

Italy

June 2021

To celebrate this year's **World Refugee Day (WRD)**, UNHCR Italy ran the campaign *Together we can do anything* calling for the full inclusion of refugees in all aspects of society.

The National Asylum Commission and UNHCR continue to jointly carry out **quality monitoring activities** of refugee status determination procedures and of first instance decisions.

A total of 58 refugees, mostly families with children, arrived in Italy from Niger and Ethiopia thanks to **the humanitarian corridors initiative** between 23 and 25 June.

KEY INDICATORS (JUNE 2021)

5,840

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

4,800

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

3,793

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

73

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

20,532

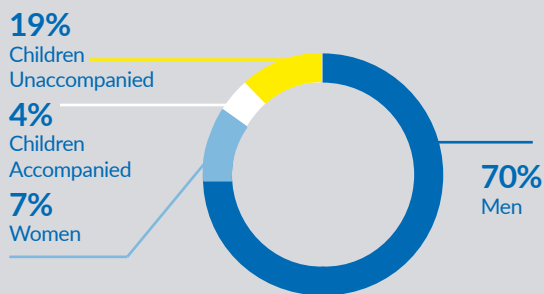
6,949

Jan-Jun 2021

Jan-Jun 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.

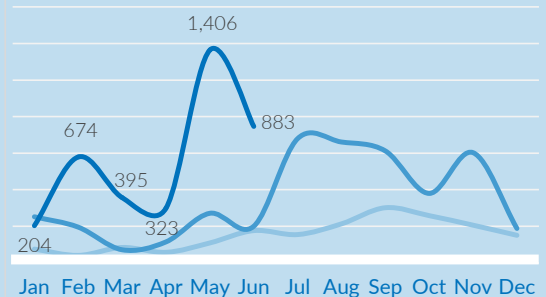
Sea arrivals by gender and age POPULATION OF CONCERN



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.

World Refugee Day 2021

On 20 June, UNHCR celebrated World Refugee Day 2021, which this year focused on the power of inclusion under the slogan *Together we can do anything - Insieme possiamo fare la differenza*. UNHCR organized and sponsored several online and in person activities to show how through employment, higher education and sporting opportunities refugees can fulfill their potential and enrich their host communities, making them a valuable resource for society and the common good. Highlights included the Global Trends 2020 press conference, the Awareness Festival in Rome organized with Liberi Nantes in the context of its partnership with UEFA Foundation for Children, focusing on the power of football to promote social inclusion, a takeover by four refugees of the social media accounts of four UNHCR celebrity supporters, and the +Gusto #WithRefugees food festival organized in partnership with Be Pop!. The Representative, staff members, refugees, Good Will Ambassadors and High Profile Supporters also gave interviews to media, with a strong presence especially on radio and television. The locally produced WRD video was screened or aired more than 57,000 times on national and local RTV networks and out-of-home advertising channels. The campaign also received strong external support from institutional representatives including the three highest offices of the Italian state and Pope Francis, cities, with 10 major municipalities lighting up their monuments, and the private sector, with eight private sector partners organizing events or activities in support of WRD. Refugees featured prominently in all communications activities, including video stories, interviews to radio and television, the Global Trends press conference and a takeover of the social media accounts of four celebrity supporters.¹



