

International Rescue Committee Italia

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

APRIL - JUNE 2026



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Introduction

Protection monitoring is the **systematic and regular collection, verification and analysis of information over an extended period of time**, in order to identify violations of rights and protection risks for populations of concern, facilitate the prevention of these violations and risks, and inform effective responses. It means collecting primary and/or secondary data and analyzing them over time to identify trends in the needs expressed and risks faced by the populations of concern.

Protection monitoring is an important tool for both interventions and advocacy. Collecting and sharing high quality information on these issues is essential to making sure that IRC is able to respond to these needs through programming, referrals and advocacy activities.

As part of its dedicated efforts to enhance its protection monitoring activities, IRC Italy produces **quarterly protection monitoring reports**. These reports are a reflection of IRC Italy's commitment to systematically oversee and assess the protection conditions of individuals encountered and supported. They capture the profiles, vulnerabilities, protection risks, and needs of IRC clients in Trieste and the rest of Italy, together with significant migration-related context updates covering the whole country. They provide numbers and insights on **clients who use IRC's digital information service, Refugee.Info, individuals arriving in Trieste via the Balkan Route**.

Map of operational sites



BALKAN ROUTE



The Western Balkan Route is one of the **main migratory pathways via land**. It typically involves crossing multiple countries in the Balkans, often starting from Türkiye and moving through countries such as Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, and others in the region. **Trieste**, despite being located by the sea, is **one of the main entry points in Italy for people arriving from the Balkan Route**.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

This route begins in North African countries such as Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt, with people attempting sea crossings to reach Italy. Common landing points include Lampedusa, other ports in Sicily, and Calabria.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

This route leads from Greece either overland through Albania and the Balkans or directly by sea to Italy, forming a key link for migration from the Middle East and South Asia to Europe.



Definitions of terms in **yellow** can be found in the [glossary](#) on p. 16

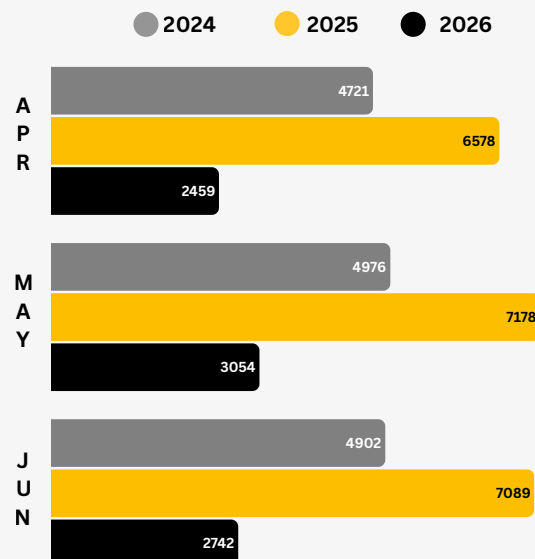
PEOPLE ARRIVING BY SEA

From **April to June 2026**, a total of **8,255 people arrived in Italy by sea**, a **60% decrease** compared to the **same period in 2025** (20,845). In line with trends observed during the previous quarter, the majority of newly arrived third-country nationals came from **Bangladesh, Somalia, Sudan, and Pakistan**.

Unaccompanied children (UAC) represented around **19% of all sea arrivals recorded between January and June 2026**, with **2,664 UAC** out of the total **14,372**. Consistent with the overall decline in arrivals, the number of UACs **decreased by 50%** compared to January–June 2025.

Source: Ministry of Interior, Cruscotto Statistico Giornaliero. Months of [April](#), [May](#) and [June](#) 2026.

COMPARISON OF PEOPLE ARRIVING BY SEA, BY MONTH



PEOPLE ARRIVING BY LAND FROM THE NORTH-EAST BORDER

As of June 2026, nearly **4,009** crossings in the **Western Balkan** were recorded since the start of the year, dropping by **24%** compared with the same period last year. The majority of the people along this route were from Türkiye, Afghanistan and Egypt.

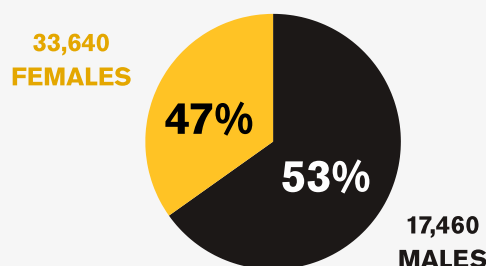
Source: Frontex, number of border-crossing [Jan-June 2026](#)

BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION

In June 2026, the number of individuals registered as beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (TP) in Italy **increased** recording **51,105** beneficiaries of TP, a **23% increase** compared to the end of June 2025, when **41,455** beneficiaries of TP were registered.

However, this year-on-year comparison should be interpreted with caution, as Italy introduced a new renewal procedure in June 2025, which led to individuals who had not renewed their status being [removed](#) from the administrative statistics.

Source: Eurostat - Beneficiaries of temporary protection at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex - [monthly data](#)





Definitions of terms in **yellow** can be found in the **glossary** on p. 16

RECEPTION CENTERS

As of June 30, 2026, **132,619 people are being hosted in the Italian reception system**, a figure that remained broadly stable compared to June 2025 when **137,939** people were registered. This total includes:

- **561 people in hotspots** (reception upon arrival).
- **91,791 in first-level reception centers** (CPA - governmental first reception centers; and CAS - centers for extraordinary reception).
- **40,267 in second-level reception centers** (SAI - Reception and Integration System).

The regions with the highest number of individuals in reception centers were **Lombardy** (12%), **Lazio** (9%) and **Emilia-Romagna** (9%).

In the other regions in which IRC operates, Piemonte, Sicily, Calabria and Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG), the percentage of people in reception centers was 8%, 8%, 5% and 3% respectively.

Source: Ministry of Interior, Cruscotto Statistico Giornaliero. Months of [April](#), [May](#) and [June](#) 2026.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN



13,861

UAC in Italy
as of June 30 2026

As of **June 30**, 2026, there were **13,861** registered UAC in Italy (**-16%** compared to the same period of **2025**, when there were **16,497** UAC). **89.2%** of them were **boys**, and **10.8%** **girls**. **The most common age group was 17 years old** (57%).

The most common countries of origin among male UAC were **Egypt** (37%), **Bangladesh** (15%) and **Ukraine** (9%), while the majority of female UAC came from **Ukraine** (73%), followed by **Ivory Coast** (4%). Most UAC were located in **Sicily** (19%), **Lombardy** (13%) and **Campania** (13%).

