

Italy

October 2021

Land arrivals from Slovenia **decreased** in October compared to previous months, while **over 7,100 sea arrivals** were recorded, a slight increase compared to the 6,900 reaching shore in September.

On 15 October, a first group of **five Darfuri refugee children arrived from Niger** to attend school in Italy thanks to the UNHCR-Intersos **Pagella in Tasca project**. They will be living with foster families in Turin.

UNHCR signed partnerships with CIAC and Refugees Welcome Italia to implement a **project promoting refugee integration** through social relationships with host community volunteers.

KEY INDICATORS (OCTOBER 2021)

7,110

Total sea arrivals to Italy disembarked at different sites across the country (Source: Ministry of Interior)

3,360

Sea arrivals assisted and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation (Source: UNHCR)

3,717

Inquiries received and followed-up through UNHCR partner **ARCI toll-free number** (Source: ARCI)

60

Individuals received **medical assistance and psychosocial counselling** from UNHCR partners (Source: MEDU and LHIVE-LILA)

Sea arrivals in 2021 by disembarkation site



Sea arrivals

POPULATION OF CONCERN

53,439

27,203

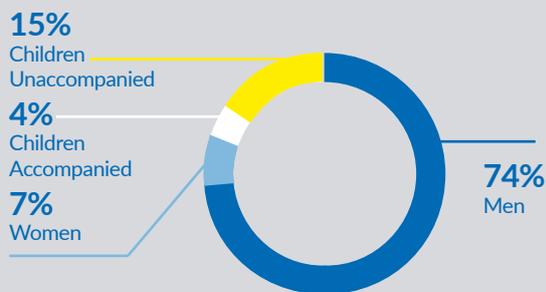
Jan-Oct 2021

Jan-Oct 2020

Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land arrivals and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals, as per official figures provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior.

Sea arrivals by gender and age

POPULATION OF CONCERN

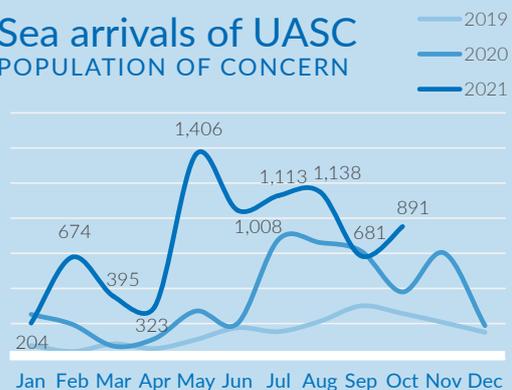


Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100% exactly.

Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land arrivals and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals, as per official figures provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

Sea arrivals of UASC

POPULATION OF CONCERN



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

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).**¹ Year to date, 53,439 persons, including 7,833 unaccompanied and separated children, arrived in Italy by sea. This is a 96% increase compared to 2020 and a 454% increase compared to 2019. In October, **7,110 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores**, of whom 891 were children travelling on their own. Monthly arrivals increased compared to the same period in 2020 (3,477) and 2019 (2,016). Tunisian, Egyptian and Iranian nationals cumulatively accounted for half of sea arrivals this month. Approximately 38% of persons reaching shore in October embarked in Libya, followed by a 34% who departed from Turkey. Lampedusa received the highest number of monthly sea arrivals, with over 2,400 persons reaching the island: as a result, the local hotspot worked at times beyond its 320-person capacity. With the exception of children who travel alone and vulnerable persons, sea arrivals reaching Lampedusa and Sicily usually observe quarantine on dedicated offshore ferries, while persons arriving in other areas are normally transferred to onshore quarantine facilities. The shortage of such onshore facilities is of particular concern in **Calabria**, as the region **received over 2,500 sea arrivals** this month: the former governmental reception facility in Crotone – now converted into a quarantine centre – accommodated over 1,400 quarantined individuals at one time and almost reached its 1,200-person maximum capacity in the second half of October. Furthermore, more than 130 unaccompanied children remained at the facility after the end of their quarantine due to the **unavailability of places in children reception facilities** for their transfer. In October, **UNHCR staff conducted a mission to the Crotone facility** liaising with the local health authority in relation to monitoring sanitary conditions and continuing to engage with other relevant authorities to improve the identification of vulnerable persons and find solutions to increase reception capacity, including specifically for children and other vulnerable individuals.

- Access to territory (land arrivals).**² Land arrivals continue to be reported through the Italy-Slovenia border in the Friuli Venezia-Giulia region. While **arrivals decreased compared to the summer months**, up to 100 refugees and migrants were intercepted by the authorities crossing the border weekly, most of whom originate from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In October, an estimated 300 refugees and migrants, including women and children, were reportedly in Ventimiglia, having arrived from sea and land border areas, intending to travel on to other European countries via the Italy-France border: **precarious living conditions**, with persons living in abandoned buildings, along the riverbanks and in the train station area, put their health and protection at risk. UNHCR regularly liaises with local community-based organizations to monitor the situation.