Photo: UNHCR/Valerio Muscella



Photo: UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

- Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In June, **5,840 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, a similar figure to the one recorded in May (5,679) but a significant increase compared to those recorded over the same month in recent years (1,830 sea arrivals recorded in June 2020 and 1,218 in June 2019). Between January and June 2021, 20,532 persons arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 6,949 and 2,779 in 2020 and 2019, respectively. The majority of June 2021 sea arrivals departed from Libya (52%), followed by Tunisia (22%), Turkey (19%), Algeria (3%), Egypt (3%) and Greece (1%). In June, a slight decrease in the number of departures from Libya was observed, parallel to an increase in departures from Tunisia and Turkey. The first 2021 arrivals from Egypt were recorded during the month, as well as the first disembarkation in the Basilicata Region since 2019.¹ As of the end of June, at least 350 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were concluding their quarantine in several poorly equipped facilities not specifically dedicated to UASC. Worryingly, UNHCR observes that persons who arrived in Calabria are quarantined in several locations across the Region with little or no support or assistance. **UNHCR continues to monitor the situation and advocate for the identification of adequate quarantine and reception facilities for sea arrivals, particularly for UASC and other persons with special needs.** On 30 June, at least seven persons, all women, died in yet another shipwreck happening near Lampedusa, while nine corpses were found weeks later during the search for the sunken boat. During the first six months of 2021, more than 700 persons were recorded as dead or missing in the Central Mediterranean. In response to yet another such tragedy, UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi and IOM Director General António Vitorino **reiterated** the two organizations' joint call for an organized, coordinated, state-led response. As of the end of June, SOS Méditerranée's Ocean Viking

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](https://www.unhcr.org/mediterranean/situation).

was the only NGO rescue ship operational in the central Mediterranean, while four German-flagged NGO vessels were under administrative seizure.

- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** In June, an average of around 200 persons were reportedly intercepted weekly at the Italy – Slovenia border, with the number slightly decreasing only towards the end of the month. On 4 June, the Italian and Slovenian Ministers of Interior met to discuss possible joint patrolling activities and the adoption of border surveillance equipment, while a few days later the Director of the DG Immigration and Border Police of the Ministry of Interior visited Trieste and declared that arrivals in the region had exceeded 3,000 by that date. Under such circumstances, UNHCR welcomes the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Regional Government announcement to soon publish a notice to identify new facilities, with a view to expanding quarantine and reception capacity for UASC. On the Italy-France border, an increase in the presence of refugees and migrants transiting through Ventimiglia was reported in June, with the weekly average shifting from 200/250 in May to a steady presence of around 300 persons in June. The vast majority are adult men from Eritrea and Sudan, who reached Italy via Libya in recent months. An increase of persons from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and a group of Eritreans who entered Italy via Slovenia was also recorded, including families and UASC. **UNHCR continues to monitor the situation and advocates for the swift identification of adequate quarantine and reception facilities on the Italy – France border.**
- **Asylum.** In collaboration with and in support of the work of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum, **UNHCR continued to monitor the quality of the refugee status determination decision-making process across the country in June.** Among the many activities undertaken in this framework, quality monitoring efforts took the form of interviews and panel discussions with the Territorial Commissions, complemented by the perspectives of beneficiaries of international protection, as well as interpreters and caseworkers. **The National Asylum Commission and UNHCR also continued to jointly carry out quality monitoring activities of first instance decisions and of COVID-19 prevention measures adopted at Territorial Commission premises.** UNHCR commends Italy's efforts in upholding the principles of protection and of international refugee law despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, while noting areas for further improvement, such as the need to establish more systematic and consistent referral mechanisms. In June, UNHCR participated in the final roundtable and diploma awarding ceremony of the multidisciplinary [training course on Refugee and Migrants](#) of the University la Sapienza, a joint initiative of the Faculty of Political Sciences, UNHCR, Caritas and CIR, which this year reached the thirtieth edition. On 21 June, UNHCR Italy and the European Delegation to the Holy See organized a "[Conversation on climate change and forced displacement](#)" together with H.E. Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J. and UNHCR Special Advisor for Climate Action Andrew Harper.



- **Resettlement and complementary pathways.** On 23 June, 45 refugees landed in Fiumicino Airport in Rome through the humanitarian corridor programme thanks to *Caritas Italiana*. The refugees, coming primarily from Sudan, Eritrea, Cameroon and Ethiopia and including more than 20 children, were living in a UNHCR camp in Niger and had undergone different forms of persecution or inhumane and degrading treatment prior to reaching Niger, including while in Libya. Two days later, another 13 refugees arrived from Ethiopia through a similar project, this time organized by the Community of Sant'Egidio.² Humanitarian corridors, a joint initiative between the Federation of Protestant

² Further information about humanitarian corridors and UNHCR Italy's involvement, including the awarding of the prestigious UNHCR Nansen Regional Refugee Award for Europe, can be found at [Un programma salvavita offre ai rifugiati canali sicuri per raggiungere l'Italia – UNHCR Italia](#) (in Italian). UNHCR Three-year strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways 2019 – 2021 can be found at [UNHCR - Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#).