During this quarter, the total number of newly arrived UAC (**2,113** - **96%** boys and **4%** girls) **increased by 31%** compared to the previous quarter (January - March 2026), when **1,618** UAC entered the Italian territory (**98%** boys and **2%** girls).

In particular, during this quarter, **384** UAC arrived in Italy in April (**98%** boys and **2%** girls), **802** in May (**97%** boys and **3%** girls) and **927** in June (**94%** boys and **6%** girls).

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, [Monthly data on Unaccompanied Children 2026](#).



During the second quarter of 2026, Italy continued to implement its migration agenda through new legislative measures while aligning its legal framework with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

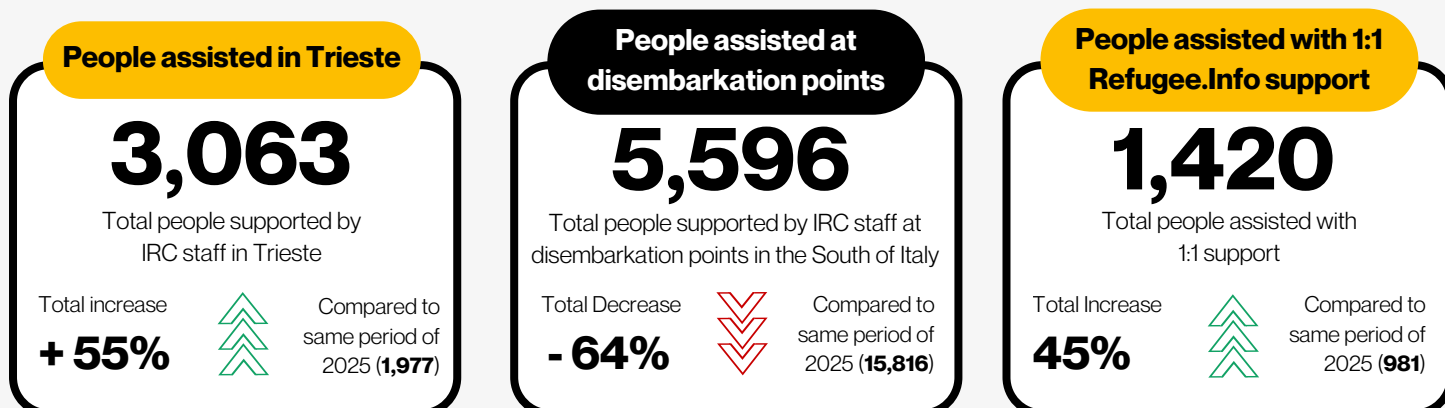
On 23 April, Advocate General Nicholas Emiliou of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued a **non-binding opinion** concluding that **Italy's transfer scheme under the Italy–Albania Protocol**, whereby third-country nationals are transferred to centers in Albania while their asylum claims are processed, is compatible with EU law, provided that migrants' fundamental rights and procedural guarantees are fully respected. The opinion, issued in response to litigation brought by two migrants transferred under the scheme, **was welcomed by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni** as confirmation of the government's approach after months of legal uncertainty. Although not binding, Advocate General opinions frequently influence the Court's final judgments, strengthening the government's position pending the CJEU's ruling.

On 24 April, the Italian Parliament gave final approval to **Decree-Law No. 23/2026 on public security, immigration and international protection**. The migration-related provisions introduced stricter obligations for detained third-country nationals to cooperate in identity verification procedures, amended return procedures, expanded the legal framework governing immigration detention centers, and simplified notification procedures for asylum seekers. While the government presented the reforms as necessary to improve the effectiveness of migration management, civil society organizations and legal experts raised concerns regarding their potential impact on procedural safeguards and the broader use of immigration detention.

On 14 May, Italy received **131 refugees evacuated from Libya** through a humanitarian corridor coordinated by UNHCR in cooperation with the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs and Italian civil society organizations. The operation formed part of the humanitarian evacuation and resettlement program established in 2023, through which more than **2,000 refugees and asylum seekers** have been admitted to Italy from Libya since 2017. While limited in scale, the initiative confirmed the continuation of safe pathways alongside the government's broader strategy of strengthened border controls and externalized migration management.

A major development occurred on 12 June, when the **EU Pact on Migration and Asylum** became fully applicable across all Member States. On the same day, **Decree-Law No. 100/2026** entered into force, adapting the Italian legal framework to the new EU rules. The decree revised reception, screening and border procedures, while introducing changes to accelerated asylum procedures, including a minimum five-day deadline for appeals in accelerated cases. The reform marked Italy's formal implementation of the Pact and reflected the government's broader objective of streamlining asylum procedures and strengthening migration governance in line with the new EU framework.

PEOPLE WE SUPPORTED AT A GLANCE





BALKAN ROUTE

People arriving via land from the Balkan Route in Trieste (Italian-Slovenian border)

REPORTING PERIOD:
JANUARY - MARCH 2026

PROTECTION CONCERNS REPORTED BY STAFF IN TRIESTE



Definitions of terms in **yellow** can be found in the [glossary](#) on p. 16

Two key dynamics shaped the second quarter of 2026 in Trieste. During the first part of the quarter, the structural barriers to accessing the asylum procedure, consistently documented by IRC and local partners over the previous year, persisted with no significant improvement. In the latter part of the quarter, the **entry into force of the [EU Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) on 12 June** introduced new procedures, whose initial practical effects began to emerge in IRC staff observations during the final weeks of June.



PERSISTENT STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE

During the reporting period, the Trieste **Questura** introduced a new **appointment system** based on a paper slip that effectively postpones the expression of the intention to seek asylum. Applicants must queue outside the Questura daily; those who manage to reach the officers and express their intention to apply are issued a slip with a date and time to return - solely to formally express that intention. **In cases documented by IRC, these appointments were delayed by up to two months**, and applicants were sometimes issued a further appointment upon returning.

At the same time, Questura staff continue to routinely **request identity documents or passports at the entrance** and issue only a limited number of appointments each day, reportedly prioritising those who can provide them. These practices perpetuate the systemic barriers documented by IRC in previous quarters.



While presented as a way to organise access to the Immigration Office, the system effectively delays access to a fundamental right from the moment people approach the authorities. **It adds an unnecessary procedural step while leaving applicants without recognised rights, including access to reception**, in the meantime. People holding appointment slips remain in legal limbo, sleeping in the **Porto Vecchio** (Old Port) area or in already overcrowded emergency shelters.

This creates a stark paradox: first-arrival facilities have available places, partly due to lower arrivals, while people remain on the streets or in emergency accommodation because they cannot access reception without a formally registered expression of their intention to seek asylum.



