCO Italy is thankful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In September, **2.2 milllion euros** were raised. Among the private donors, a special thanks goes to Fondazione Isacchi Samaja, Fondazione Prosolidar, Gucci, LaFarmacia for their contributions.

[5] 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.

[6] 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, España con ACNUR, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan for UNHCR, Private donors in the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Private donors in Italy, Republic of Korea, Australia, France, Ireland, Private donors in the Netherlands, Sweden for UNHCR, Germany, Belgium.

Holy See

September 2025

- **Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.** On 17–18 September, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, was received in a private audience by **His Holiness Pope Leo XIV**. The meeting reaffirmed and further strengthened UNHCR's engagement with the Holy See, building on the longstanding collaboration established under Pope Francis. Discussions highlighted a shared vision on global humanitarian challenges and emphasized the importance of joint action in response to record levels of displacement. During his visit to Rome, the High Commissioner also held meetings with several key interlocutors of the Catholic Church engaged with UNHCR, including representatives from the Secretariat of State, the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI), and the "*Fratelli Tutti*" Foundation.

UN High Commissioneer Grandi during a private audience with his Holiness Pope Leo XIV © Vatican Media

- **High-Level Dialogue with the Holy See.** On 19 September, UNHCR and the Holy See convened a **High-Level Dialogue** in Vatican City which reaffirmed their strong convergence and shared priorities, and highlighted continued progress in the collaboration, including in promoting core humanitarian principles, upholding human dignity, and advancing protection and solutions to support refugees and migrants along key migratory routes.
- **World Meeting on Human Fraternity.** On 12 September, UNHCR participated as a member of the Working Group on the Third Sector of the Fratelli Tutti Foundation in the event **"Pace e cooperazione: strumenti di alleanza a tutela della dignità di ogni essere umano"**, held in Rome. Within the framework of the World Meeting on Human Fraternity, the panel was opened by Cardinal Baldassarre Reina, Vicar General for the Diocese of Rome and Archpriest of the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano, who praised the work of individuals, associations, and entities that support the most vulnerable. UNHCR contributed to the panel with a presentation on its work for unaccompanied children, in a joint session with Save the Children. The discussion also featured contributions from various third-sector organizations and associations, including volunteer testimonies and advocacy initiatives.

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

[7] See also: Filippo Grandi's twit on X, 18 September 2025.

[8] See also: Ruvendrini Menikdiwela's twit on X, 19 September 2025.

[9] See also: UNHCR twit on X, 12 September 2025.