

COUNTRY

CHAPTER

ITA

ITALY

BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
Italy



Italy Overview:

Resettlement programme since: 2015	Selection Missions: Yes	Dossier Submissions: Yes
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Resettlement Admission Targets for 2015-2017:

Admissions target for UNHCR submissions:	1989 persons
Total goal for resettlement admissions:	1612 persons

Resettlement Admission Targets for 2018-2019:

Admissions target for UNHCR submissions:	1000 persons
Total goal for resettlement admissions:	695 persons as of July 31 2019

Other resettlement program

No	
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Regional allocations:

Africa	Sudan
Asia	No
MENA	Libya, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey
Europe	No
Americas	No

Sub-quota characteristics 2018-2019:

Designated sub-quota/acceptance for:	Description, additional comments:
Emergency resettlement procedures	No specific emergency resettlement procedures
Medical cases	Accepted, but a threshold of 10% is established for persons with serious medical conditions
Cases of women at risk	Accepted, but no sub-quota defined
Unaccompanied minors	No
Family reunification (within the programme)	No specific family reunification program within the National Resettlement Program

1. Resettlement Policy**1.1 Resettlement Policy**

After an experience of the ad-hoc resettlement of approximately 180 Palestinians from the Al Tanf camp in Syria (in 2009), in 2015 the Italian Government formally announced its intention to develop a multiyear resettlement program on a regular basis.

Following the conclusions of the JHA Council of 20 July 2015, Italy committed to resettle 1989 people by December 2017. With the Turkey-EU declaration of 18 March 2016, all EU Member States have been made responsible for a greater commitment to the resettlement of Syrian citizens fleeing the war and already living in Turkey. For every migrant illegally present on the Greek territory returned to Turkey, a Syrian will be resettled from Turkey to the EU, taking into account the UN vulnerability criteria. Under this scheme, Italy has expressed its willingness to use a share of its program for the resettlement of Syrian refugees from Turkey.

Following the Commission Recommendation of 27 September 2017, Italy committed to resettle 1000 refugees for the period 2018/2019, divided as follows: 75 from Libya, 75 from Turkey, 200 from Sudan, 300 from Jordan, 350 from Lebanon.

1.2 Ministries or Departments Responsible for Resettlement Policy

The Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior coordinates the National Resettlement Program, co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), which provides a financial support of 6,000 euros or 10,000 euros (for priority categories) for each resettled refugee.

A dedicated structure was established within the Department (Resettlement Unit), where a UNHCR consultant is seconded.

The Department of Public Security of the Ministry of Interior, the National Asylum Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Protection System for international protection holders and unaccompanied foreign minors, (called SIPROIMI), IOM and UNHCR collaborate with the Department in the implementation of the National Resettlement Program.

1.3 Process of Determining the Resettlement Quota and Composition

The Italian Government (Ministry of the Interior) decides the quota for each period in accordance with the general objectives of the European Union and in consultation with the other stakeholders.

2. Criteria for Recognition of Refugee and Asylum Status

2.1 National legislation that defines eligibility for refugee status

There is no specific national legislation regulating resettlement: the existing Italian legislation on refugees and international protection apply.

Refugee status is granted in Italy according to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) which has been implemented by the national legislator by law n. 722/1954. The legislative decree n. 251/2007 regulates the asylum procedure and criteria for recognition of refugee status. The legislative decree n. 25/2008 determines the procedure for granting and withdrawing refugee status, while the legislative decree n. 142/2015 establishes standards for the reception of applicants for international protection.

Other legislation, such as law n. 47/2017, introduces additional rights and specific asylum procedures for asylum-seeking minors and for unaccompanied foreign minors.

2.2 Distinction between the criteria for recognition of refugee status for asylum seekers and resettled refugees

Resettled refugees are granted refugee status immediately after arrival in Italy: they need to lodge an asylum application at the Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection based in Rome. The refugee status is granted without interview, according to the provision of article 12.2 of Legislative decree n.25/2008.

There is no difference between the criteria for recognition of refugee status for asylum seekers and resettled refugees.

3. Resettlement Criteria

3.1 Eligibility criteria for refugee resettlement

In order to be eligible for resettlement to Italy, a person must meet the refugee criteria as defined in the Italian legislation

A person can be considered for resettlement if he/she is a refugee that is displaced in a country of asylum and is complying with the submission categories of UNHCR.

3.2 Admissibility criteria

Italy gives special consideration in the selection process to family groups with children and persons with family links in Italy.