Churches, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Waldensian Board, Caritas Italiana and the Italian Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, **represent a safe and regulated pathway to transfer people eligible for international protection from a third country to Italy** and were described by the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella as “an innovative practice and significant example of integration at the European level” during his [speech](#) for World Refugee Day. In June, the Ministries of Interior and of Foreign Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy and UNHCR that will allow 500 refugees to arrive through humanitarian corridors directly from Libya. A [special report](#) on UNHCR Italy’s University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE project was broadcast by France 24, and included an interview with UNHCR Representative Chiara Cardoletti and refugee students and candidates for the programme in Italy and Ethiopia.

- **Reception and detention.** UNHCR regularly conducts monitoring missions to reception facilities for refugees and asylum-seekers, both first-line reception facilities and collective centers, as well as to pre-removal facilities (Centri di permanenza per il rimpatrio, CPR). Several such missions were carried out in June, particularly in the Apulia region. While acknowledging national and regional efforts to host the refugee and asylum-seeker population, especially during the pandemic, UNHCR is nonetheless concerned about certain shortcomings, particularly when it comes to sanitary conditions and to the implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures. **The lack of adequate facilities specifically dedicated to UASC, as well as the long period spent in quarantine facilities due to delays in transfer, is of particular concern.** On 21 June, the National Guarantor for the rights of people deprived of personal freedom presented his [annual report](#) to Parliament. The Guarantor underlined the positive changes in administrative detention introduced in 2020, notably with a significant reduction in the maximum period of detention for non-asylum seekers, as well as new provisions on adequate hygiene and housing standards and on a complaint mechanism through which detainees may formulate claims about their detention.
- **Child protection. In the first six months of 2021, 3,572 unaccompanied and separated children arrived in Italy by sea.** As of 30 June 2021, 7,802 unaccompanied children – who arrived in Italy by sea, land and air - were accommodated in dedicated facilities across the country: 97 per cent were boys and 64 per cent were aged 17.³ Two weeks after the roll-out of the training modules on international protection launched in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNHCR and the National Council of Social Workers (Consiglio Nazionale Ordine Assistenti Sociali, CNOAS), more than 1,600 social workers had completed the sessions, highlighting the interest of this professional category in the topic.⁴ In the framework of the [EFRIS \(European Family Reunification Innovative Strategies\) project](#), the CIDAS cooperative supported 17 cases of family reunification during the first six months of 2021. UNHCR also participated in the [live chat](#) on access to international protection for UASC organized by U-Report on the Move.
- **Integration. The second of three webinars for companies and other stakeholders in the employment sector was organized in June through the Welcome project and attended by around 200 participants.** The webinar series aims to provide an overview of international protection and successful inclusion of refugees in the national labour market. The second webinar focused on the reception system and on corporate partnership



Participants to the +Gust #WithRefugees food festival Photo: UNHCR/ Alessandro Penso

³ Ministry of Labour, Report mensili MSNA, June 2021, available at [Report-MSNA-mese-giugno-2021.pdf](#) (in Italian).

⁴ Further information about the launch of the training modules can be found at [UNHCR-CNOAS insieme per una FAD senza barriere. Lanciati i nuovi moduli formativi su rifugiati e richiedenti asilo](#) (May update, in Italian).

⁵ The webinars’ recordings and additional information can be found at [Inclusione di rifugiati in azienda: 3 webinar per saperne di più – UNHCR Welcome](#) (in Italian).