OLD PORT AND EVICTIONS

Evictions of the old port buildings continued throughout the reporting period. Authorities progressively cleared the abandoned warehouses of the Old Port that newly arrived people and asylum seekers use as temporary shelter while awaiting access to reception.

In practice, however, people reopen and reoccupy the same buildings shortly afterwards, producing **an endless cycle in which authorities clear one structure after another without providing any alternative accommodation in the meantime**. This continuity extends the logic of the [2024 Silos clearance](#): displacement without a solution simply moves the same unmet need from one site to the next. Civil society organizations operating in the city have repeatedly requested the opening of a low-threshold reception facility, but these requests have remained unanswered.



MILITARIZATION OF PIAZZA DELLA LIBERTÀ

Piazza della Libertà, **the square in front of the train station where newly arrived people gather in the evening and receive assistance from civil society organizations, became the focus of an increasingly securitized response**. Following episodes of violence among migrants themselves (including a knife assault on 7 April that injured two Nepali nationals and a further assault on 8 May that injured a young Afghan man) authorities intensified their presence, with a stationed police unit and recurrent blanket identity checks of people present in the square.

On 9 June, the municipal council approved a budget variation allocating **EUR 1.2 million to fence off Piazza della Libertà**, declaring it would request the funds from the Region once the tender opens. The municipality frames the measure as a response to public-order concerns and urban decay. IRC notes that **the tensions emerging in the square cannot be separated from the conditions of exclusion produced by the lack of guaranteed access to asylum and reception**, and that a security-led response does not address those structural drivers.



EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU PACT:

Screening procedures and the absence of meaningful info provision.

Since 12 June, authorities have conducted screening as a brief phase at the Trieste Questura — according to accounts shared with IRC, lasting one day, or at most two, typically split across separate days. Although formally brief, the decisions made and gaps left during this phase carry significant consequences for a person's access to protection, their reception conditions, and the procedure into which they are subsequently channelled.

Entry into the **Questura** is followed by a session that a cultural mediator of the Questura conducts. It remains unclear whether dedicated European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) personnel provide information and whether it reaches every person.

IRC's monitoring of asylum interviews found that current information sessions fall short of the in-depth, comprehensible briefing the process requires. **Applicants report frequently not understanding mediators' explanations, and in many cases authorities substitute a QR code for direct guidance.**

The QR code links to an [institutional website](#) that combines all languages and procedure types on a single, difficult-to-navigate page; IRC has not encountered anyone able to find and understand the relevant information there. In other documented cases, applicants received a 40-page document in English only, including the full Eurodac Regulation text, with no accompanying explanation.

This particularly affects groups the EU Pact's safeguards are meant to protect: illiterate applicants or those who do not read the language cannot access written information in this format, and those without phone access cannot receive the QR code at all. The website's content is also difficult to follow and does not cover all relevant languages.

Overall, these findings point to a **gap between the screening regulation's requirements and current practice**. Since implementation began, IRC has not observed a process meeting the standard of a genuine information session: the regulation envisions individualised, comprehensible information for every applicant, but a QR code or unmediated document appears to be substituting for that guidance in practice.

Concerns regarding vulnerability screening.

It remains **unclear whether authorities carry out a medical and vulnerability check during the screening phase**. IRC and local organisations documented cases in which people presented medical documentation confirming existing conditions, yet were classified as “healthy” during the screening process, despite urgent treatment needs subsequently confirmed by local health service.



Beyond health-related checks, IRC did not observe any identification of vulnerabilities during screening. **Authorities do not appear to assess indicators of specific needs, such as trafficking or experiences of torture or violence, and no referrals to specialist services were recorded within the short screening timeframe.** Consistent with this, the local anti-trafficking body confirmed to IRC that it received no referrals of trafficking or exploitation cases from authorities during the reporting period, and IRC has not observed any consolidated output of a vulnerability assessment.

This represents a significant procedural gap: the Screening Regulation requires preliminary health and vulnerability checks to identify persons in need of care or with specific needs, so that they can be referred to the appropriate procedure. **Without this identification, applicants risk being channelled into procedures that do not match their needs – exposing them, particularly women and survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking, to heightened protection risks and further harm.**

No operational independent monitoring.

Article 10 of the Screening Regulation requires each Member State to establish an independent mechanism to monitor compliance with fundamental rights throughout the screening process, including the principle of non-refoulement, the rules governing detention and restrictions on liberty, and the effective handling of alleged violations. Throughout the reporting period, **no independent monitoring actor operating in Trieste has been identified.** Italian authorities have envisaged a role for the Data Protection Authority in monitoring aspects of the implementation of the new Eurodac and data-processing framework, a solution that civil society organisations have contested on grounds of independence and suitability. The absence of a functioning, accessible monitoring mechanism removes a core safeguard of the EU Pact precisely where the risk of rights violations is highest.

Border procedures applied outside the external border.

Under the EU Pact, screening under Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 and any subsequent referral to the asylum border procedure under Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 are linked to specific circumstances connected with an external border crossing. Trieste, however, is located on the Italian-Slovenian border, an internal Schengen border situated approximately 240 Km from the nearest external EU border. **While the Asylum Procedures Regulation permits Member States to carry out border procedures in designated locations within their territory, their application remains limited to the situations exhaustively set out in Article 43, all of which are linked to an external border crossing.** IRC has not identified a clear legal basis demonstrating that the cases observed in Trieste met those conditions, **raising serious concerns about the lawfulness of systematically applying the border procedure in this context.**

Against this backdrop, IRC observed a further layer of arbitrariness: **authorities channelled more than 30 people into border procedures in an unclear manner.** People of the same country of origin (for example Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, China), who arrived together from the same village and with comparable profiles, followed divergent paths.



Staff also **documented family units that authorities separated and channelled into two different procedures:** for example, the father into a border procedure and the mother with the children into an accelerated one. The unpredictability of who ends up in a border procedure has consequences beyond the individual case. It prevents IRC and other actors providing orientation and information from giving people reliable guidance, since no discernible criterion allows anyone to anticipate how authorities will channel a given person. The result is a system that neither applicants nor the organisations assisting them can actually read.

Repurposing of first-reception facilities and the fiction of non-entry.

