Italy

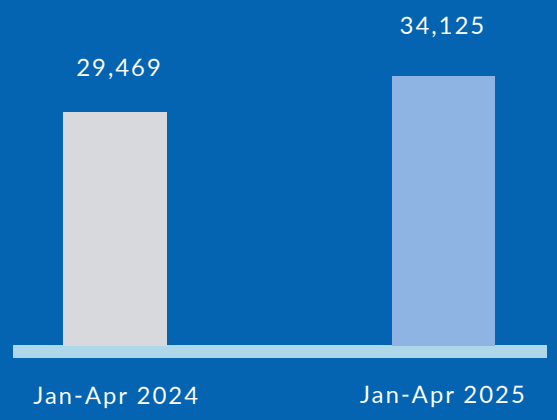
April 2025

In April, **6,578 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from Bangladesh (36%), Eritrea (19%), and Egypt (12%). **23 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 7 April, the first cohort of five refugees —out of a total of 16 selected—under the '**ReadyForIT – Labor Pathways for Refugees**' arrived in Italy. They will work in the ICT sector with Accenture in Naples.

In April, UNHCR launched a pilot phase for the implementation of **SOPs to strengthen referrals between RSD and Statelessness Procedures**, following a pledge submitted by the Italian MoI at the Global Refugee Forum 2023.

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

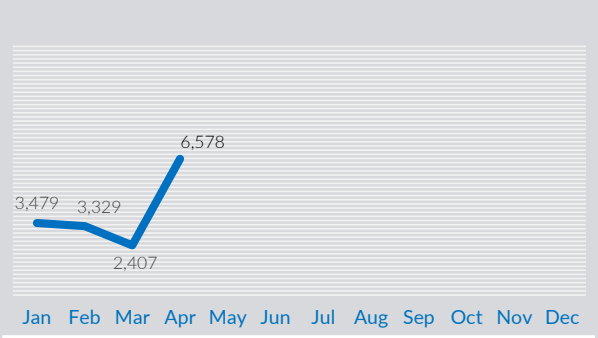
15,793

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-April 2025. 13,945 (88%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

204,889

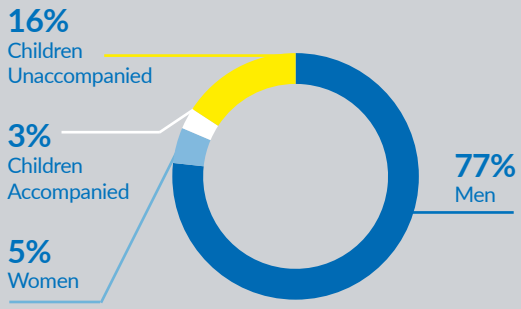
Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of end of April 2025. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)

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



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 April, **6,578 people reached the Italian shores in 122 disembarkations**, a 39 per cent increase compared to the same month in 2024. Among arrivals, 23 per cent were children (18% in March). **Thirty-six per cent originated from Bangladesh** (same as in March), followed by 19 per cent from Eritrea (up from 9% in March), and 12 per cent from Egypt (7% in March). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea included Ethiopians (7%), Pakistanis (6%), Somalis and Guineans (3% each), as well as Sudanese, Syrians, Ivorians, and Nigerians (2% each). In April, **the majority of sea crossings departed from Libya** (**92%**, 6,046 persons), followed by 7 per cent from Tunisia (439 persons), 1 per cent from Türkiye (84 persons) and less than 1 per cent from Algeria (9 persons). Around **half of the people arriving by sea in April** (48%, 3,168 people) **were disembarked in Italy as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations**.[1]
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **500 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in April by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of detected arrivals to around 1,600 as of April 2025. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh**, **Afghanistan, Morocco, Pakistan, 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

- On 7 April 2025, the first cohort of five refugees—out of a total of 16 selected—arrived in Naples under the **ReadyForIT – Labor Pathways for Refugees initiative**. The initiative, spearheaded by UNHCR in collaboration with Fondazione Italiana Accenture ETS, Diaconia Valdese, Talent Beyond Boundaries, Pathways International, the International Trade Centre (ITC), and Unione Industriali Torino, aims to facilitate the integration of refugees into the Italian labour market in the field of Information and Communication Technology. The 16 selected refugees originate from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, and had been residing in Uganda. Prior to their arrival in Italy, they completed comprehensive training in IT skills—with a focus on programming languages—alongside civic orientation and Italian language instruction to support their integration.The selected refugees are expected to be employed by Accenture, Aubay, Btinkeeng, Dedagroup, OverIT, Reale ITES, and ValueTech across various locations in Italy.

The arrival of five refugees in Naples through one of the pilot labour mobility corridors to Italy. ©UNHCR

- On 7 April, UNHCR and partners signed an **addendum to the 2021 MoU on humanitarian corridors for Afghan nationals,** extending the initiative into its third year. The agreement enables the admission of an additional 700 Afghan refugees to Italy through safe and legal pathways by July 2025. Over 800 individuals have been welcomed since July 2022, through the joint efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, UNHCR, IOM, and civil society partners including CEI, the Community of Sant'Egidio, FCEI, the Waldensian Board, ARCI, and INMP.

