

Italy

February 2022

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

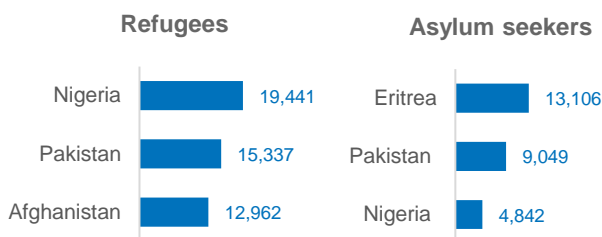
Arrivals of refugees and migrants by sea and land doubled in 2021 compared to 2020, placing significant strain on the Italian reception system, particularly given the requirement for all new arrivals to observe COVID-19 quarantine.

UNHCR is increasing its collaboration with municipalities and civil society to further the integration prospects of refugees in Italy, including through the signing of an **Integration Charter**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	134,499
Asylum-seekers	53,686
Stateless persons	3,000

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)
Click [here](#) to read UNHCR monthly factsheets and dashboards.

HIGHLIGHTS

67,477 sea arrivals

disembarked in Italy in 2021. This represents 58 per cent of all sea arrivals to southern Europe in 2021 and is almost double the 34,154 sea arrivals recorded in Italy in 2020. In January 2022, 3,035 persons arrived by sea, a 192 per cent increase compared to January last year.

9,373 land arrivals

crossed the Italy-Slovenia border in 2021, compared to some 4,100 in 2020. In January 2022, over 270 refugees and migrants arrived via Slovenia. Persons travelling through South-East Europe often endure violence during the journey.

130,000+ calls

were received through UNHCR partner [ARCI's helpline for refugees and asylum-seekers](#) in 2021. UNHCR also provided information and individual counselling to 2,260 persons, including through its open access front desk in Rome.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: All new arrivals are required to observe quarantine on-board dedicated quarantine ferry vessels or in onshore quarantine facilities. In September 2021, the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for all new arrivals started in Lampedusa. At the end of 2021, approximately three in four asylum-seekers accommodated in reception facilities across Italy had received COVID-19 vaccination.

Advocacy: UNHCR collaborates with the Tavolo Immigrazione Salute, a forum of NGOs dealing with migration and health related issues, advocating for vulnerable and marginalized groups' effective access to health care. UNHCR closely monitors the impact of recent COVID-19 prevention measures, including the requirement for an EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate, on refugees' ability to access protection and care.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR partner ARCI's [Juma Map project](#) maps services, including COVID-19 services, available to refugees across Italy.

SAFE PATHWAYS FROM LIBYA



Photo ©UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

On 25 November 2021, the first group of 93 vulnerable refugees were evacuated from Libya according to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, FCEI, Community of Sant'Egidio) combining emergency evacuations with humanitarian corridors. This scheme will enable 500 persons to find safety in Italy. Click [here](#) for further information.

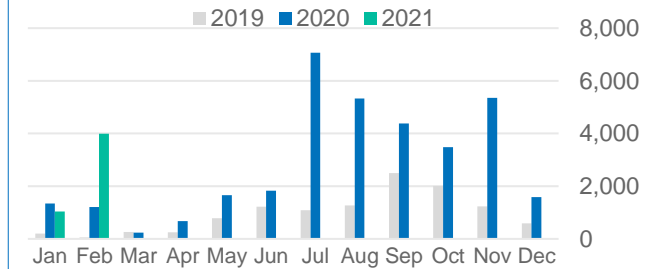
Key Priorities

- Access to territory:** UNHCR staff in areas of disembarkation closely monitor the situation of arrivals, ensuring vulnerable persons are provided with adequate support and helping solve challenges related to quarantine. In 2022, UNHCR aims to gain fuller insight into the situation at the Italy-Slovenia border through increased presence in Friuli-Venezia Giulia. In 2021, UNHCR donated 130 refugee housing units to the authorities to provide shelter and ensure greater dignity in areas of sea and land arrivals. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Asylum procedures:** UNHCR is gradually disengaging from direct involvement in asylum decision-making, with UNHCR staff in Territorial Commissions being replaced by independent human rights experts in early 2022. In collaboration with authorities, UNHCR will continue to support capacity development and quality monitoring.
- Resettlement and complementary pathways:** In November 2021, UNHCR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, faith-based organizations, ARCI, INMP and IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling 1,200 Afghan citizens to safely travel to Italy in the next two years. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Integration:** Following collaboration with UNHCR, six Municipalities approved the Integration Charter, to promote refugee integration through reception in small facilities, family-based reception and exchanges between refugees and local communities.
- Community empowerment and self-reliance:** The recently launched community-matching programme between UNHCR, CIAC and [Refugees Welcome](#) aims to connect 300 refugees with buddy-volunteers from local communities, promoting their inclusion and empowerment. Thanks to UNHCR's [Welcome](#) project, 13,000 refugees have accessed employment in private companies as of end 2021.

Working with Partners

- In order to improve the country's response to refugees, UNHCR actively collaborates with national authorities including the Ministries of Interior and

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO ITALY



Source and more information: UNHCR Data Portal

Education, as well as with the EU Agency for Asylum. UNHCR also collaborates with other institutions, such as the [Ombudsperson for Children](#), the [National Bar Association](#), the [National Board of Social Workers](#), the [Agency for Active Employment Policies](#), Municipalities and [Universities](#).

- UNHCR works with other UN agencies and maintains close contact with civil society organizations and the private sector. As of 15 February 2022, UNHCR partners with eleven NGOs ([Fondazione Adecco per le Pari Opportunità](#), [ARCI](#), [Carta di Roma](#), [CIDAS](#), [CIAC](#), [D.i.RE.](#), [Intersos](#), [MEDU](#), [LHIVE](#), [Refugees Welcome Italia](#) and [Save the Children Italia](#)).

Statelessness

- Italy acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 1962 and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2015. It also established a statelessness determination procedure through either administrative (since 1994) or judicial (since the 1950s) means. However, very few stateless persons have their status formally recognized and pass it down to their children. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Unrecognized stateless persons, mostly belonging to Roma communities originally from the former Yugoslavia, are often marginalized and face limited access to fundamental rights and services.

UNHCR Presence in Italy

Staff:

78 National Staff
8 International Staff

Offices:

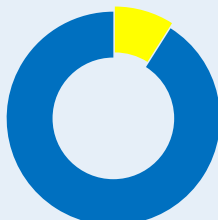
1 Multi-Country Office in Rome
1 Field Office in Milan

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements
USD 19 M

Funded
9%
1.8 M

Funding gap
91%
17.2 M



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