Authorities transfer these individuals directly, in vehicles departing from the Questura, to **first line reception centers that they are now converting into accelerated- or border-procedure facilities.** Two centers (Campo Sacro and Casa Malala) which for years received asylum seekers awaiting transfer to other regions, are acquiring mixed functions and hosting border procedures premised on the fiction of non-entry: the legal construct under which the person has not physically entered, and is not physically present in the European Union. IRC has not been able to identify any legal basis notified to the persons concerned, either for the transfer or for the channeling into border procedures. At present, no physical barrier prevents these people from leaving the facility; **authorities instead require them to sign in daily, under penalty of implicit withdrawal of the asylum application and immediate revocation of reception measures.** People under these procedures currently receive the same reception services the centres provide internally to other asylum seekers, with one exception: territorial services - for example, access to the national health system - which the **Prefettura** and the regional health authorities must authorise case by case, even in urgent cases. Access to emergency hospital care remains guaranteed for everyone.

Access to legal assistance.

In this initial phase, **reception centres hosting people under border procedures provide them with a list of immigration lawyers registered with the Trieste Bar.** Despite the tight timeframes, appeals appear to have been lodged, including requests for suspensive effect, and lawyers reportedly visit the facilities to meet directly with their clients. Where such requests were filed, applicants remained in the centres pending the outcome. IRC will continue to monitor this aspect closely, as effective access to legal assistance is a core safeguard of the border procedure, and timely, individualised legal counsel is particularly decisive given the accelerated timeframes involved.

Increased capacity of the Territorial Commission for international protection: assessment, accelerated framework, and outcomes.

Since June, the effects of the Commission's expanded processing capacity have become increasingly apparent. **As part of Pact implementation, authorities recruited substantial additional staff and more than doubled the Territorial Commission's assessment capacity; the newly recruited officials have since been working through the case backlog.**



This has markedly accelerated the pace at which decisions are delivered: **regardless of whether a case is channelled into an accelerated, border, or ordinary procedure, outcomes are now typically issued within days or a few weeks**, and nearly all new asylum applications are being processed under an accelerated framework.

Opacity and exclusion of civil society — a national pattern reflected locally.

IRC observes a notable lack of transparency in how local authorities have governed this sensitive implementation phase. **Neither the Prefecture nor the Questura has convened a coordination table bringing together all the organisations that support people** through the successive stages of information provision and reception, from initial street-level contact onward. Indeed only a small number of selected organisations were involved.

This local opacity mirrors a national dynamic. Unlike many Member States, **Italy has not made public a National Implementation Plan for the Pact**; the Decree-Law No. 100/2026 published on 12 June 2026 sets out only urgent measures, leaving the government's overall approach to implementation undisclosed. The bill transposing the Pact regulations, approved by the Council of Ministers on 11 February 2026, remains under examination in the Senate. Authorities have not shared publicly where they will apply border procedures.

The European Commission, in its [May 2026 assessment](#), placed Italy among the Member States lagging in implementation, having defined **neither access to free legal counselling in the administrative phase nor the independent fundamental rights monitoring mechanism for border procedures**.



BALKAN ROUTE

People arriving via land from the Balkan Route in Trieste (Italian-Slovenian border)

REPORTING PERIOD: APRIL - JUNE 2026



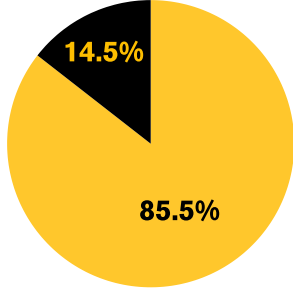
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Total number of people supported

3,063

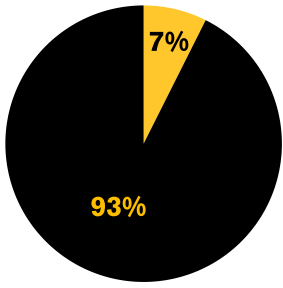
+ 40% 
compared to the previous quarter (2,188)

Children 443 



Adults 2,620 

Female 227 



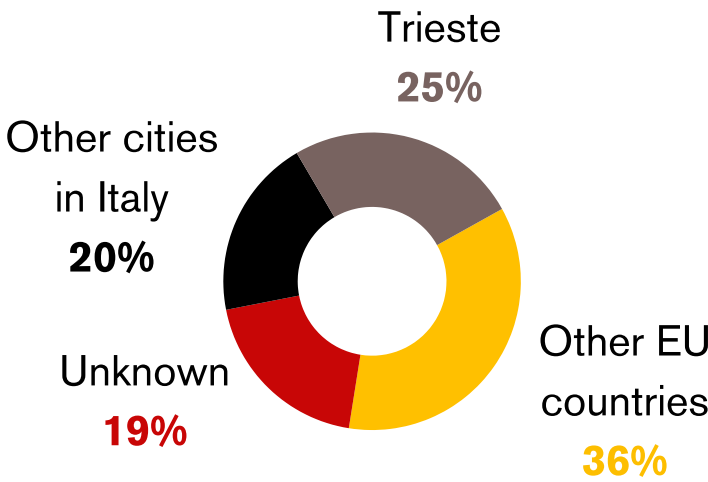
Male 2,836 



1,051
34%

Coming from Afghanistan

MIGRATORY INTENTIONS



MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Afghanistan	1051	34%
Bangladesh	541	18%
Turkey	400	13%
Nepal	332	11%
Pakistan	307	10%
Egypt	84	3%
India	78	3%
China	64	2%
Sudan	49	2%
Iraq	44	1%
Other	113	4%

MAIN DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

2,185 

Single Adult Men

71%

out of the total individuals supported



More than 1 out of 3 single adult men are from Afghanistan

54% of this demographic intends to **stay in Italy**, while 31% is **in transit to other European countries**, mainly France. The intended destinations of the remaining 15% is unknown.

IRC supported an average of 24 newly arrived single men every day

98 

Single Adult Women

3%

out of the total individuals supported

The main countries of origin of single women are **Nepal** (50%), **China** (15%) and **Sri Lanka** (8%)

31% of single women **planned to stay in Trieste**, and 21% in other Italian cities. 19% expressed the intention to **reach other European countries**, specifically Spain. The destination of the remaining 29% is unknown.

IRC supported on average 1 newly arrived single woman every day

305 

Unaccompanied Children (UAC)

10%

out of the total individuals supported



More than 4 out of 5 UAC are from Afghanistan

The majority of UAC (86%) report to be **in transit towards other countries**, mainly to Switzerland and France. 11% intends to **stay in Italy** and the intended destination of the remaining 3% is unknown.

IRC supported an average of 3 newly arrived UAC every day

108

Family Units

Representing 475 individuals, including 188 children

16%

out of the total individuals supported

The main countries of origin are **Türkiye** (53%), **Nepal** (20%) and **Afghanistan** (12%)

36% of family units plans to stay in Italy, especially Trieste. 30% intends to travel to other countries, mainly to **Germany** and the intended destination of the remaining 36% remains unknown.

