

Italy

September 2021

Italy has been a State party to the 1951 Refugee Convention since 1954, when a UNHCR office was established. In 2020, it became a **multi-country office for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino**.

From January to August 2021, **39,410 refugees and migrants had arrived in Italy** by sea, compared to 19,339 in the same period last year. Almost half of all sea arrivals embarked in Libya.

During his visit to Italy and the Holy See in April, **UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi** met with the highest Government representatives and with the Pope.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	128,033**
Asylum-seekers	53,901
Stateless persons	3,000
Total population of concern	184,934

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Nigeria	18,473	Eritrea	13,163
Pakistan	14,484	Pakistan	9,415
Afghanistan	12,096	Nigeria	5,104

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

** This includes individuals with subsidiary protection status

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: While refugee access to vaccination is provided for in the national vaccination plan, UNHCR observed challenges in implementation related to access to information, and digital and cultural barriers to vaccination. As most health-related responsibilities are under regional jurisdiction, implementation of the national vaccine plan varies from region to region.

Advocacy and awareness-raising: UNHCR continues to advocate for the full inclusion of persons of concern in vaccination plans, including through discussions with the Ministry of Health and participation in Health and Migration NGO roundtables, and to raise awareness across refugee and asylum-seeker communities about the importance of the vaccine. UNHCR-supported information hotline and online service map also include vaccination information on the vaccination campaign.

HIGHLIGHTS

33,279

Sea arrivals were assisted and informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff following disembarkation between January and August 2021 (84% of the total).

34,135

Individual inquiries were received and followed-up through UNHCR partner **ARCI helpline for refugees and asylum-seekers** during the first eight months of 2021.

554 individuals

received medical assistance and psychosocial counselling by UNHCR from January and August 2021.

Over 8,800 persons

were reached by UNHCR through some 150 training and awareness raising activities in the first semester of 2021.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY (WRD) 2021

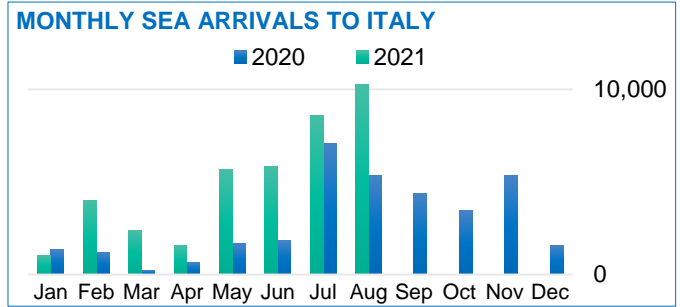


Photo @UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

To celebrate WRD 2021, UNHCR organized and sponsored online and in person activities under the slogan *Together we can do anything - Insieme possiamo fare la differenza*. 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, a takeover by four refugees of the social media accounts of four UNHCR celebrity supporters, and the +Gusto #WithRefugees food Festival. More information can be found on the [UNHCR Italy June Fact Sheet](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** to increase monitoring and protection response capacity for persons arriving by sea, UNHCR increased missions and staff presence at disembarkation points during the summer when sea arrivals seasonally increase. Access and reception condition monitoring for land arrivals continued, along with coordination with authorities to obtain information on the profile of arrivals through the North-Eastern border.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR initiated the pilot introduction of “Experts on International Protection and Human Rights” in the Territorial Commissions for the recognition of international protection. These experts will gradually replace UNHCR staff in Commissions in line with the disengagement strategy. The National Asylum Commission and UNHCR continued joint quality monitoring of first instance decisions and of COVID-19 prevention measures at Territorial Commission premises.
- **Solutions:** Within the [Welcome – working for refugee integration](#) project, which received increasing attention from the private sector in 2021, a webinar series for companies, labour consultants, NGOs and reception and integration workers was conducted this year. The series provided an overview of international protection and successful inclusion of refugees in the labour market.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** 58 refugees, mostly families, arrived from Niger and Ethiopia thanks to the humanitarian corridors initiative at the end of June. 45 [UNICORE](#) students arrived in September and will study in 23 universities.
- **Integration and Community Engagement:** In March, UNHCR and partners conducted 21 focus group discussions involving 105 asylum-seekers and refugees across Italy, collecting their views on integration and other issues. In April, eight NGOs



Source and more information: [UNHCR Data Portal](#)

were selected among 49 applicants for the fourth edition of [PartecipAzione](#), the empowerment programme aimed at promoting protection and active participation of refugees in the social, economic and cultural life in Italy.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with other UN agencies, particularly with IOM and UNICEF on common matters such as support to sea and land arrivals, protection of UASC and other PwSN, and currently partners with nine NGOs ([ARCI](#), [CIR](#), [CIDAS](#), [MEDU](#), [Carta di Roma](#), [Intersos](#), [Fondazione Adecco per le Pari Opportunità](#), [LHIVE](#), [D.i.Re](#)), on GBV response, child protection, public information, community empowerment and mobilization, integration, access and specific needs.

Statelessness

- Italy acceded to both Stateless Conventions and has a statelessness determination procedure through either administrative (since 1994) or judicial (since the 1950s) means in place. However, very few stateless persons have their status formally recognized. Click [here](#) for more information.

UNHCR Presence in Italy

Staff:

91 National Staff
9 International Staff

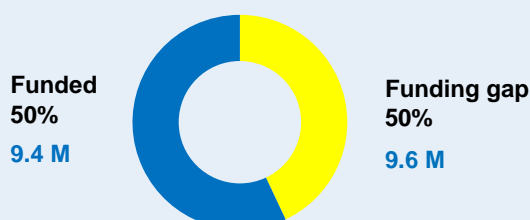
Offices:

1 Multi-Country office Rome
36 Affiliate workforce

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 19 M



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