

# Italy

November 2021

Year to date, **just under 63,000** refugees and migrants arrived by sea, a steep increase compared to 2020 and 2019. As of 30 November, **over 9,000 persons arrived by land** from Slovenia.

On 25 November, **93 vulnerable asylum-seekers were evacuated from Libya**. Evacuations from Libya resumed after more than a year, after Libyan authorities lifted a temporary ban on humanitarian flights.

In November, the **Deloitte Foundation donated 100,000 Euros to UNHCR** to address the needs and provide support to the Afghan population due to the current humanitarian emergency in the country.

## KEY INDICATORS (NOVEMBER 2021)

**9,517**

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

**7,680**

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

**7,235**

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

**107**

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

62,943

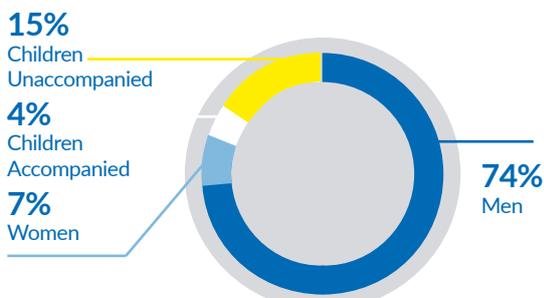
32,563

Jan-Nov 2021

Jan-Nov 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.

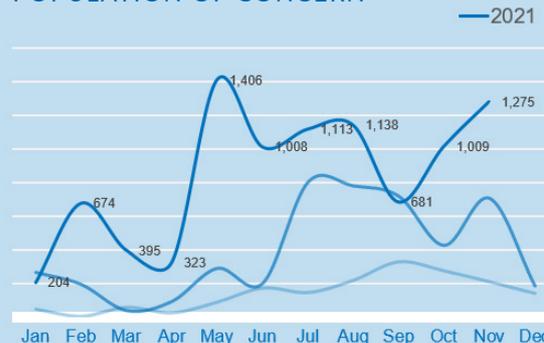
## Sea arrivals by gender and age POPULATION OF CONCERN



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.

■ **Access to territory (sea arrivals).**<sup>1</sup> Year to date, 62,943 persons arrived in Italy by sea, including 9,226 children travelling on their own. This is almost double the sea arrivals recorded in the same period last year (32,563 persons) and an even greater increase compared to refugees and migrants disembarking in the January-November 2019 period (10,882 persons). With over 107,000 individuals reaching shore between 1 January and 30 November, southern Europe (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain) saw a 31% increase in sea arrivals compared to the same period in 2020. However, of all countries in the region, only Spain and Italy experienced an increase in the numbers of refugees and migrants arriving by sea this year. Notably, Italy has received 59% of all sea arrivals in 2021 in the Mediterranean.<sup>2</sup> The upward trend of sea arrivals in Italy was evident in November, as **9,517 refugees and migrants reached shore**, compared to 5,360 and 1,233 in the same month in 2020 and 2019, respectively. Half of monthly arrivals originated from five countries: Egypt, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Syria and Afghanistan. Approximately 60% of those reaching shore this month embarked in Libya, while 27% departed from Turkey. This reflects a significant increase in both absolute numbers and proportion of arrivals in the southern region of Calabria, which most commonly receives boats departing from Turkey.<sup>3</sup> In November, one in four sea arrivals, that is **over 2,400 persons, disembarked in Calabria, placing significant strain on the region's ports and reception system**, particularly in light of COVID-19 quarantine requirements. In order to respond to unusually high arrivals, a quarantine vessel was moored off the Calabria coast to receive refugees and migrants disembarking in the region, while a tensile structure accommodating 120 persons was set up in Roccella Jonica. However, onshore quarantine facilities, in Calabria as well as in other regions, continued to be overcrowded. In November, 6,100 persons disembarked in Sicily: almost 3,400 of them reached shore in Lampedusa, where the local hotspot worked at times beyond its recently extended 450-person capacity. Poor sea conditions and lack of onshore quarantine facilities for unaccompanied children resulted in delays transferring unaccompanied children from Lampedusa to other locations. Through its staff present in areas of disembarkation, **UNHCR continues to closely monitor the situation of arrivals** and challenges affecting quarantine and reception.



UNHCR staff attend the disembarkation of over 800 refugees and migrants from the NGO vessel Sea Eye in Trapani on 7 November, after many days at sea. UNHCR is grateful to Italy for welcoming people whose lives were in danger at sea and who were saved by the fundamental work of NGOs. ©UNHCR/Dario Bosio

■ **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Between 1 January and 30 November 2021, over 9,000 refugees and migrants arrived by land through the Italy-Slovenia border, reaching northern Italy's Friuli Venezia-Giulia region. Most land arrivals originate from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.<sup>4</sup> In mid-November, UNHCR staff conducted a **border monitoring mission to the Italy-Slovenia border** area, meeting with refugees and migrants who had recently travelled through south-eastern Europe and collecting their testimonies. Many reported experiencing violence on the journey and pushbacks at the Croatia-Bosnia Herzegovina border. Significant numbers of refugees and migrants entering Italy from Slovenia, but also persons who disembarked in southern Italy, continue their journey to the town of Ventimiglia or Val di Susa, near the Italy-France border, with the intention of moving onward to other European countries. It is estimated that, at the end of November, approximately 200 refugees

<sup>1</sup> For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

<sup>2</sup> Sea arrivals in the Mediterranean include sea arrivals in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, with the exception of sea arrivals to the Canary Islands. For further information, please refer to the [Mediterranean Situation page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

<sup>3</sup> See also Associated Press, [Sailboats packed with migrants seek Italy in latest tactic](#), 22 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

<sup>4</sup> Land arrivals figures on the Italian – Slovenian border constitute an approximation calculated by UNHCR to the best of its knowledge based on information gathered from institutions (Border Police, Prefectures, Social Services) and, on ad hoc occasions, through media and partners' outreach and monitoring activities.

and migrants, including families and children, were living in destitute conditions in Ventimiglia waiting to cross into France. During a **monitoring mission in Ventimiglia** in the second half of November, UNHCR, together with Ministry of Interior representatives, assessed a transit site identified by the Ventimiglia municipality to increase temporary reception capacity in the border town. Given the urgency of increasing reception capacity before winter, UNHCR offered to **support the municipality with ten refugee housing units** (RHUs), innovative shelter solutions providing greater dignity and supporting the protection of refugees.<sup>5</sup>

- **Resettlement and complementary pathways.** On 25 November, **93 refugees were evacuated from Libya** to Italy in the context of a new mechanism combining emergency evacuations with

humanitarian corridors and enabling 500 vulnerable persons, including children, torture survivors, women at risk and people with serious medical conditions to find safety in Italy. The scheme is funded by the Government of Italy and relies on the support of a coalition of faith-based organizations, which includes the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Italian Federation of Evangelical Churches and the Waldesian Table. The group, comprising persons who were recently released from detention and others who were held in captivity by smuggling or trafficking networks, travelled on a UNHCR-chartered flight to Rome and was provided



UNHCR staff talk with refugees evacuated from Libya at Fiumicino airport, Rome, on 25 November. © UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

with relevant information and support by UNHCR and faith-based organizations staff upon arrival.<sup>6</sup> On 4 November, UNHCR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Italian Federation of Evangelical Churches, the Waldesian Table, the Italian Bishops' Conference, ARCI, INMP and IOM signed a **Memorandum of Understanding for the arrival in Italy of 1,200 Afghan citizens in two years**. The agreement contains two parallel actions, namely the evacuation of 400 refugees identified and selected by UNHCR according to resettlement criteria who will be accommodated and provided with integration support by Italian authorities, and a humanitarian corridor for 800 persons identified and selected by NGOs which will also provide accommodation and integration support.<sup>7</sup> UNHCR recently ran a public online event on the current crisis in Afghanistan, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

- **Community-based protection.** UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM and UNICEF, delivered **training for staff working in large reception facilities in Gorizia, Udine and Crotone, focusing on gender-based violence** (GBV) affecting refugees and migrants, including children, drawing also from the **GBV pocket guide** launched by the three UN agencies in late 2020. On the 30th anniversary of the *16 days of activism against GBV* campaign, UNHCR called on national and local authorities to act more effectively to protect the rights of refugee women and girls and prevent gender-based violence.<sup>8</sup> In November, UNHCR delivered a **Training of Trainers course on the protection of unaccompanied children** benefiting over 40 reception staff from various parts of Italy. UNHCR, in collaboration with the Piedmont Ombudsperson for children and adolescents, provided training on child protection to voluntary guardians and social workers in Turin. In Sicily, UNHCR partner CIR delivered training to newly appointed voluntary guardians focusing on the protection of persons with specific needs and

<sup>5</sup> For further information on RHUs see [Refugee Housing Unit – Fact Sheet](#) (last access 8 November 2021).

<sup>6</sup> See also UNHCR, [Evacuation flights from Libya to Italy bring hope for vulnerable asylum seekers](#), (in English) and UNHCR, [Libia: nuovo volo per l'Italia dà speranza ai richiedenti asilo](#) (in Italian), 25 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

<sup>7</sup> See also Ministry of the Interior, [Firmato al Viminale protocollo d'intesa per la realizzazione dei corridoi umanitari per cittadini afghani](#) (in Italian), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [Firma del protocollo per i corridoi umanitari dall'Afghanistan](#) (in Italian) and Redattore Sociale, [Afghanistan, l'Italia apre un nuovo corridoio umanitario per 1.200 persone](#) (in Italian), 4 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, [L'UNHCR chiede un maggiore impegno per far fronte all'aggravarsi dell'impatto della violenza di genere su donne e bambine rifugiate, sfollate o apolidi](#) (in Italian), 25 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

organized a workshop involving juvenile court presidents and guardians for an exchange addressing ways to overcome current challenges relating to guardianship.