IRC supported an average of 1 newly arrived family unit every day

From April to June 2026, the IRC Italy team in Trieste supported **3,063** newly arrived people, representing a **40% increase** compared to the previous quarter (**2,188**, January–March 2026).

The largest nationality group was **Afghan** (34%), followed by **Bangladeshi** (18%), **Turkish** (13%), **Nepali** (11%) and **Pakistani** (10%). Other nationalities represented 14% of the people supported, including individuals from **Egypt** (3%), **India** (2.5%), **China** (2%), **Sudan** (2%) and **Iraq** (1%).

In terms of migratory intentions, **36%** of people expressed an **intention to move to other EU countries**, while **25%** intended to **remain in Trieste** and a further **20%** planned to **move to other cities in Italy**. For 19%, the intended destination was unknown. Overall, 45% of people expressed an intention to remain in Italy, either in Trieste or in another Italian city.

WEBSITE VISITORS AND TOP ARTICLES

69,528

Total number of active website users

Total increase 414%



Compared to same period of 2025 (13,527)



Male 57%



Female 43%

Top 4 articles visited on Refugee.Info website ⁵	Active Users
'Decreto Flussi' 2026 - 2028: How to get a work permit in Italy'	6,745
'How to check the status of your permesso di soggiorno online'	3,058
For those living in Italy more than 5 years: permesso di lungo periodo'	1,224
Finding a job in Italy	957

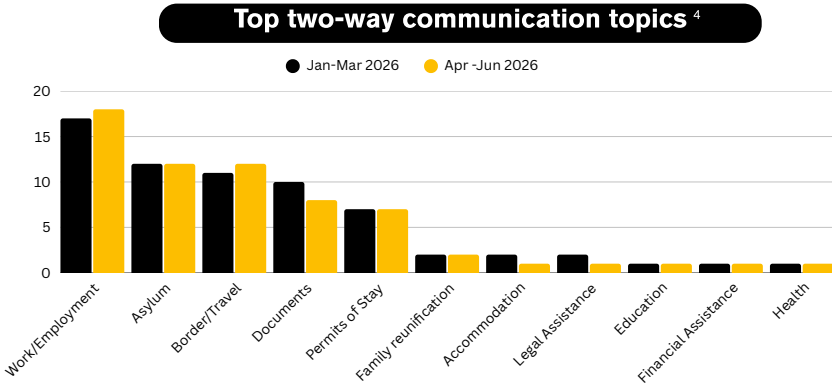
TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

1,420¹

Unique clients provided with individualized support (i.e., two-way communication with a moderator)

Between April and June 2026, the Refugee.Info website continued to grow, reaching over 69,000 active users, a 14% increase compared to the previous quarter (60,808) and an 414% increase compared to the same period in 2025. The article on the Decreto Flussi alone reached around 6,000 users, mostly through organic Google search, confirming sustained demand for information on regular labour pathways.

Two-way interactions remained stable, with 1,420 tickets compared to 1,473 in the previous quarter, averaging around 15 users per day. The most common languages remain English, Arabic, Italian, followed by French, Dari, Urdu, Pashto, Hindi, Bengali and Ukrainian. More than half of the users contacted the platform from abroad, using Arabic, French, Dari, Pashto, Urdu and Bengali languages, while Italian-language tickets came predominantly from users already in Italy. Notably, the first article on the new EU asylum rules reached 31,000 organic views despite not being advertised, as Meta blocked its sponsorship because it concerns topics flagged as sensitive (migration and politics). This constitutes a structural constraint on the platform's ability to disseminate accurate information on the EU Pact precisely when demand is highest and few organisations in Italy are producing detailed content on the subject. Alternative dissemination strategies are being developed to circumvent these blocks, including rephrasing content and integrating third-person narrative framing.



CLIENT PROTECTION CONCERNS ³

UNCERTAINTY AROUND THE EU PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

The entry into application of the new EU rules generated widespread confusion. Users abroad asked whether asylum applications had been suspended, while people already in Italy sought clarity on which rules would apply to pending cases and whether new procedures could be applied retroactively. Questions on Dublin transfers, including family reunification, also increased. Uncertainty over the Pact's implementation in Italy created a difficult transition period, limiting moderators' ability to provide clear guidance on asylum procedures.

DELAYS AND BARRIERS TO ACCESS QUESTURA AND ASYLUM

Delays remain the most consistent concern. Users reported waiting three to six months for first issuance or renewal of permits, and over one year for Commission hearings, without receiving information from Questura when they enquire in person or online. Users also consistently report difficulties in accessing the Questura to lodge an asylum application in several parts of Italy. Difficulties in obtaining appointments persist. Recurrent questions concern travelling abroad with the ricevuta, conversion to work permits and EU long-term permits.

EXPLOITATION AND LACK OF HOUSING

Users in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan contacted Refugee.Info seeking support to reach Italy, including via the Mediterranean route, as well as information on humanitarian corridors and resettlement. Reports of fraudulent intermediaries charging fees for Decreto Flussi applications continued, including cases of users arriving in Italy without the promised job. Housing concerns included homelessness, difficulties re-entering reception centres and inadequate conditions for women with children in reception facilities.

This snapshot presents findings from a quarterly analysis of data collected from IRC's digital information service, Refugee.Info (RI), which provides refugees and migrants with multilingual, accessible, actionable and accurate information nationwide through instant messaging apps, social media and a website.

¹ Two-way communication refers to conversations between clients and Refugee.Info moderators online through Facebook Messenger, Whatsapp and Telegram. Source: Zendesk
² Source: Google Analytics 4 (GA4), based on a sample of 17,783 users.
³ This finding is not based on quantitative data, but on observations collected from field staff (3 Refugee.Info moderators) through a monthly survey for protection monitoring purposes. Source: Zendesk - Analysis based on a sample of 1328 for Jan-Mar 2026 and 1191 for Apr - Jun 2026. The graph is based on the percentages of messages received on specific topics in relation the total number of messages for each quarter.
⁵ Source: Google Analytics 4 (GA4). Unique users visiting the website are calculated as active users, i.e anyone who has an engaged session or when GA4 collects the "first_visit" event or a specific event parameter relating to time. Disclaimer: The reported data for this quarter may be understated as a result of recent changes to the website domain and temporary indexing disruptions.



Methodology

In recent months, IRC Italy has strengthened its efforts to systematically and regularly monitor the protection situation of its clients. Monitoring activities aim at identifying shifts in the protection landscape by assessing rights violations, protection risks faced by the affected population, and the information and services needs of people supported. Kindly note that IRC Italy's monitoring efforts do not cover the entire country, rather are limited to reporting observations made and clients reached through IRC programs. The **introduction** and **political context** are the only exceptions, as they are based on secondary data.

