

Italy

November 2020

November saw **4,900 persons arriving by sea in the first half of the month and less than 450 in the second.** At least **100 persons died or went missing** in the Central Mediterranean.

UNHCR and partner organizations continued to work to **improve the identification and referral of individuals with specific needs** in disembarkation sites and in border locations in northern Italy.

Through the Welcome project, UNHCR recognized with a logo award 121 companies and 52 entities that promoted **access to employment** opportunities for refugees in Italy.

KEY INDICATORS (NOVEMBER 2020)

4,355

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

3,230

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

57

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

Sea arrivals in 2020 by disembarkation site



Sea Arrivals POPULATION OF CONCERN

32,563

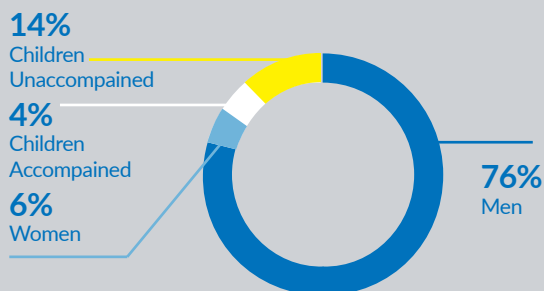
10,882

Jan-Nov 2020

Jan-Nov 2019

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



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.

Asylum applications POPULATION OF CONCERN

16,443

31,440

Jan - Sep 2020

Jan - Sep 2019

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

Operational Context

- **Sea arrivals.** In November, **5,360 refugees and migrants arrived by sea** in Italy's southern regions, of whom over 4,900 in the first half of the month. Sea arrivals decreased in the second half, mainly due to poor weather, consistent with what is usually a lower arrivals season as winter approaches. Almost 3,000 sea arrivals departed from Libya while 1,700 left from Tunisia and almost 500 from Turkey. About 3,900 persons disembarked on the small island of Lampedusa in November.¹ Italian authorities announced plans for the deployment of naval and aerial assets to support Tunisian authorities with the interception of migrant vessels before they enter international waters as well as the implementation of more stringent identification and screening procedures at the Lampedusa hotspot. During the first half of the month, four shipwrecks occurred and **over 100 persons were reported dead or missing at sea** following departure from Libya.
- **Italy-Slovenia border situation.** Despite worsening weather conditions, **arrivals through the Italy-Slovenia border** in the northern Friuli-Venezia Giulia region continued steadily, peaking at 75 refugees and migrants crossing the border near Trieste in a single day and with two groups of over 100 individuals each entering Italy near Udine in early November. Significant numbers of land arrivals, including children travelling alone, continued to strain the limited capacity of local COVID-19 quarantine facilities, resulting in some newly arrived adult men being initially accommodated in tents. The concerning practice of **readmissions of refugees and vulnerable migrants from Italy to Slovenia** continued throughout November with authorities adopting procedures possibly resulting in refugees being prevented from seeking protection in Italy and being sent back as far as Bosnia. Such procedures seem also to be applied to undocumented children travelling alone after age assessments by authorities deeming them to be adults. In Trieste, several help desks, outreach and shelter services that were discontinued due to the COVID-19 emergency have yet to be reopened, resulting in a number of land arrivals sleeping rough or in informal settlements in town.
- **Italy-France border situation.** In Piedmont, near the Italy-France border, accommodation facilities in the area of Oulx – often reached by **individuals attempting to cross the Alps to reach France** by foot – experienced overcrowding as a result of increasing numbers of refugees and migrants approaching the area. Many among them originate from Afghanistan and Syria and entered Italy after travelling through South-East Europe. The availability of facilities in the Oulx area is limited, making it difficult to comply with COVID-19 physical distancing requirements and to ensure adequate safeguards for vulnerable individuals, such as women travelling alone or children.
- **Legislative developments.** The Chamber of Deputies' Constitutional Affairs Committee discussed and approved **amendments to law decree 130/2020**, which includes several provisions representing a step forward in the protection of refugees, but also other provisions which are of concern to UNHCR. Many of the amendments are consistent with UNHCR's recommendations provided through a hearing before the Constitutional Affairs Committee on 5 November. The decree must be converted into law by parliament before 20 December.
- **Access to procedures / Reception.** As of 30 November, 80,906 asylum-seekers, refugees and unaccompanied children were accommodated in reception facilities across Italy². **Many asylum-seekers were left without accommodation in Rome for several weeks** owing to delays in the processing of asylum applications. In November, Territorial Commissions in various locations across Italy either limited or suspended in-person refugee status determination interviews, on account of the deterioration of the COVID-19 situation.