For all cases, resettlement to Italy should be assessed as the best durable solution and security checks should be passed.

4. Resettlement Allocations

4.1 Resettlement allocation

Italy has a commitment for resettlement out of the Middle East, specifically Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, out of Sudan and Libya. The table provides figures and the main nationalities of individuals resettled to Italy during the period 2015 -2019.

Year	Target / quota	Main Nationalities	Country of first asylum
2015-2017	1989	Syrian, Eritrean, Palestinian, Iraqi	Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Sudan, Syria
2018-2019	1000	Syrian, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Palestinian, Sudanese	Libya, Turkey, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon

4.2 Sub-quotas and threshold for persons with serious medical conditions

The number of persons with serious medical conditions cannot exceed the quota of 10% of the total number of resettled persons in Italy.

4.3 Non-UNHCR allocations

Italy only accepts UNHCR submissions.

5. Submission and Processing via Dossier Selection

5.1 Case Documentation

The documentation required for dossier submissions is either the Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) or Identification based Methodology for Resettlement (IbM) and any available medical files and/or other relevant information about the country of origin (COI) and the country of residence.

Any copies of identity documents and passports available must also be submitted with the case as attachments.

A well-detailed RRF/IbM is of main importance in order to enable the Resettlement Unit to process the case and to enable the receiving SIPROIMI project to prepare for an optimal reception.

Cases where the applicant has medical needs/problems should be accompanied by medical documentation, whenever possible.

5.2 Decision-Making Process

A case officer assesses the resettlement submissions proposed by UNHCR. A panel of 3 or 4 case officers discuss the cases and propose a decision (approval, rejection, request for more information to UNHCR, request for video-interview, request for further discussion of the case in a plenary session with all staff members). The final decision is taken with the approval of the Coordinator of the Resettlement Unit.

5.3 Processing times

Average processing time is normally 2/3 months, and less for emergency or medical cases.

5.4 Recourse

There is no recourse against a negative decision.

6. Presentation and Processing of Refugees through Selection Missions

6.1 Selection Mission policies

The Italian Resettlement Programme selection procedure is carried out mainly on dossier basis, however 2 selection missions were conducted in Jordan and in Turkey in 2018. In addition, video-interviews can be conducted for complex cases.

The purpose of the interviews is to meet the candidates personally, to facilitate the assessment of cases and to provide refugees with information about the scope of the resettlement and living conditions in Italy.

6.2 Decision-Making Process

Interviews are usually carried out by 2 cases officers, with the assistance of IOM staff (for logistical and translation aspects). Following the interview a panel of 3 or 4 case officers discuss the cases and propose a decision (approval, rejection, request for further discussion of the case in a plenary session with all staff members). The final decision is taken with the approval of the Coordinator of the Resettlement Unit.

6.3 Processing Time

Average processing time is normally 2/3 months.

7. Emergency/Urgent Cases

Italy does not have a specific quota for emergency or urgent cases.

8. Special Categories/Specific Needs

The number of persons with serious medical conditions eligible for resettlement in Italy cannot exceed the 10% of the total amount of resettled persons planned.

9. Medical Requirements

No specific medical requirement is needed for resettlement to Italy.

10. Orientation

10.1 Pre-departure orientation process

A pre-departure orientation (PDO) is provided to the refugees whose selection for resettlement in Italy is approved. IOM carries out the PDO training in collaboration with the Resettlement Unit.

PDO trainings generally cover different themes, such as housing, employment, education and vocational training, healthcare, family reunification, cost of life and norms and values in Italy.

The Resettlement Unit and the SIPROIMI organize a Skype meeting with refugees during the PDO training.

A video where several testimonies of refugees already resettled in Italy are collected - . is shown during the PDO.

10.2 Duration and location of sessions

IOM provide tailor-made trainings based on the caseload and the local context in the first country of asylum. The duration and the content of the PDO trainings are adapted accordingly.

The PDO trainings usually last three days.

10.3 Any other pre-departure preparation

All refugees selected to be resettled in Italy receive an informative brochure about their future accommodation in Italy within the SIPROIMI system.

11. Travel

11.1 Any other pre-departure preparation

IOM is in charge of booking the flight tickets for resettling refugees and helps with the delivery of travel documents, including exit visa.

Medical screening is carried out by IOM staff before departure.

11.2 Payment

Flight tickets are purchased by IOM and the cost is covered by the Ministry of Interior.

11.3 Travel documents issued

The travel documents are issued by the Italian consular services. They consist of a visa and also a laissez-passer when resettling refugees have not a valid passport.

