Italy

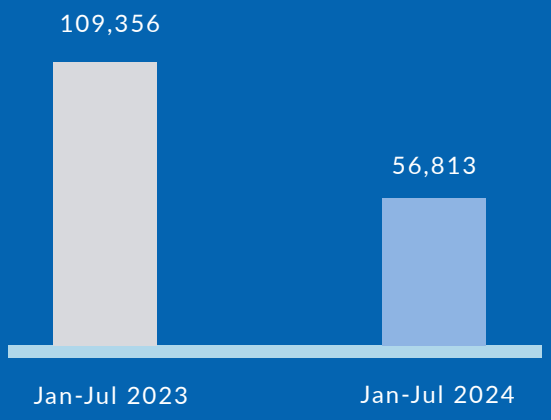
July 2024

In July, **7,465 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from the Syrian Arab Republic (22%), Bangladesh (21%) and Tunisia (16%). **20 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 29 July, **the third humanitarian evacuation flight in 2024** with 119 refugees and people in need of international protection arrived in Italy, in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2023 with the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and several Italian NGOs.

On 16 July, UNHCR and the Government of Italy held **high-level bilateral consultations** to strengthen their longstanding strategic partnership for the protection of forcibly displaced people and in support of countries hosting refugees and asylum-seekers.

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

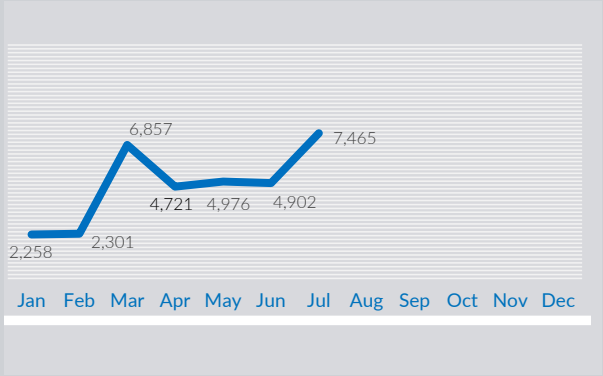
33,480

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-July 2024. 27,438 (82%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

193,210

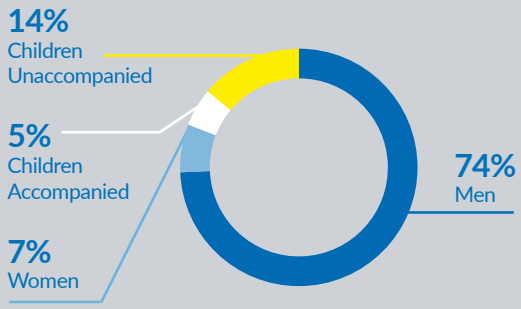
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of July 2024. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

SEA ARRIVALS BY MONTH IN 2024



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



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, **7,465 people reached the Italian shores** in 129 disembarkations, a 68 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. Among arrivals, 20 per cent were children (17% in June). **Twenty-two per cent originated from the Syrian Arab Republic** (15% in June), followed by **21 per cent from Bangladesh** (25% in June) and **16 per cent from Tunisia** (7% in June). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea were Egyptians (7%), Algerians (4%), Iranians (3%), Eritreans, Ethiopians, Guineans, Nigerians and Pakistanis (3% each). In July, **two-third of sea crossings departed from Libya** (67%, 4,998 people), followed by 24 per cent from Tunisia (1,819 people), 5 per cent from Türkiye (410 people) and 3 per cent from Algeria (238 people). In July, **more than half of the people arriving by sea** (**59%**, 2,912 people) were disembarked in Italy **as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**. Tragically, **54 people have died or went missing in the Central Mediterranean**, due to shipwrecks, bringing the **total estimated number of dead and missing since the beginning of 2024 to 699**.[1]
- **Hotspot in Pantelleria.** On 15 July, a new hotspot became operational on the island of Pantelleria, 106 kilometres south-west of Sicily mainland and 68 kilometres east of the Tunisian coast, in response to the number of arrivals recorded on the island over the past two years (3,621people from January to July 2024) .
- **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 4,000 since the beginning of the year. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh**, **the Syrian Arab Republic**, **Türkiye, Morocco** and **Afghanistan**. 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

People in need of international protection evacuated from Libya who arrived in Italy. ©UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

- On 29 July, **119 refugees and people in need of international protection** (the third group in 2024) **arrived in Italy from Libya**. Among them were 90 men, 18 single women and 18 families of Eritrean, Ethiopian, Egyptian, Syrian, Somali, Sudanese and South-Sudanese nationality. This brings the number of people evacuated in 2024 to 355 through resettlement, humanitarian corridors and evacuation schemes. **The evacuation was possible thanks to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in December 2023** between the MoI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA), UNHCR, and ARCI, Comunita' di Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy (FCEI) and National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP) The MoU aims to give access to Italy, over the next three years, to a total of 1,500 people who have been forced to flee their home countries due to war, violence, and other dire circumstances, and who are temporarily residing in Libya. Upon their arrival, 102 people were accommodated in second line reception facilities (*Sistema Accoglienza e Integrazione*, SAI), while the remaining 17 were received by ARCI in its facilities.[2]

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

[2] See also, UNHCR , Evacuazione dalla Libia: arrivati in Italia 119 rifugiati vulnerabili, 29 July 2024.