¹ 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 3 December 2020)

² Ministry of the Interior, *Cruscotto statistico*, available at http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_30-11-2020_0.pdf (last access 9 December 2020)

Main Activities

■ **Persons with specific needs.** UNHCR continues to support the identification and referral of individuals with specific needs among sea arrivals, with a particular focus on the island of Lampedusa and the measures being taken there in respect of COVID-19. In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF, UNHCR is developing a **pilot project to support the authorities in establishing a system to adequately identify persons with specific needs** – such as children travelling alone, survivors of torture or gender-based violence, shipwreck survivors – and refer them to appropriate services for follow-up. In November, UNHCR staff met with shipwreck survivors who were medically evacuated to Lampedusa and liaised with MSF, Save the Children, and MEDU, as well as with the Red Cross to ensure that other survivors received psychological first aid while observing quarantine in facilities in Sicily and offshore.

■ **Italy-Slovenia border situation.** UNHCR maintained a presence in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and regularly liaised with partner [Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati – CIR](#) to assess the situation at the Italy-Slovenia border. In November, UNHCR also **engaged with the Prosecutor of the Trieste Juvenile Court**, raising concerns and proposing practical solutions on the issue of age assessments for children intercepted at the border. UNHCR's recommendations aim at ensuring adequate safeguards for children, in line with applicable legal standards. UNHCR and partner [CIR](#) will jointly deliver training on asylum procedures to police officers working at the border. UNHCR staff also met with the Mayor of Trieste advocating for the re-opening of shelter and outreach services in the city to address accommodation and information needs of refugees and migrants in the area.

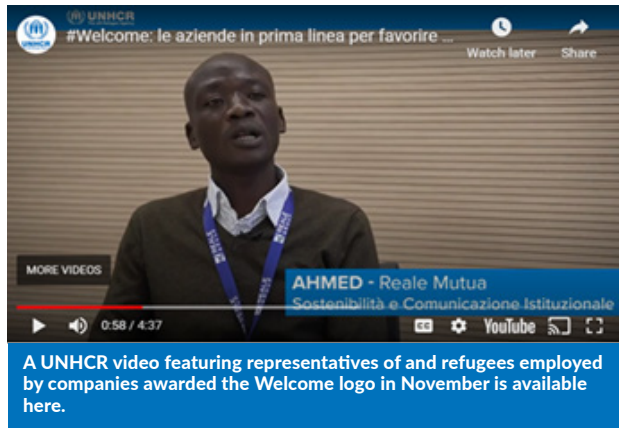


UNHCR staff attend disembarkation procedures and assist new sea arrivals in Lampedusa. Photo ©UNHCR/Alessio Mamo

■ **Informal settlements.** In November, UNHCR partner [Intersos](#) began an **assessment of the needs of refugee and migrant populations living in informal settlements in Apulia, Campania, and Sicily**. Persons of concern in these areas often pursue seasonal agricultural work and are subject to the increased risks and difficulty accessing services as a result of COVID-19. UNHCR also continues its work in informal settlements in Rome. Through its partner MEDU, which has signed agreements with local health authorities and the municipality of Rome, primary health assistance and referral to medical, social and legal services is being provided through mobile units in various informal settlements, including train stations and occupied buildings.

■ **Child protection.** On the occasion of World Children's Day on 20 November, UNHCR launched a [child-friendly page](#) on its Italy website. The page provides information on asylum procedures in Italy as well as on the reception and guardianship systems and the impact of COVID-19 on children and youth. During the month, UNHCR delivered its first online **training-of-trainers course for personnel working in second-line reception facilities for unaccompanied children**. The course focused on child protection and on training techniques, providing participants with tools that can enable them to further share their knowledge with other staff working in facilities across Italy.

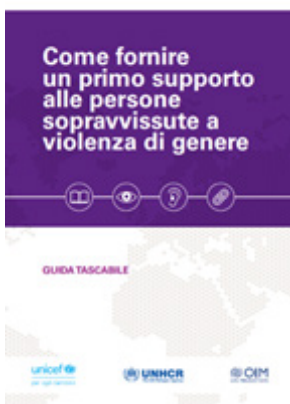
■ **Integration.** On 10 November, UNHCR awarded 121 companies with the [Welcome – Working for refugee integration](#) logo acknowledging their efforts to **promote employment opportunities for refugees** in Italy in 2019. Employment significantly improves the integration prospects of refugees. An additional 52 associations, public bodies and other entities including NGOs, foundations, unions, and local institutions were also awarded the WeWelcome logo in recognition of their efforts to facilitate the labour inclusion of refugees. Since the launch of the project in 2017, over 4,500 refugees have been employed by companies awarded the logo, including more than 3,300 in 2019.³



■ **Statelessness.** On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of UNHCR's global [#IBelong](#) campaign – aiming at ending statelessness by 2024 - **five stateless persons living in Italy and in other parts of Europe** produced content for an [Instagram takeover](#) to raise awareness on the realities of living as a stateless person in Europe. There are currently an estimated 3,000 stateless persons in Italy.