11.4 Arrival at the airport and reception

IOM and UNHCR staff, together with the Resettlement Unit, SIPROIMI and one or more interpreters, welcome refugees and accompany and inform them through security/identification procedures at the airport. Upon arrival in Italy, at the airport all family members older than 14 years will undergo formal identification by the Italian Police (photo and fingerprinting). Following these activities, resettled refugees directly lodge their asylum request to the Italian competent authority.

12. Situation on Arrival and Path to Citizenship

12.1 Immigration status on arrival and process for regularization of status

As stated above, upon arrival, the resettled refugees lodge an asylum application and the refugee status will be immediately granted by the Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection based in Rome, without interview.

12.2 Documentation issued, including travel documents

Once in Italy, resettled refugees receive an asylum certificate. The Local Public Security Authority (“Questura”) of the Municipality where the resettled refugee is accommodated will therefore issue a Refugee Residence Permit. Resettled refugees can also receive, upon request, a travel document.

12.3 Documents issued to children born after arrival

All rights and obligations of resettled refugees shall apply to their children born in Italy.

12.4 Details on the requirement, costs and timelines for citizenship

Like any refugee, resettled refugees can apply for Italian citizenship after 5 years of permanent residency in the Italian territory.

Refugees must also prove a minimum income (determined by the law) for the 2 years before the application’s date.

The cost of the procedure to apply for Italian citizenship is about 200 euros.

The procedure, according to the law, can last up to 4 years.

13. Domestic settlement and Community Services

13.1 Services and actors

SIPROIMI provides accommodation for resettled refugees for a 12 months period. Accommodation includes services which can facilitate cultural, linguistic and social integration.

In addition, refugees have access to the social services provided by the Italian authority at the same conditions as Italian citizens.

13.2 Reception

Accommodation for resettled refugees is chosen by the SIPROIMI based on a careful evaluation of the refugees needs, and on the availability of reception accommodation on the territory. Refugees cannot choose their accommodation or city of final destination as long as they wish to benefit from the resettlement programme's free housing. While the SIPROIMI is based on national rules and regulations, each facility offers different opportunities according to the resources locally available. Accommodation is granted for up to 1 (one) year (which can be extended in case of proven needs and upon assessment by SIPROIMI). The accommodation could either be a shared apartment, an apartment of their own or a reception center

13.3 Housing

SIPROIMI provides housing for a 12 months period which can be extended in case of proven needs and upon assessment by SIPROIMI.

13.4 Health

In Italy, access to public health services is guaranteed to refugees, under the same conditions as nationals.

Resettled refugees are immediately registered within the National Health System (SSN). Therefore, they have immediate access to public health service.

13.6 Language training

SIPROIMI provides for Italian language courses for resettled refugees (at least 10 hours a week).

13.7 Education

In Italy, school attendance is compulsory up to 16 years of age.

Access to public school is granted to all refugees at all levels – primary, secondary and university – under the same conditions as nationals.

Throughout the National Resettlement Program, social workers of SIPROIMI accompany and provide guidance for the refugees to register their children for school. Similar procedures are followed for young adults who want to continue or begin their higher education.

13.8 Vocational training and employment

SIPROIMI provides guidance for enrolling in training and occupational requalification courses related to the interests and needs of resettled refugees.

Refugees have the right to work. Empowerment measures specifically devoted to resettled refugees are foreseen, in order to facilitate their integration process.

13.9 Financial assistance

The National Resettlement Program aims to develop a process in which each resettled refugee can manage his/her own life and achieve autonomy in joint cooperation with the host society.

SIPROIMI provides for 12 months financial assistance that cover several expenses (foods and basic needs are covered). SIPROIMI can also give assistance for the purchase of medication, school supplies or clothes. A daily pocket money is granted for each resettled refugee.

13.10 Additional support for refugees with special needs

SIPROIMI provides specific services/projects for resettled refugees with special needs.

14. Refugee Family Reunification

Family reunification is regulated in Italy by the legislative decree n. 286/1998 at the articles 4, 28, 29, 29bis, 30, 31, 32 and 33.

Resettled refugees can apply for family reunification at the same conditions of other refugees.

A refugee may request for family reunification for his/her spouse (only over 18 years old), for his/her children and for his/her parents with no assistance in their country of residence.

Unlike other regular migrants, refugees in Italy are not obliged to prove a minimum income and an adequate housing in order to apply for family reunification.

15. References, Resources

The following websites can be consulted:

- <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it>
- <http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Pagine/default.aspx>