

# Italy

October 2020

Nearly **3,500 sea arrivals** were registered in October. While the majority departed from Tunisia and disembarked in Lampedusa, **increasing numbers** this month **departed from Turkey**.

**Land arrivals** are reported **at the Italy-Slovenia border** of refugees and migrants, **including very young unaccompanied children**. The capacity of quarantine facilities for children remains limited.

The Government's **law decree 130/2020**, introducing important amendments to the "security decrees" of the previous administration, was approved. While better, some gaps remain.

## KEY INDICATORS (OCTOBER 2020)

**1,828**

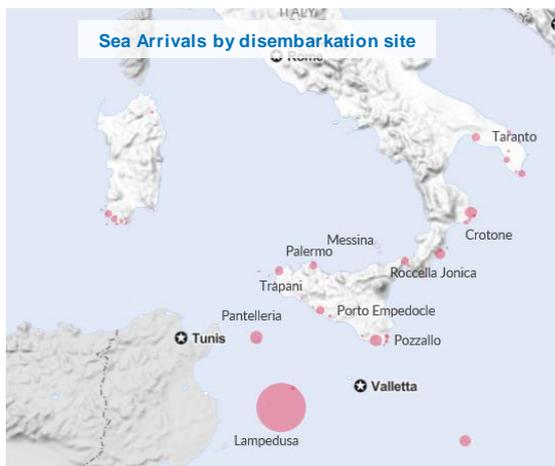
**Sea arrivals assisted** and informed on asylum procedures by UNHCR staff upon disembarkation (Source: UNHCR)

**3,160**

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

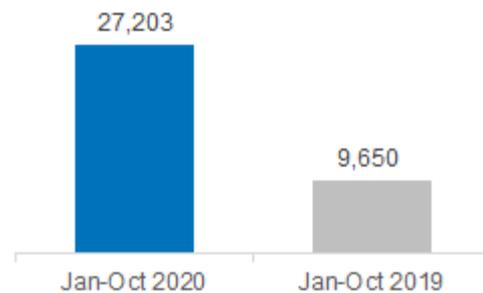
**58**

Individuals who received **medical assistance and psychosocial counselling** by UNHCR partners (Source: MEDU and LILA)



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Sea arrivals

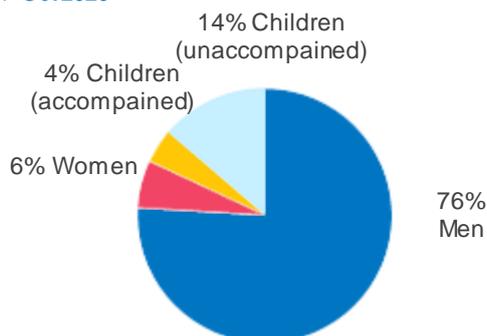


Source: Ministry of Interior. In addition to sea arrivals, Italy also receives land arrivals and air arrivals. This chart focuses on sea arrivals, as per official figures provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Sea arrivals by gender and age

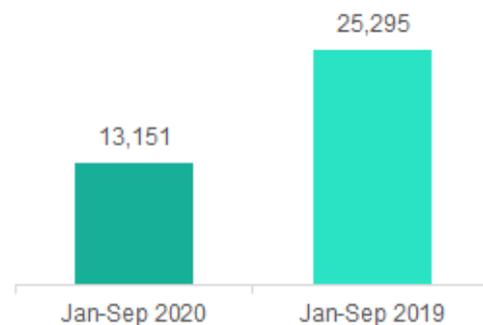
Jan- Oct 2020



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. Gender breakdown for children is not available.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Asylum applications