- **Gender-based violence and persons with specific needs.** As part of the “Leaving violence. Living safe” project, implemented in partnership with [D.i.R.E – Donne in Rete contro la Violenza](#), **the first two training workshops for case workers and mediators of D.i.R.E network’s anti-violence centres on the new methodology for working with refugee and asylum-seeking women were carried out in June.**⁶ In the framework of the consultations on the new National Strategy Plan on Gender-based Violence 2021 – 2023, promoted by the Ministry for Equal Opportunities, UNHCR shared recommendations on how to effectively include refugees and asylum-seeking women and girls in the plan, in line with [UNHCR’s Policy on the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation and Response to Gender-based Violence 2020](#).
- **Fundraising.** In June, UNHCR raised **1.5 million Euros from private donors** in Italy, totalling 10.7 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR operations worldwide this month were Only the Brave Foundation and the Istituto Religioso Suore Santa Famiglia di Bordeaux.

Italy’s support to UNHCR operations worldwide



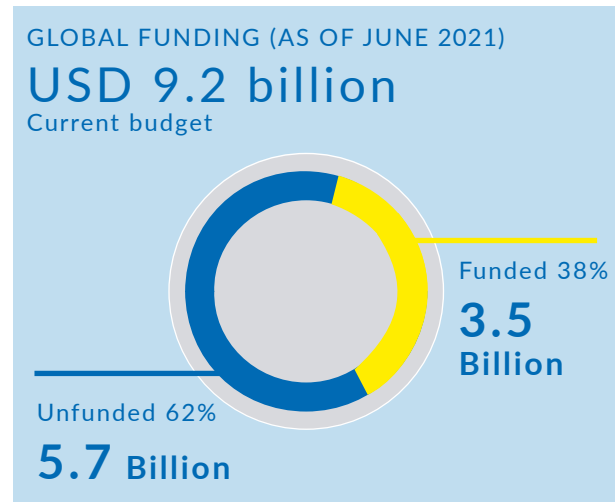
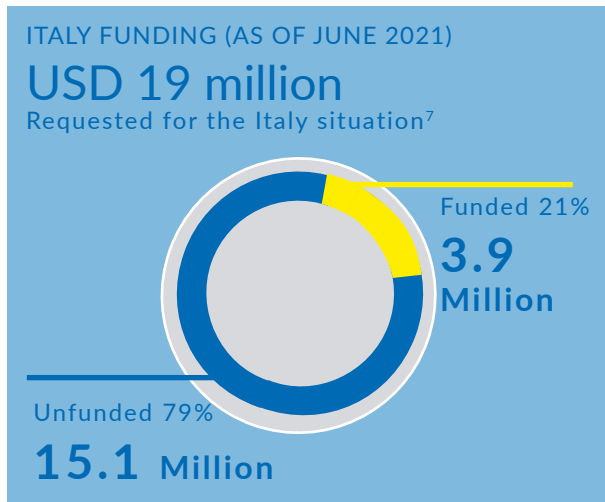
Photo: UNHCR Niger

During his visit to Niger, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio (left) reaffirmed Italy’s support in responding to the protection needs of the forcibly displaced in the country. The Government of Italy is a key donor and partner to UNHCR around the world. **Thanks to its generous financial support, which totalled 25.8 million USD in 2021 as of the end of June, UNHCR is protecting and assisting refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons** in Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. An [unearmarked contribution of 9 million EUR](#) was generously donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to UNHCR at the beginning of June. Unearmarked funding is a lifeline for refugees, internally displaced and stateless people wherever and whenever they need it the most, as it allows UNHCR to prepare for and respond to unpredictable circumstances and have greater impact with limited resources.

See [here](#) for more information on Italy’s contribution to UNHCR.

⁶ Further information about UNHCR’s partnership with D.i.R.E can be found at [Con DiRe contro la violenza sessuale – UNHCR Italia](#) (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.

United States of America 17.2 M | **Private donors of Australia** 6.1 M

Luxembourg | Norway | Spain | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Norway 80 M | **Sweden** 66.9 M | **Private donors of Spain** 42.6 M | **Netherlands** 36.1 M | **Denmark** 34.6 M | **Germany** 26 M | **France** 20 M | **Private donors of the Republic of Korea** 17.9 M | **Switzerland** 16.4 M | **Ireland** 12.5 M | **Belgium** 12 M | **Finland** 8.3 M | **Australia** 7.4 M

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines (the) | Portugal | Republic of Korea (the) |

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LINKS

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

⁷ 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.