In October, UNHCR, in partnership with the NGO Better Shelter, provided civil protection officers, fire brigades and civil society organizations with **Training of Trainers sessions on assembling and managing refugee housing units (RHUs)**. RHUs are innovative shelter solutions providing greater dignity and supporting the protection of refugees; the design is a result of a collaboration by the NGO Better Shelter and UNHCR with the support of the IKEA Foundation.³ Starting in August 2021, UNHCR has donated to the Italian authorities some 130 RHUs to be assembled in areas of sea and land arrivals and in areas with high rates of seasonal migrant workers, including refugees.



UNHCR staff deliver training on the assembly and management of Refugee Housing Units. ©UNHCR/G. D'Amelio

¹ For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the Italy page of the UNHCR data portal, available at [UNHCR - Mediterranean Situation](#).

² Land arrivals figures on the Italian – Slovenian border constitute an approximation calculated by UNHCR to the best of its knowledge based on information gathered from institutions (Border Police, Prefectures, Social Services) and, on ad hoc occasions, through media and partners' outreach and monitoring activities. The lack of comparable data received, which are usually collected and compile following different methods, constitutes a challenge to a systematic data analysis.

³ For further information on RHUs see [Refugee Housing Unit – Fact Sheet](#) (last access 8 November 2021).

- **Asylum and statelessness.** On 21 October, UNHCR and the National Bar Council launched a free online [training](#) for lawyers on **legal ethics in international protection and migration**: the course, running through February 2022, covers topics such as intercultural awareness, confidentiality, building trust with clients, and will be delivered, inter alia, by refugees, lawyers, academics and judges. UNHCR, together with ASGI and A Buon Diritto, also delivered the first of three trainings to scholarship students setting up **legal clinics** at Turin University College, Roma3 University and Federicoll **providing legal advice to stateless persons**. On 28 October, UNHCR in collaboration with UNICEF, ran a **live chat on statelessness** through [U-Report On The Move](#), a digital platform asking poll questions allowing young refugees and migrants in Italy to speak out anonymously about issues and decisions that matter to them.

- **Resettlement and complementary pathways.** On 15 October, a first group of five Darfuri unaccompanied refugee children aged 15 to 17 arrived in Italy from Niger thanks to the **UNHCR-Intersos “Pagella in Tasca” project, entailing a 12-month scholarship to attend school while living with foster families in Turin.**



Pagella in Tasca students arrive in Turin from Niger on 15 October.
 ©UNHCR/Elena Givone

A total of 35 unaccompanied children will benefit from the project, which sees the Turin municipality, CPIA Piedmont, the Turin Archdiocese and other community-based organizations partnering with UNHCR and Intersos, as agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs and Labour, with support from the Italian Episcopal Conference, Migrantes Foundation, Acri and Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation.⁴ In October, UNHCR engaged with the Italian Interior and Foreign Affairs Ministries and other partners in preparation for the signature of a **Memorandum of Understanding opening an important legal pathway for the arrival in Italy of 1,200 Afghan nationals.**⁵ UNHCR also participated in the working group on Afghanistan convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to follow-up on the evacuations on Afghan citizens to Italy, and liaised with Italian authorities also to ensure that evacuees have access to job and inclusion opportunities.

- **Community based protection.** This month, UNHCR attended the **first workshop of the Vulnerability Working Group**, an interagency and inter-institutional initiative tasked with developing standard operating procedures to identify, refer and respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals among refugees and stateless persons in Italy, ensuring the coordination of all relevant stakeholders. Representatives from the Interior and Health Ministries, EASO, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, INMP, Italian Red Cross, MSF and Servizio Centrale work together to strengthen the protection offered to persons with vulnerabilities. In late October, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Save the Children, Civico Zero and La Sapienza University in Rome for the set-up of a **psycho-social clinic serving refugees in Rome**. This is the first clinic of its kind in Italy to be run by a University: students will start receiving specialized training in November 2021 and the clinic is expected to become operational in 2022. This month, UNHCR partner **MEDU** delivered a **training on mental health** to some 40 reception centre staff in Rome, while partner **D.i.RE.** held two networking events on 11 and 18 October bringing together anti-violence centres, civil society and institutions with a view to strengthening their collaboration and facilitating referrals and response to refugees who have survived gender-based violence.

⁴ See also UNHCR, [Arrivati in Italia i primi cinque minori soli del progetto “Pagella in tasca”](#), 15 October 2021 (in Italian)

⁵ The [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was signed on 4 November. See also Ministry of the Interior, [Firmato al Viminale protocollo d’intesa per la realizzazione dei corridoi umanitari per cittadini afghani](#) (in Italian), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [Firma del protocollo per i corridoi umanitari dall’Afghanistan](#) (in Italian)