Field Protection

- On 24 July, the UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, together with UNICEF Country Coordinator, was on **mission to Lampedusa**, in Sicily, to meet with the Municipality, the Prefecture, local health authorities, the Coastguard, the Tax and Customs Police, the Italian Red Cross managing the hotspot facility, and UNHCR's implementing partners. Asylum procedures and the strengthening of reception and protection mechanisms with a focus on persons with specific needs (PwSN) were discussed.[3]

UNHCR-UNICEF joint mission to Lampedusa, Sicily. ©UNHCR

Community-based protection

- On 31 July, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF and IOM, launched the online course "*Sostenere le persone sopravvissute alla violenza di genere: tutte le indicazioni nel corso online per mediatrici e mediatori linguistico-culturali*" (Supporting gender-based violence survivors: The Role of Linguistic and Cultural Mediators). The course, which is retrievable on the UNHCR website and is available on the UNICEF e-learning Platform, is targeted at linguistic and cultural mediators working on the front lines to provide support to survivors or persons at risk of gender-based violence (GBV).

Asylum system

- Starting 1 July, **UNHCR is assisting the Immigration Police in registering asylum applications** with the aim to enhance the efficiency of the international protection procedure in Italy. The response aims to contribute to ensuring access to the international protection procedure due to backlogs and longer waiting times. Over six months, **20 Senior Registration Assistants and cultural mediators**, trained by UNHCR, **will support the Central Directorate of Immigration and Border Police in ten immigration offices nationwide**, providing technical expertise. UNHCR will guide asylum-seekers, help identify specific needs, and ensure timely, consistent processing of applications. In Italy, UNHCR collaborates with the Central Directorate, the National Commission for the Right of Asylum, and civil courts to uphold asylum-seekers' rights at border crossings, landing sites, and through training, in accordance with Italian and international law. The intervention is part of a broader UNHCR strategy to strengthen the capacity of asylum systems in European Union Member States, ensuring that they can adequately respond to the needs of asylum seekers and meet international standards.[4]

Training

- In line with its judicial engagement strategy, on 3 July, UNHCR conducted a **training** for recently recruited Ministry of Interior staff of the border sections of the Territorial Commission (TC) of Rome **on the identification and referral of PwSN**, with a focus on trafficking in human beings. Moreover, on 4 July, UNHCR conducted **training on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) claims** for the TC of Ancona. Lastly, on 12 July, UNHCR participated in the **final session of the course on refugees and migrants at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'**, with the handing over of diplomas to the participants.

[3] See also, Chiara Cardoletti's post on X ; Nicola Dell'Arciprete's post on X.

[4] See also, Rifugiati: parte oggi supporto UNHCR all'Italia per la registrazione dei rifugiati, 2 July 2024.

External engagement

Bi-annual briefing with the Embassies and Representations to Italy and the Holy See. ©UNHCR

- On 2 July, the UNHCR Representative delivered a **keynote speech** at the roundtable organized by the Embassy of Chile to the Holy See, Jesuit Refugee Service and Caritas Internationalis in Rome, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration.[5]
- On 9 July, UNHCR hosted its **biannual briefing with Embassies and Representations to Italy and the Holy See**, offering an update on the protection landscape in Italy. Attended by approximately 40 participants from European countries, the briefing addressed key issues including integration initiatives for refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons, projection for sea arrivals in the Central Mediterranean, as well as violations and abuses along the same route.
- In July, UNHCR participated in the meetings of the three **working groups of the Rome Process**: Economy and Development, Migration and Security, and Climate and Energy. UNHCR presented its work in these areas, including on the **route-based approach** with a particular focus on Africa. Additionally, the Italian development cooperation demonstrated support for the *Villages d'opportunités* initiative in Niger, highlighting a collaborative effort to foster sustainable development and opportunities in the region.

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

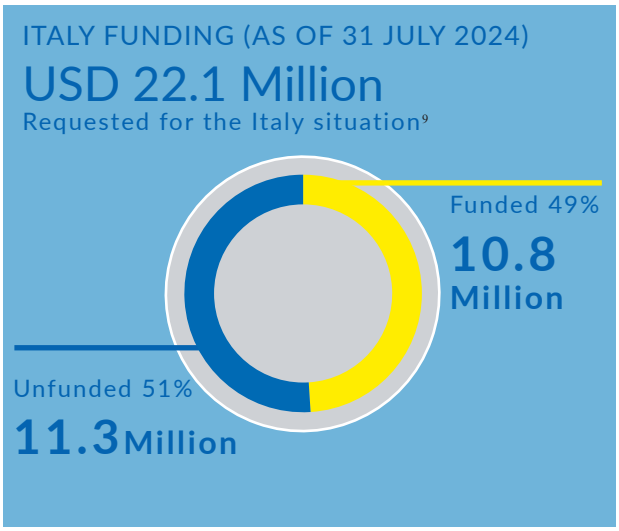
High-level bilateral consultations between UNHCR and the Government of Italy. ©UNHCR

On 16 July, the UNHCR held high-level bilateral consultations with the Government of Italy (GoI). Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and the Ministry of Labour attended. The meeting centered on strengthening the strategic partnership with the GoI, particularly in Africa. Contributions from the UNHCR Director of External Relatins, the Deputy Regional Directors for West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes, as well as the Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean situation, highlighted ongoing efforts to create safe migration pathways in alignment with Global Refugee Forum pledges and UNHCR's sustainable programming. The meeting was marked by engaged participation, reaffirming the strong cooperation and shared commitment to addressing global refugee challenges.[6]

[5] See also, Chiara Cardoletti's post on X.

[6] See also, Luigi Maria Vignali's post on X ; Dominique Hyde's post on X ; Chiara Cardoletti's post on X.

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.[10]

Fundraising

- In June 2024, UNHCR raised **2.4 million euros from private donors in Italy**. Among them, UNHCR extends its gratitude to Prosolidar Foundation for their contributions.
- In the month of July, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation granted a **8 million euros voluntary contribution** for UNHCR activities in the African continent.

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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 priorities activities.
[10] 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), 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.