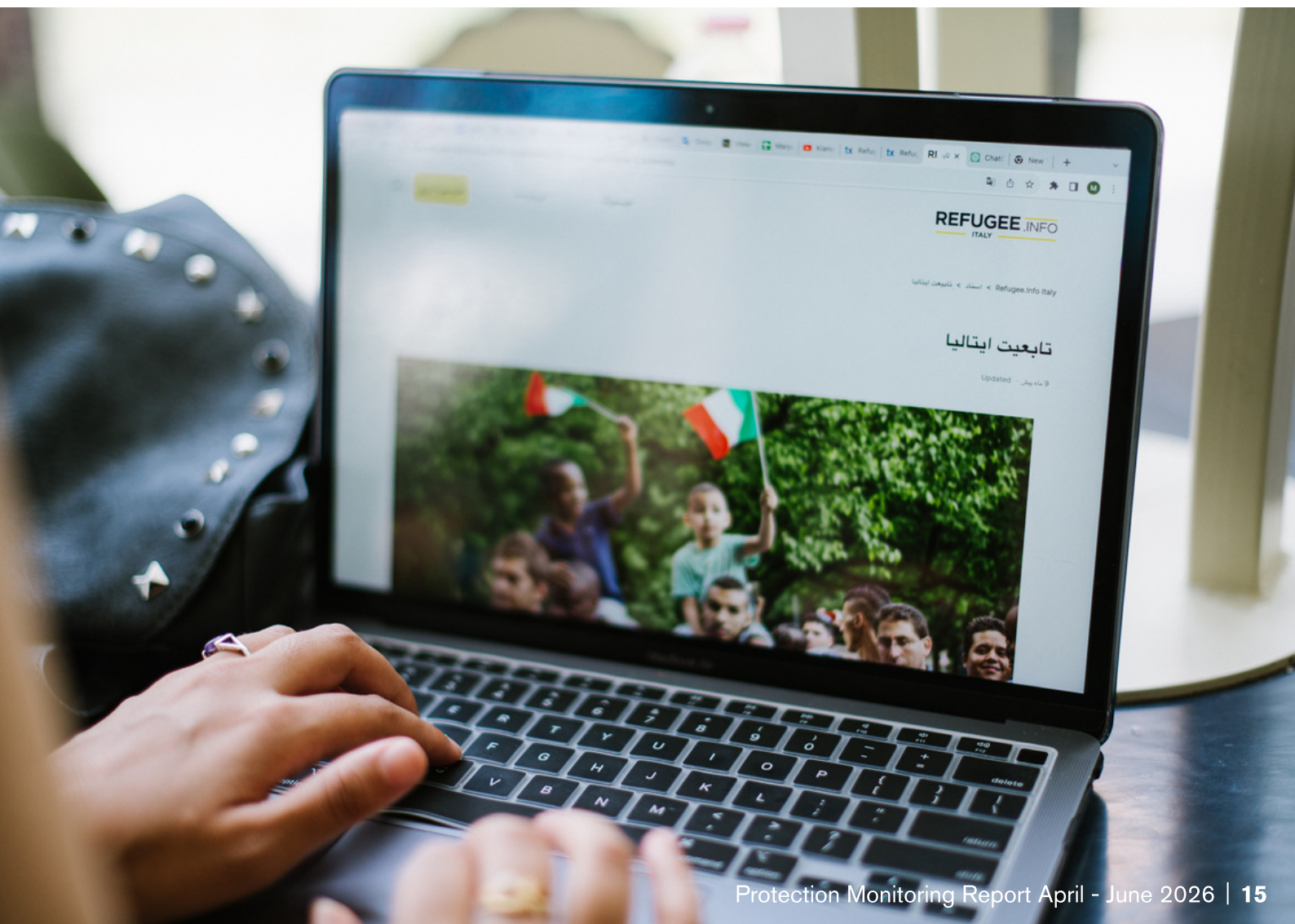
Monitoring data is collected using the following methods:

- **Protection at the Borders (Trieste):** the city of Trieste is one of the main entry points in Italy for people traveling through the Balkan Route. The team, composed of the Area Manager and three field protection assistants, gathers client-related data (e.g. gender, age, nationality, vulnerabilities, pushbacks) while disseminating information and Non-Food Items. All data collected through individual and group interviews is anonymous and documented in a spreadsheet connected to a Dashboard.
- **Refugee.Info (RI):** [Refugee.Info](#) is IRC's digital information service which provides refugees and migrants with multilingual, accessible, actionable and accurate information nationwide through instant messaging apps, social media and a website. The RI team tracks the number of messages that are sent to and received by moderators per topic, by tagging messages with "labels". These labels sort the messages into categories. The team also uses labels for clients' ages and genders, and labels indicating if any messages were sent to/from Ukrainian clients or Afghan clients.

Since November 2022, moderators of Refugee.Info and field staff in Trieste have been asked to complete a monthly qualitative questionnaire which serves as an observation tool. The answers to this questionnaire allow IRC staff to monitor changes in the most prevalent migrant profiles and demographics, the most frequently asked questions and requested services, barriers to accessing services, and discriminatory practices faced by clients.

The results of these monitoring activities are presented in this Protection Monitoring Report, which is produced on a quarterly basis. The aim of the report is to provide a summary of the current protection context, highlight developments over the reporting period in terms of demographics, protection concerns and information and services needs, and highlight any trends. It consists of an introduction with information on the current political context, as well as national data on migration flows and the reception system in Italy, followed by two snapshots on Trieste (People arriving via land from the Balkan Route in Trieste) and Refugee.Info project.

A glossary of Italian context-specific terms along with their definitions is presented at end of the report.





Glossary

This glossary will be updated every quarter with Italian context-specific terms contained in the Protection Monitoring Report. All the terms featured within the glossary throughout the report are marked in yellow.

A

Anagrafe – Office of Vital Statistics or General Registration Office

The Anagrafe is the population register in which each municipality keeps track of the numbers of the population residing in the area and the changes occurring in it due to natural and civil causes (birth, marriage, death, emigration, etc.).

Source: <https://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/anagrafe/>

Azienda Sanitaria Locale (ASL) – Local Health Department

The Azienda Sanitaria Locale (or Unità Sanitaria Locale, USL) is a local health department where people register to get an Italian health card and be assigned a GP (general practitioner doctor).