- Community engagement.** UNHCR signed two partnership agreements with NGOs [CIAC - Centro Immigrazione Asilo Cooperazione Internazionale](#) and [Refugees Welcome Italia](#) to implement its **Community Matching project, which aims to promote refugee integration** by creating personal and social relationships between refugees and host community volunteers. Participating refugees will be matched with a volunteer from their host community for a period ranging from 6 to 12 months, with a view to promoting inclusion and countering discrimination. The project will initially take place in Bari, Rome and Turin. On World Teachers' Day (5 October), UNHCR launched its **Teachers' toolkit in Italian**, including videos and teaching materials for children of different age groups on refugees, migration and statelessness.⁶ On 3 October, UNHCR attended the annual **Day of Remembrance and Reception commemorations** organized by the Comitato 3 Ottobre on Lampedusa, leading workshops for a total of around 60 students from all over Europe and giving media interviews.⁷ During the month, UNHCR also participated in the first of three online **sessions with some 80 upper secondary school students on climate displacement** organized by MAXXI – Museum of 21st century arts as part of its School-Work Alternation. It also took part in a training for journalists organized by WeWorld and Terra di Tutti Film Festival on the human cost of the climate emergency, reaching 100 people, and delivered part of a **training for journalists** organized by partner [Carta di Roma](#) during the **Sabir Festival** in Lecce, focusing on the situation in Afghanistan. UNHCR staff delivered four other sessions during the festival, focusing also on refugee integration and complementary pathways.
- Fundraising.** In October, UNHCR raised **2.1 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 18.8 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR operations worldwide this month were Barilla, Fondazione Mediolanum, Intesa Sanpaolo's Fondo Beneficenza, Gucci and Ms Giuliana Lagetto.



UNHCR staff deliver a workshop for teachers and students during the Day of Remembrance and Reception on Lampedusa. ©UNHCR/Federico Fossi

First UNHCR-Italy bilateral meeting



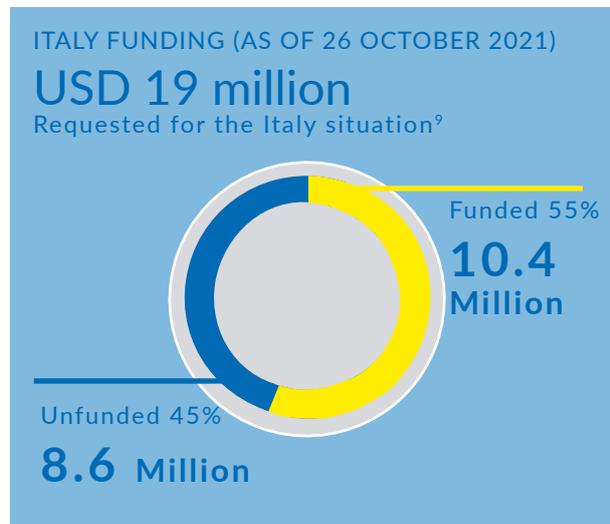
UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Italian Deputy Minister for Development Cooperation Marina Sereni during the first bilateral meeting between UNHCR and the Italian Government ©/UNHCR
[Click here to read UNHCR press release](#)

On 1 October, the UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, attended the **first bilateral meeting between UNHCR and the Italian government**, in Geneva, in the presence of the High Commissioner Filippo Grandi, discussing ways in which Italy can continue to support UNHCR activities globally, ensuring the protection of refugees and identifying long-term solutions for them. Italy has been a major donor to UNHCR globally. In early October, it attended the **72nd session of UNHCR's Executive Committee** reiterating its **commitment** to address the plight of forcibly displaced persons, in Italy and worldwide, and to implement the provisions of the Global Compact for Refugees. Progress towards the achievement of the Global Compact objectives will be discussed at the first **High-Level Officials Meeting** on 14-15 December 2021.

⁶ See also UNHCR, [UNHCR Italia lancia materiali didattici sul tema dei rifugiati in occasione della Giornata mondiale degli insegnanti](#), 5 October 2021 (in Italian)

⁷ See also, UNHCR, [Giornata Nazionale della Memoria e dell'Accoglienza. OIM-UNHCR-UNICEF: "Salvare vite umane resti una priorità nell'agenda politica dell'UE"](#), 2 October 2021 (in Italian).

Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Germany 29.7 M | **United States of America** 17.2 M | **Private donors Australia** 8.7 M | **Private donors Germany** 2.6 M | **Private donors Korea** 2.1 M

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UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Norway 80 M | **Sweden** 75.4 M | **Private donors Spain** 62.6 M | **United Kingdom** 40.4 M | **Netherlands** 36.1 M | **Denmark** 34.6 M | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 31.9 M | **Private donors Japan** 27.7 M | **Germany** 26 M | **Japan** 23.4 M | **France** 20.2 M | **Switzerland** 16.4 M | **Private donors Italy** 15.7 M | **Private donors Sweden** 14.4 M | **Ireland** 12.5 M | **Belgium** 11.9 M | **Italy** 10.7 M

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ITALY'S SUPPORT TO UNHCR OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE

In the month of October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation provided, with the technical support of the Agency for Development Cooperation, a contribution of **EUR 750,000** to UNHCR's humanitarian activities in support of Syrian refugees through cash-assistance in Jordan.

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LINKS

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

⁹ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. The contributions earmarked for Italy shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking.