

Italy

September 2024

Italy has been a State Party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees since 1954. The same year, UNHCR established country office, which in 2020 became a [multi-country office](#) covering Italy, the Holy See and San Marino.

UNHCR [considers legal pathways to Italy a priority](#), including resettlement, humanitarian, educational and labour corridors. It works with the Government of Italy (GoI), the private sector and civil society organisations (CSOs) to expand alternatives for forcibly displaced people.

UNHCR remains [committed to supporting Italy in strengthening its asylum system](#) including through the recently launched support to Italian authorities in the registration of asylum applications.

POPULATION STATISTICS* (as of mid-2024)

Refugees **306,908**

Asylum-seekers **180,084**

Stateless people **3,000**

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine 169,768	Bangladesh 37,777
Nigeria 19,853	Pakistan 23,820
Afghanistan 17,600	Egypt 23,385

*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR [data finder](#)

[Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in Italy](#)

Counselling for displaced people in Italy

In May, UNHCR strengthened its support to displaced people through a [memorandum of understanding \(MoU\) with the National Institute for Health, Migration, and Poverty \(NIHMP\)](#) which aims to improve access to social and health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health for people with specific needs. The MoU focuses on information sharing, capacity building, advocacy on access to health and support for the governance and implementation of the Ministry of Interior's [Handbook for the identification, referral and care of people living with vulnerabilities](#), launched in March 2023.

Moreover, in June, UNHCR and the National Council of Notaries jointly presented the handbook "[From rights to integration: A practical guide for refugees and migrants in Italy](#)" in an event hosted at the Italian Senate, as part of a broader collaboration between the two. The handbook addresses challenges faced by those supporting refugees and migrants in Italy and offers practical guidance for them.

HIGHLIGHTS

Arrivals by land and sea

In 2024, Italy welcomed the highest number of sea arrivals in Southern Europe, with a total of 41,617 people arriving by sea. This was a 64 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2023. However, the proportion of deaths and missing (over 1,000 in the first eight months of 2024) to arrivals increased by around 30 per cent, making the Central route the deadliest in the Mediterranean. Around 4,000 arrived by land, reflecting a downward trend compared to 2023 likely linked to Italy's temporary reintroduction of Schengen's internal border controls with Slovenia.

Forced migration and Italy G7 Presidency

In June, under its G7 Presidency, Italy took the lead in shaping the migration agenda at the G7 Leaders' Summit. The final communiqué emphasized a three-pronged approach: expanding legal migration pathways, combating human trafficking, and strengthening cooperation with Africa. UNHCR advocated, particularly through its involvement in the Working Group on 'Regular migration', to ensure that the perspective of forced displacement was integrated into the broader migration strategy.



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WORLD REFUGEE DAY

On 19 June, in the context of the World Refugee Day celebrations, UNHCR organized an event at LUISS University in Rome. The event featured a roundtable titled "[La forza dell'inclusione](#)," attended by key partners including the MoI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Italian Church and the private sector. The event also included an award ceremony for 220 companies and CSOs that contributed to refugee work placements in 2023, as part of the "[Welcome. Working for Refugee Integration](#)" programme, implemented in partnership with the Adecco Foundation and supported by the Ministry of Labour (MoL), Confindustria and Global Compact Italy.

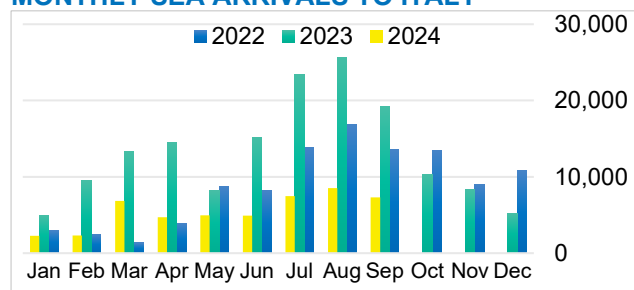
Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR works with national authorities to ensure people arriving by sea and land are provided with [adequate assistance, referral to relevant services and information on international protection](#). From June 2024, UNHCR has been working with the [International Rescue Committee](#) at the main disembarkation points and transit areas in Sicily and Calabria. After the dismantling of the informal settlement in Trieste in June 2024, where many asylum-seekers and migrants were living in appalling conditions, UNHCR supported the authorities in providing cultural mediation, provision of information and management of complex cases.
- **Registration.** Starting July 2024, UNHCR is providing support to authorities in the registration of asylum applications, to improve the overall [efficiency of access to the international protection process in Italy](#). The support responds to the significant rise in asylum applications in 2023, which resulted in a backlog and longer waiting times for asylum-seekers.
- **Integration:** To strengthen the Italian Reception and Integration System (SAI) and to promote the endorsement by Italian municipalities of the [Charter for the Integration of Refugees](#), UNHCR signed an MoU with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) in March 2024.
- **Solutions:** UNHCR has been working closely with the MoI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the MoL and other key stakeholders to develop three pilot labour corridor initiatives from Egypt, Uganda, and Jordan to Italy. The pilots are based on the implementation of the national labour mobility scheme (under Law 50/2023) which, among others, allows for the creation of pathways for refugees and stateless people for professional opportunities, following vocational training in the first country of asylum.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** In the framework of the MoU signed in December 2023 between UNHCR, the MoI, the MFA and Italian CSOs, for the evacuation of 1,500 people in need of international protection from Libya to Italy by 2026. UNHCR played a key role in coordinating and providing protection-related information during three evacuation flights that occurred in February, May, and July 2024. As a result, 355 people were evacuated from Libya in 2024 through [evacuation flights](#).
- **Advocacy:** In 2024, UNHCR provided recommendations and proposed amendments in the context of several parliamentary processes in Italy, including on the

protection of unaccompanied foreign children in Italy and stateless people.

UNHCR also advocated for the priorities outlined in the 'Mattei Plan for Africa' to include a focus on forced displacement and the protection and integration of refugees, considering the [Route-based approach](#). By virtue of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its mandate, UNHCR has also been advocating to ensure compliance with international refugee law, human rights and applicable standards in the context of the future implementation of the [Protocol signed between Italy and Albania](#).

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO ITALY



Source: *Mediterranean Situation Data Portal*

Working with Partners

- **Cooperation with the Holy See.** UNHCR took part in the [World Meeting on Human Fraternity 'Be Human 2024'](#), hosted by the *Fratelli Tutti* Foundation during which the 'Be Human' and 'Peace' Declarations were presented. The meeting further advanced the work initiated on 10 June 2023 by the Foundation with a first meeting also attended by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Grandi.
- **Partnerships.** In 2024, UNHCR implemented [17 partnerships with Italian NGOs](#) to address a range of protection needs, including integration, gender-based violence (GBV), health, child protection, community mobilization, and statelessness.

Statelessness

- Italy has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Italy

Staff:

84 National Staff
 8 International Staff

Offices:

1 Multi Country Office in Rome
 1 Field Office in Milan

UNHCR staff are also present in several border areas and disembarkation points.

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.

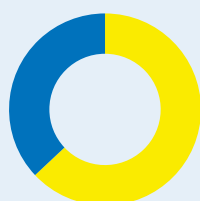
Financial information* (30 September 2024)

* Information relates to Italy, the Holy See and San Marino.

Financial requirements for 2024

\$22.1 M

Funding gap 37%
\$ 8.2 M



Funded 63%
\$13.9 M