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

## Operational Context

- In October, **3,477 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores**. While consistent with previous months the vast majority of refugees and migrants who disembarked in October (42%) departed from Tunisia, a higher than usual proportion of those reaching shore this month (**31%**) **embarked in Turkey**. Persons departing from Turkey originate mostly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Iran. Over **1,700 persons disembarked on the small island of Lampedusa** this month, having crossed the sea from Tunisia and Libya<sup>1</sup>. No NGO rescue ships were operating in the Central Mediterranean in October.
- **Refugee and migrant arrivals through the Italy-Slovenia border** in the northern Friuli-Venezia Giulia region continued throughout October. Not only adults, but also children travelling on their own, including very young ones, reach Italy via this route. Most of the unaccompanied children come from Afghanistan, but there are increasing numbers of Bangladeshis. Many refugees and migrants arriving by land reported **serious ill-treatment while travelling** through countries in South-East Europe, including being burned<sup>2</sup>.
- Both sea and land arrivals are required to observe quarantine upon entering Italy, prior to being transferred to reception facilities. In mid-October, Italian authorities clarified that the four **ferries** currently made available **for offshore quarantine would only be used for new sea arrivals**, quickly terminating the practice of transferring asylum-seekers who had tested positive for COVID-19 from reception centres onshore to quarantine ferries. Following advocacy by civil society and the death of two unaccompanied teenagers after quarantining offshore, authorities confirmed that **unaccompanied children arriving by sea would no longer be quarantined offshore**, but instead be transferred to dedicated facilities onshore. Concerns remain regarding the availability of such facilities. Children for the time being may still be placed in the same facilities as adults, denying them access to age-appropriate services.
- On 5 October, the **Government approved law decree 130/2020**, amending the so-called “security decrees” issued by the former Government. Several provisions of the new decree represent a step forward in the protection of refugees, such as the right of asylum-seekers to register for residence, the restoration of support services in reception and a broadening of complementary forms of protection. A number of other provisions remain of concern to UNHCR, including those relating to accelerated asylum procedures, manifestly unfounded and subsequent applications, and detention.
- As of 31 October, **80,645 asylum-seekers and refugees** were accommodated in **reception** facilities in Italy<sup>3</sup>. As of 30 September, 13,151 persons initiated **asylum applications** in Italy, compared to 25,295 in the same period last year. This year so far, 22% of asylum applicants originated from Pakistan, followed by Bangladesh (8%), El Salvador (6%), Venezuela (5%), and Peru (5%). In the same period, 11% applicants were recognized refugee status, 10% subsidiary protection, and 5% other forms of protection<sup>4</sup>. Following the deterioration of the COVID-19 situation in the country in October, some Territorial Commissions reduced the number of in-person interviews they carry out daily, while others resumed remote decision-making.

<sup>1</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the Italy page of the UNHCR data portal, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5205> (last access 9 November 2020)

<sup>2</sup> See, *inter alia*, Guardian, *Croatian police accused of ‘sickening’ assaults on migrants on Balkan trail*, 21 October 2020, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/oct/21/croatian-police-accused-of-sickening-assaults-on-migrants-on-balkans-trail-bosnia> (last access 9 November 2020)

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of the Interior, *Cruscotto statistico*, available at [http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto\\_statistico\\_giornaliero\\_31-10-2020.pdf](http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-10-2020.pdf) (last access 9 November 2020)

<sup>4</sup> Eurostat, *Asylum quarterly report*, available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> (last access 12 November 2020)

## Main Activities

- UNHCR's presence on the ground in southern Italy providing new sea arrivals with information on their rights and obligations and on asylum procedures was supplemented in October with the deployment of **a female staff member to Lampedusa** to provide gender-appropriate support on the identification and referral for individuals with specific needs. On 12 October, UNHCR held a **meeting with the President of the Italian Red Cross**, Mr. Francesco Rocca, to discuss services and information provided by the Red Cross aboard quarantine ferries.



UNHCR staff attend disembarkation procedures and assist new sea arrivals in Lampedusa in early October. Photo ©UNHCR/Alessio Mamo

UNHCR is enhancing its cooperation with the Red Cross including routine briefings with the heads of teams aboard vessels and the provision of information on international protection. UNHCR staff continue to monitor quarantine procedures, including the transfer to reception facilities at the end of the quarantine period, to ensure that new arrivals have access to full and reliable information on asylum and other relevant procedures in Italy.

- In the second half of October, **UNHCR also increased its presence in Friuli-Venezia Giulia** to gain fuller insight into the situation at the Italy-Slovenia border. UNHCR is collecting testimonies from persons who travelled through South-East Europe and supporting increased coordination between civil society organizations and local authorities to better respond to the needs of arrivals. UNHCR partner **Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati – CIR** is liaising with social services in Trieste to improve the care of very young children travelling on their own.
- In October, **UNHCR's Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti**, met with **Interior Minister, Ms. Luciana Lamorgese** as well as with **Equal Opportunities Minister, Ms. Elena Bonetti**. In both meetings, the discussion focused on the current context and challenges affecting asylum-seekers and refugees, with a view to identifying the support UNHCR may be able to offer, in particular with respect to the integration of refugees.
- In early October, UNHCR staff provided **training to over 30 cultural mediators** who work with its partner **ARCI**, providing them with the necessary information to support UNHCR staff in future activities entailing direct contact with asylum-seekers and refugees, such as assistance at disembarkation or in the context of humanitarian evacuations and visits to reception facilities. UNHCR personnel also co-delivered trainings in the context of the "Leaving violence, living safe" project with partner **D.i.RE.**, addressing cultural mediators working in anti-violence centres in Bolzano, Latina and Prato where asylum-seeking and refugee women and girls who have survived **sexual and gender-based violence** can be accommodated. On 6 October,

UNHCR staff co-delivered a training to cultural mediators in Catania, in collaboration with partner [LILA](#), focusing on sexual and gender-based violence. People fleeing their countries are often additionally exposed to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Through “Pro-access”, a project run in collaboration with UNHCR, LILA has continued to work to improve asylum-seekers’ and refugees’ access to sexual and reproductive health services also during the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular attention to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. In October, UNHCR delivered trainings on a variety of topics and participated in public events in various locations across Italy, reaching out to over 1,100 participants, including judges and caseworkers engaging in refugee status determination procedures.