Source: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/41893/terms-and-acronyms-that-asylum-seekers-need-to-know-in-italy>

Assegno Unico Universale per i Figli - Single and Universal Allowance for Dependent Children

The Assegno Unico Universale per i Figli is a financial benefit granted by the Italian government to people with dependent children under 21 living in Italy, or to people with dependent children with disabilities of any age. It may be granted to third-country nationals, provided that they meet some income and residence permit-related requirements.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388918400663-Financial-support-and-bonuses-in-Italy>

C

Carta d'identità – Identity card

It is an identification document that is issued by the local municipality (Comune – Anagrafe) once an individual has been registered as a resident there.

Source: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/41893/terms-and-acronyms-that-asylum-seekers-need-to-know-in-italy>

Centro Assistenza Fiscale (CAF) - Fiscal Assistance Center

Organizations, listed in a specific register kept by the Revenue Agency, which give fiscal assistance to taxpayers, including third-country nationals, in matters of tax compliance.

Source: <https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/portale/web/english/nse/glossary#C>

Centri di accoglienza straordinaria (CAS) - Centers for Extraordinary Reception

Despite the name, CAS (Centers for Extraordinary Reception) are the most common reception facilities for asylum seekers and have the most available spots. CAS are usually managed by civil society organizations and can take the form of big reception centers or apartments. Services available in CAS include food and accommodation, medical attention and support accessing the national healthcare system, social assistance, and cultural mediation.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388911887383-Your-right-to-stay-in-a-reception-center>

Centri di primo arrivo (CPA) - *Governmental First Reception Centers*

CPA (First Reception Centers) are governmental centers for people who have expressed their will to seek asylum. While in these centers, people undergo the identification and fingerprinting process (if not done in the hotspot), submit their asylum application and wait until the Territorial Commission decides on their case. If they are identified as vulnerable, after submitting their asylum application they may be prioritized for transfer to a second level reception center. Services available in the CPA include food and accommodation, medical attention and support accessing national healthcare system, social assistance and cultural mediation.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388911887383-Your-right-to-stay-in-a-reception-center>

Codice Fiscale - *Social security number*

The Codice Fiscale is the Italian social security number, made up of numbers or a combination of numbers and letters on the basis of the individual's first name, family name, date and place of birth. A Codice Fiscale is required for a number of different activities, such as opening an Italian bank account or signing a job contract.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388910816151-Italian-Social-Security-number-Codice-Fiscale->

Commissione Territoriale per il Riconoscimento della Protezione Internazionale - *Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection*

The Territorial Commissions for the Recognition of International Protection are the authorities who examine applications for international protection. The activities of the Territorial Commissions are coordinated by the National Commission for the Right to Asylum, based in Rome, which is also responsible for the revocation and withdrawal of international protection status.

Source: [https://asylum.dlci.interno.it/chi-siamo#:~:text=Le%20Commissioni%20Territoriali%20per%20il%20Riconoscimento%20della%20protezione%20internazionale%20\(CCTT,Frontiera%20o%20presso%20le%20Questure.](https://asylum.dlci.interno.it/chi-siamo#:~:text=Le%20Commissioni%20Territoriali%20per%20il%20Riconoscimento%20della%20protezione%20internazionale%20(CCTT,Frontiera%20o%20presso%20le%20Questure.)

Comune - *Municipality*

The Comune is an administrative division, roughly equivalent to a township or municipality. The Comune is responsible for many basic civil functions such as a registry of births and deaths, registry of deeds, local residency (residenza), parking permits, garbage tax, etc.

Source: <https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/comune>

D

Dichiarazione di ospitalità - *Declaration of hospitality*

The dichiarazione di ospitalità is a mandatory written communication that every landlord/host must produce to inform the Italian authorities that they are hosting someone in their house. It is compulsory for non-EU citizens, even if they are hosted for one day only.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5392450690711-Italian-Declaration-of-hospitality-Dichiarazione-di-ospitalit%C3%A0>

Decreto Flussi - *Flows Decree*

The decreto flussi is an annual policy in Italy regulating the entry of non-EU nationals for work purposes through a quota system. It sets limits on the number of foreign workers allowed to enter the country each year for seasonal, non-seasonal, or self-employment roles, often prioritizing specific industries like agriculture and tourism or countries with migration agreements with Italy. Employers must apply for authorization to hire workers within the quotas, and individuals require a work visa to enter.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/en-us/articles/20563713139101>

E

Esenzione X22 (Assistenza sanitaria stranieri provenienti dall'Ucraina) - *X22 exemption (Healthcare exemption for foreigners from Ukraine)*

The X22 Exemption is a healthcare exemption which is issued to Temporary Protection holders at the time of enrollment in the National Healthcare System and when choosing a General Practitioner and/or Free Pediatrician, following the foreigner's declaration of non-employment. With X22, Temporary Protection holders are exempted from paying the co-pay ('ticket sanitario' in Italian) to access public healthcare services in Italy.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388954753175-Your-right-to-public-healthcare>

H

Hotspot - Reception upon arrival

The hotspots are centers, located on EU external borders, where the registration, identification, fingerprinting and medical screening of asylum seekers take place. These operations should be carried out within 48 hours of the asylum seeker's arrival (72 hours in exceptional circumstances).

Source: <https://openmigration.org/en/glossary/>

I

Indicatore Situazione Economica Equivalente (ISEE) - Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator (ISEE)

The ISEE is an indicator of a family's economic condition, issued by the National Institute for Social Security to people with income and assets in Italy. An ISEE is needed to apply for social financial benefits in Italy.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388954323607-ISEE>

“Invito” a formalizzare la domanda di asilo - “Invitation” to formalize the application for international protection

The expression of willingness to apply for asylum (or international protection) should not be confused with the formalization of the relevant application, which happens even weeks after the expression of willingness to seek asylum - although it must take place within a short time frame according to the provisions of the current legislation (Legislative Decree 25/2008). From a procedural point of view, the expression of willingness is filed through an “invitation” issued by the territorially competent police headquarters or border police to formalize the application for international protection on the indicated date.

Source: <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/Abandoned%20Lives%20in%20Trieste%202022-ENG.pdf> (p.14)

Idoneità Alloggiativa - Housing Suitability Certificate

The Housing Suitability Certificate is issued by the technical office of the Local Municipality where a property is located. This document confirms whether the house is compliant with current health and safety regulations and determines the number of individuals allowed to live inside it without overcrowding.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/articles/5388944707863>

M

Minori Stranieri Non Accompagnati (MSNA) – Unaccompanied Children (UAC)

Also sometimes called ‘unaccompanied minors’, MSNA are children (i.e., people under the age of 18, as defined in article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) who are outside their country of origin, have been separated from both parents and other relatives, and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Source: <https://www.rescue.org/en/glossary>

N

Non-Food items (NFIs)

Non-Food items (NFIs) are items other than food used in humanitarian contexts, when providing assistance to those affected by natural disasters or war or in situation of need.

