ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

Overview
In the first six months of 2021, 20,532 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 6,949 in the same period last year.

In June 2021, 5,840 refugees and migrants reached shore in southern Italy, compared to 1,830 (+219%) and 1,218 (+379%) in 2020 and 2019 respectively. The vast majority of them (4,348) arrived in Sicily, most commonly on the island of Lampedusa, where 3,600 new arrivals were recorded and more than half of the total monthly disembarkations took place (73 out of 139). In June, there was a notable increase in disembarkations in Calabria, 16 in total accounting for 969 new arrivals, while 296 persons disembarked in Apulia, 203 in Sardinia and 24 in Basilicata, the first arrival in the region since 2019.

Nationality of arrivals
To date in 2021, the most common country of origin recorded among refugees and migrants reaching Italian shores is Bangladesh (16%), followed by Tunisia (14%), Côte d’Ivoire (8%), Egypt (8%), Eritrea (6%), Sudan (6%), Guinea (5%), Morocco (5%), Iran (4%), Mali (3%), Algeria (3%), Iraq (3%) and Syria (3%). The number of refugees and migrants arriving by sea from Tunisia and Egypt in June 2021 increased significantly compared to the previous month (17% and 11% of the monthly total, compared to 11% and 6% in May respectively). In parallel, a decrease in the number of Bangladeshi and Eritrean arrivals was recorded (12% and 4% of the monthly total, compared to 29% and 9% in May respectively). Please note that official data on nationalities is not yet comprehensive as the nationality of over 526 persons who arrived by sea in June 2021 remains unknown at the time of writing (14 July 2021).

More common nationalities of arrivals - January 2020 to June 2021

1 All data are based on official Ministry of Interior figures shared with UNHCR. All figures are provisional and subject to change.
Country of embarkation

To date in 2021, 62 per cent of sea arrivals in Italy (12,723 persons) departed from Libya, followed by 22 per cent (4,548 persons) departing from Tunisia, 11 per cent (2,295 persons) departing from Turkey, 3 per cent (522 persons) departing from Algeria, 1 per cent (262 persons) departing from Greece and 1 per cent (182 persons) departing from Egypt. The majority of persons departing from Libya originated from Bangladesh, followed by Eritrea, Egypt and Sudan, while persons who embarked in Tunisia were mostly Tunisian nationals, followed by Ivoirians and Guineans. Refugees and migrants who arrived via sea from Turkey were for the vast majority Iranian and Iraqi nationals, while those who arrived from Greece were mostly Afghans and Egyptians. The vast majority of those arriving via sea from Egypt were Egyptian nationals and those arriving from Algeria were Algerian nationals. In June 2021, a slight decrease in the number of departures from Libya was observed (3,024 persons arrived in Italy having embarked in Libya in June 2021 compared to 4,293 in May 2021), parallel to an increase in departures from Tunisia (1,258 persons arrived in Italy having embarked in Tunisia in June 2021 compared to 770 in May 2021) and Turkey (1,100 persons arrived in Italy having embarked in Turkey in June 2021 compared to 515 in May 2021).

The vast majority of refugees and migrants who departed from Libya in June embarked in Zuwarah, while the most common departure site in Tunisia was Sfax.

Demographics of arrivals

From 1 January to 30 June 2021, most sea arrivals were adult men (70%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (UASC, 19%), adult women (7%) and accompanied children (4%).

In the first six months of the year, 1,466 adult women reached Italian shores, the vast majority of whom originated from Côte d’Ivoire (518) and Guinea (191).

In the same period, 3,885 UASC arrived in Italy by sea: the most common nationalities recorded are Bangladesh (834), Tunisia (670), Guinea (355), Egypt (341), Côte d’Ivoire (334) and Eritrea (310).