- **Asylum and statelessness.** In November, UNHCR, together with the Embassy of Italy to Serbia, facilitated the **visit of a delegation of Serbian authorities to Italy to share experiences in asylum and migration management** in the context of mixed population flows. The delegation met with representatives of the Italian Ministry of Interior, the National Commission for the Right to Asylum, the Rome Territorial Commission, and the Rome Tribunal's Section for International Protection. They also visited reception facilities and met with civil society organizations working with refugees.<sup>9</sup> On 16 November, UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, attended the meeting of the National Coordination Group for the reception of asylum-seekers and the integration of refugees held by the Minister of Interior, supporting the agreed establishment of a working group on unaccompanied and separated children.<sup>10</sup>



A delegation of Serbian authorities attends UNHCR office in Rome during a study visit to Italy © UNHCR

- **Community engagement.** In the context of the tenth edition of the **BookCity** initiative in Milan, UNHCR organized an event on the flagship project **University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE** which featured participation of a **UNICORE student** giving his testimony during a **panel discussion** also involving UNHCR Representative to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, Chiara Cardoletti, who, in her intervention, stressed the importance of education opportunities for refugees. UNICORE was launched in 2019 and offers a complementary pathway for the safe admission of refugees to study in Italy, consistent with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.<sup>11</sup> In November, a UNICORE student who arrived in Italy in 2019 was the first to graduate in Rome. During the month, UNHCR delivered two **awareness-raising events to over 80 high-school students** on forced migration and the climate emergency, and an in-person **training to 53 journalists** in Reggio Emilia on ethical reporting on forced displacement and asylum issues with a specific focus on job inclusion.
- **Fundraising.** In November, UNHCR raised **2.2 million Euros from private donors in Italy**, totalling 21 million Euros since the beginning of the year. The major private donors in Italy contributing to UNHCR operations worldwide this month were EOS Foundation and Mr. Cangini. The Deloitte Foundation donated 100,000 Euros to UNHCR to address the humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan.<sup>12</sup>

### Family reunion guidelines



In the context of the UNHCR-funded EFRIS project, in November UNHCR partner **CIDAS** launched guidelines for the family reunion of unaccompanied children who arrived in Italy and would like to join family members in other European countries pursuant to the Dublin III Regulation. Starting from good practices at national level, the document sets out standard operating procedures for the referral and provision of services for children on their own who would like to reunite with relatives in other European countries.

[Click here to access the guidelines \(in Italian\).](#) [Click here to read the press release \(in Italian\).](#)

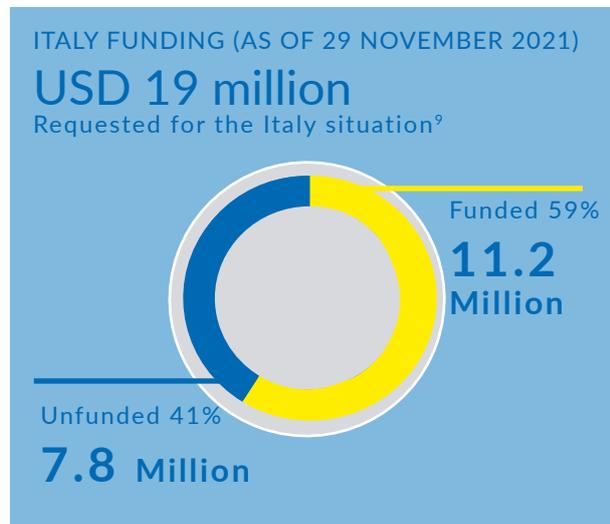
<sup>9</sup> See also UNHCR, [Italia, Serbia: al via scambio di esperienze sulla protezione di richiedenti asilo e rifugiati](#) (in Italian), 26 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

<sup>10</sup> See also Ministry of Interior, [Lamorgese annuncia prossima apertura di un tavolo dedicato ai minori stranieri non accompagnati](#) (in Italian), 16 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

<sup>11</sup> For further information on progress made towards the Global Compact's four objectives, see UNHCR, [Global Compact on Refugees 2021 Indicator Report](#), 16 November 2021

<sup>12</sup> See also UNHCR, [Emergenza Afghanistan, Fondazione Deloitte dona 100 mila euro all'UNHCR per portare aiuto e protezione alla popolazione afghana](#) (in Italian), 9 November 2021 (last access 7 December 2021)

# 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.

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## LINKS

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<sup>9</sup> 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.