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/sy/21-non-food-items-nfis.html>

Nulla osta - No Impediments

A “nulla osta” is an official authorization issued by a competent public authority stating that there are no legal obstacles to proceeding with a specific administrative action, such as applying for a visa, family reunification, or work authorization. Different types of nulla osta exist depending on the procedure, and each is issued by the relevant competent authority.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/articles/5388944707863>

Patronato

Patronato is a fiscal assistance center (see definition of CAF above). While the CAF deals strictly with tax assistance, Patronato offers clients a variety of services, ranging from social security assistance to filing claims to apply for various types of benefits.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388954323607-ISEF>

Permesso di soggiorno - *Permit of stay (or residence permit)*

An authorization issued by the authorities of a State that allows a foreigners to reside in their territory in accordance with national and regional regulations.

Source: <https://immigrazione.it/docs/2017/glossario-asilo-migrazione.pdf>

Permesso di soggiorno UE per soggiornanti di lungo periodo – *EU long-term permit*

An EU long-term permit may be issued to third-country nationals who have lived in Italy for at least 5 years. It allows permanent residency and does not have an expiration date. Also known as ‘ex carta di soggiorno’, ‘permesso illimitato’, or ‘OO’, this permit prevents people from being expelled from Italy, except in the case of severe State security reasons.

Source: <https://immigrazione.it/docs/2017/glossario-asilo-migrazione.pdf>

Poste Italiane - *Italian postal service*

Poste Italiane is a provider of financial and postal products and services. It offers a range of products: mail and distribution services; payments, mobile data provider and digital services to individuals and corporate institutions. Among these, there are essential services for migrants, such as the possibility to open a basic bank account and to request the permit of stay and its renewal. The company offers these products and services through multi-regional area offices, post offices, branches and online services.

Source: <https://www.poste.it/>

Prefettura – *Prefecture*

A Prefettura is a territorial division of the Ministry of the Interior. In Italy, a Prefetto is the Government's representative in a local province. The Prefetto's office is called the Prefettura. There is a Prefettura located in each of the 110 provinces in Italy. Within this office, there is an immigration desk that provides intervention, consultation, and collaboration to protect the rights of migrants.

Source: https://www.unhcr.org/it/wp-content/uploads/sites/97/2020/07/Guida_pratica_rifugiati.pdf

Prenota Facile - *Easy Booking*

PrenotaFacile.it is an online platform that allows migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to register and book an appointment at the Questura in the city where they live.

Source: <https://italiahello.it/en/articolo/prenotafacile-it-what-is-it-and-when-is-it-needed/>

Protezione speciale - *Special protection*

Special protection is a form of national protection that may be granted to individuals who do not qualify for international protection if, in case they were sent back to their country of origin, they would be in danger of persecution based on factors such as race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, citizenship, religion, political beliefs, or personal and social circumstances, or of violations of Italy's constitutional and international obligations. Additionally, consideration is given to the potential risk of these individuals being forcibly relocated from their country of origin to another country where they could face persecution, torture, or cruel and degrading treatment based on the aforementioned criteria.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388907043095-For-people-who-do-not-qualify-for-international-protection-Permesso-per-Protezione-Speciale>

Protezione temporanea - *Temporary protection*

Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from non-EU countries who are unable to return to their country of origin. This measure was activated for Ukrainian refugees on March 4th, 2022.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5457658294813-For-people-fleeing-war-in-Ukraine-Permesso-per-Protezione-Temporanea>

Q

Questura - Police headquarter

The Questura is a territorial office of the State Police that works under the direction of the Ministry of the Interior. Its primary task is to ensure the maintenance of public order and security within the province. The Questura also deals with paperwork related to passports, residence permits, and regularization of foreigners, including international protection applications.

Source: <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/960>

R

Residenza – Residency

Residency is the place where a person has their habitual stay (Article 43 of the Civil Code). Jurisprudence dictates that residency is determined by an individual's physical presence in a certain place (with occasional absences), and their intention to remain there. Residency is evidenced by registration in a public registry of residents, in which each person must register themselves and those under their authority or guardianship.

Source: <https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/residenza-diritto-civile/>

Ricevuta del permesso di soggiorno – Permit Receipt

The residence permit receipt ('Ricevuta del permesso di soggiorno' in Italian) is a very important document that proves a person is not irregular in the country while waiting for the renewal or conversion, or the first release of the residence permit. It is an official, legally recognized document within Italian territory. It shows that someone has officially applied for a residence permit ('Permesso di soggiorno' in Italian) or its renewal or conversion.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/en-us/articles/16727883574557>

S

Silos

The Silos is a huge and crumbling privately owned building located next to the Trieste train station. Until June 2024, this building served as an informal settlement for migrants and asylum seekers who lacked access to adequate reception facilities, often finding shelter in tents set up inside. However, on June 21, 2024, the Silos was cleared by Italian authorities, and is no longer used as an informal settlement by people arriving in Trieste.

Source: <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/empty-silos-crowded-streets-irc-warns-critical-conditions-trieste>

Sistema di accoglienza e integrazione (SAI) - Centres within the Reception and Integration System

SAI is a publicly funded network of local authorities and NGOs that provides shelter to unaccompanied children, beneficiaries of international protection, vulnerable asylum seekers and people who have obtained some other residence permits for specific reasons (such as beneficiaries of national protection).

The SAI system consists of small reception structures where assistance and integration services are provided.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388911887383-Your-right-to-stay-in-a-reception-center>

Servizio Sanitario Nazionale (SSN) - National Healthcare Service

The SSN is Italy's public health system. It is organized under the Ministry of Health and is administered on a regional basis (see 'Azienda Sanitaria Locale' above). It provides healthcare to all citizens for hospital care, emergency care and primary care provided by general practitioners and pediatricians. Those who are registered to SSN have the same rights and duties of Italian citizens including the co-payment of fees for the services provided (ticket). The contribution varies according to the financial situation of the applicant.

Source: <https://italy.refugee.info/hc/en-us/articles/5388954753175-Your-right-to-public-healthcare>

T

Tessera Sanitaria - Italian health card

The Tessera sanitaria is the Italian health card that gives access to health care services. It can be used to book medical checks and get medicines. It is also referred to as the TS-CNS, which stands for "tessera sanitaria – carta nazionale dei servizi" (in English, health and national services card), as it gives access to some public services. For third-country nationals, the Tessera Sanitaria will be valid for the same time as their residence permit.

Source: <https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/portale/web/english/nse/glossary#R>

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