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

[2] See also: Arrivo di 5 rifugiati a Napoli con i corridoi lavorativi: una nuova opportunità di integrazione e lavoro grazie al progetto "ReadyForIT", 7 April 2025.

Statelessness

- In April, UNHCR started the pilot phase of newly developed **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) designed to establish a referral mechanism between the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and Statelessness Determination Procedures** in Italy. This important initiative had been presented as a pledge by the Ministry of Interior at the Global Refugee Forum 2023 and represents a key milestone in Italy's ongoing efforts to enhance the protection framework for stateless individuals and those at risk of statelessness. To support the rollout of the new SOPs, UNHCR facilitated two training sessions for caseworkers in selected Territorial Commissions.

Specific needs

- On 1 April, the Central Working Group on Vulnerabilities—established by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) with support from UNHCR in the context of the Handbook for the Identification, Referral, and Care of Persons Living with Vulnerabilities—organized a webinar to to present the methodology for the Handbook, which was attended by 62 participants, including representatives from Prefectures and other relevant local authorities operating in Southern Italy.

Gender-based violence

- With the aim of enhancing the capacity of frontline personnel involved in reception and integration to identify, prevent, and mitigate gender-based violence (GBV) risks, on 4 April, the MoI, UNHCR, and UNICEF jointly organized a large-scale webinar focused on **GBV risk mitigation**, bringing together approximately 440 participants, including staff from Prefectures, managing entities of reception facilities, and operators of SAI (Reception and Integration System) projects in Southern Italy.

Training

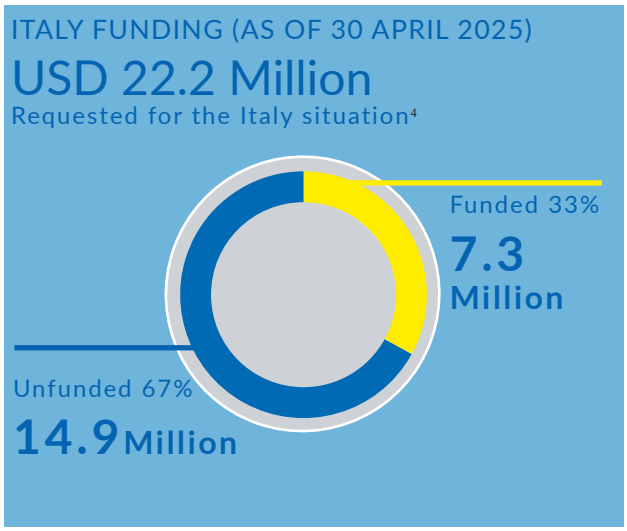
- On 8 April, UNHCR facilitated a **webinar for the National Anti-Trafficking Network**, presenting its integration support programmes. On 9 April, UNHCR hosted the third session of an eight-part training series on trafficking in persons, held at its premises for staff of the Rome Territorial Commission and the Lazio Region's anti-trafficking project.

THREE YEARS OF CONFLICT IN SUDAN: UNHCR HIGHLIGHTS URGENT NEEDS AT LONDON FORUM

On 15 April, the London Conference on Sudan—co-hosted by the United Kingdom, the African Union, the European Union, France, and Germany— was convened to mark three years since the conflict began, drawing global attention to one of the most pressing humanitarian emergencies. Representing UNHCR, the UN High Commissioner (HC) for Refugees, Filippo Grandi warned that time is running out to avert catastrophe in Sudan. So far, the conflict has displaced nearly 13 million people, including over 3 million to neighbouring fragile states such as Chad, South Sudan, and Egypt. Amid declining global humanitarian funding, HC Grandi expressed deep concern over aid cuts that are hampering the response. Without increased and sustained support, he cautioned, secondary movements—already visible in countries like Libya—will intensify, further destabilizing the region and beyond.[3]

[3] See also: Catastrofe umanitaria: cosa sta succedendo oggi in Sudan.

Financial information



- UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to the UNHCR Multi-country office (MCO) in Italy in April, and throughout 2025, including for unearmarked, softly earmarked, and tightly earmarked contributions.[5]

Fundraising

- UNHCR MCO Italy is grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In April, **2.5 milllion euros** were raised. Among the private donors, a special thanks goes to Fondazione Valentino Garavani e Giancarlo Giammetti, EY Foundation, Alimenta Foundation, Permira, Pettenon, Prosolidar Foundation, Reale Mutua Foundation, Holy Family of Bordeaux and Boeninger for their contributions.
- UNHCR MCO Italy is also grateful to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation for its voluntary contribution of **8 million euros**, provided in April 2025, in support of UNHCR's humanitarian operations in Africa.

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[4] 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.

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