Cultural mediators attend a UNHCR – LILA training in Catania on 6 October. Photo © UNHCR/Alessio Mamo

- In October, UNHCR assisted 199 refugees and asylum-seekers by providing **individual counselling** through its drop-in service in Rome as well as remotely. During the month, the **national toll-free number** managed by UNHCR partner [ARCI](#) to provide refugees with free legal counselling and information took 3,160 calls and messages. During the month, ARCI addressed 3,250 inquiries raised by refugees who reached out to them, including through the toll-free number. Some 5,110 persons visited [Juma Map](#), an online map of services for asylum-seekers and refugees throughout Italy.
- On 3 October, UNHCR took part in the commemorations for the annual National Day of Remembrance and Welcome in Lampedusa, participating in two workshops for students and two round table events and giving interviews to two media outlets<sup>5</sup>.
- On 21 October, UNHCR organized an online event on the role of universities in ensuring safe and regular pathways and concrete integration prospects in Italy. The event was attended with enthusiasm by universities and garnered strong media coverage thanks to a local [press release](#) and [video](#) produced under a media partnership with Asknews.



Palazzo Marino in Milan, one of eight Italian cities to have signed the declaration Cities #WithRefugees, was lit in blue on the occasion of World Refugee Day, on 20 June 2020.

## WORLD CITIES DAY

On 31 October, cities that lead the way in protecting refugees and creating inclusive communities are celebrated. In Italy, initiatives in **Milan** are considered best practice, with the municipality supporting inclusive policies for refugees and migrants, including children on their own, working to ensure equal access to healthcare and financial support and urging the participation of refugees and migrants in the development of policies addressing the COVID-19 pandemic as well as racism and xenophobia. Further information (in Italian) is available [here](#) and a UNHCR press release can be accessed [here](#).

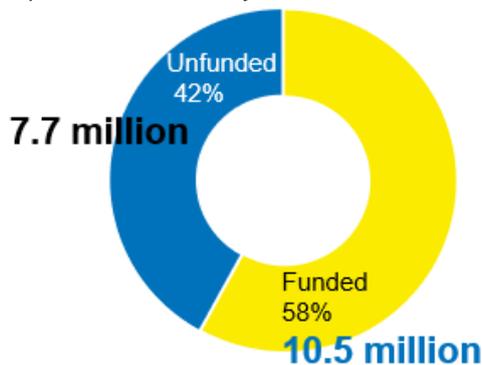
<sup>5</sup> See also UNHCR-IOM press release, Giornata nazionale della Memoria e dell’Accoglienza – OIM e UNHCR: il Mediterraneo torni ad essere mare della solidarietà europea, 3 October 2020, available at <https://www.unhcr.org/it/notizie-storie/comunicati-stampa/giornata-nazionale-della-memoria-e-dellaccoglienza-oim-e-unhcr-il-mediterraneo-torni-ad-essere-mare-della-solidarieta-europea/> (last access 9 November 2020)

# Financial information

## ITALY FUNDING (AS OF 3 NOVEMBER 2020)

### USD 18.2 million

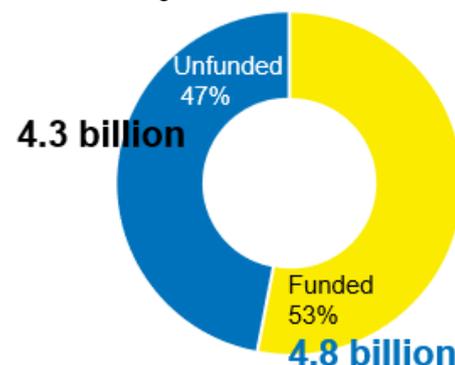
requested for the Italy situation



## GLOBAL FUNDING (AS OF 14 OCTOBER 2020)

### USD 9.1 billion

current budget



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.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

MoI Italy (AMIF EMAS) 662 K | Private donors France 112 K | Private donors United Kingdom 19 K | Private donors Italy 5.6 K<sup>6</sup> (Please note that this does not include additional projected contributions by the Italian Ministry of the Interior)

### 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.

**United States of America** 14.3 M | **Private donors Australia** 8.2 M | **Private donors Germany** 2.5 M | **Canada** 2.3 M

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### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

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**Sweden** 76.4 M | **Private donors Spain** 59.9 M | **Norway** 41.4 M | **Netherlands** 36.1 M | **Denmark** 34.6 M | **United Kingdom** 31.7 M | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 30.6 M | **Germany** 25.9 M | **Private donors Japan** 25.1 M | **Japan** 23.8 | **Switzerland** 16.4 M | **Private donors Italy** 14 M | **France** 14 M | **Private donors Sweden** 11.7 M | **Italy** 10.6 M

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### LINKS

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

<sup>6</sup> Major private donors in Italy include: Intesa San Paolo, Calzedonia, Moncler, MYCIS, Cucinelli, Prosolidar Foundation, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, Intesa San Paolo.