■ **Trafficking.** On 20 November, the updated edition of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum - UNHCR guidelines on the **identification of victims of human trafficking among asylum-seekers** were presented at a national conference before 360 attendees including asylum caseworkers and anti-trafficking organizations. Since 2018, the collaboration between the National Commission and UNHCR led to the identification and referral to ad hoc services of some 10,400 victims of human trafficking.

■ **Training for journalists.** In November, UNHCR delivered two trainings in collaboration with partner organization [Carta di Roma](#), reaching out to 30 journalism students at the Cattolica University in Milan, and 30 journalists working for local media outlets. The trainings focused on the global refugee situation and the representation of refugees and migrants in the media.

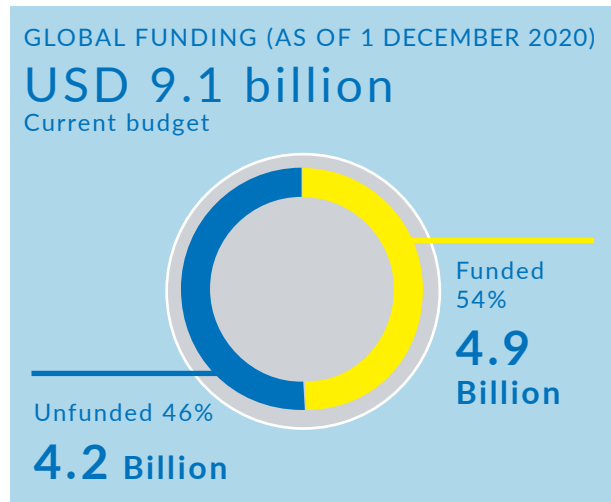
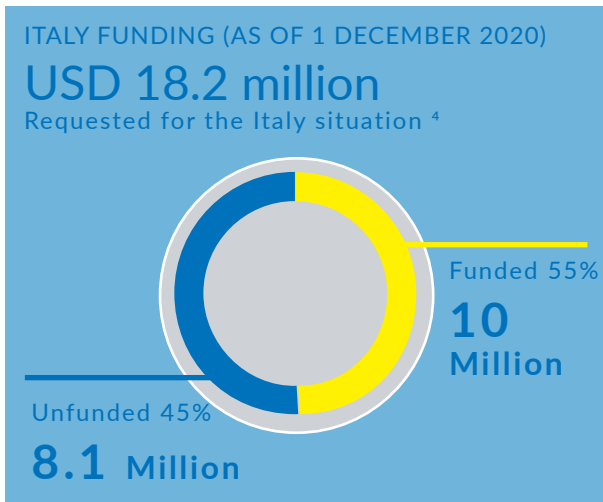


Gender-based violence pocket guide

On 6 November, UNHCR, together with IOM and UNICEF, launched a [pocket guide](#) for social workers focusing on how to provide first-line support to survivors of gender-based violence. The document acknowledges the importance of ensuring the survivor's safety, confidentiality and dignity while prioritizing psychological first aid and links with locally available services. The guide is especially timely given the impact of COVID-19 on existing vulnerabilities, including those relating to refugee and migrant women and girls. Click [here](#) to access the joint IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF press release (in Italian).

³ For further information (in Italian), see the press release, UNHCR, *III edizione del Premio Welcome – Working for Refugee Integration per promuovere l'inclusione dei rifugiati in Italia*, available at <https://www.unhcr.org/it/notizie-storie/comunicati-stampa/iii-edizione-del-premio-welcome-working-for-refugee-integration-per-promuovere-linclusione-dei-rifugiati-in-italia/> (last access 4 December 2020)

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.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Mol Italy 4.8 M | Private donors France 112 K | Private donors United Kingdom 19 K | Private donors Italy 5.6 K ⁵

(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.

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LINKS

UNHCR data portal Mediterranean situation - UNHCR Italy - Twitter - Facebook - Global Focus

⁴ 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.

⁵ Major private donors in Italy include: Intesa San Paolo, Calzedonia, Moncler, MYCIS, Cucinelli, Prosolidar Foundation, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, Intesa San Paolo.