

ITALY

April 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

9,467
Sea Arrivals

1,439
UASC Sea Arrivals

23,441
Asylum applications

171,379
Persons in reception⁵

Between 1 January and 30 April 2018, **9,467 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a 75 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year, when 37,235 persons reached Italian shores. The numbers of monthly sea arrivals in April 2018 (3,171 persons) are higher than in February and March 2018, but still are significantly less compared to arrivals in April 2017 (12,943). **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 15 per cent of sea arrivals** since the beginning of the year².

The ten most common countries of origin of refugees and migrants registered at landing points between January and April 2018 are Tunisia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Pakistan, Mali, Guinea, Algeria, and Senegal. Despite an overall decrease in sea arrivals, the numbers of Eritreans and Tunisians reaching Italian shores have been on the rise, compared to the same period last year. Between January and April 2018, Tunisians and Eritreans together accounted for 40 per cent of new arrivals. The numbers of Libyans registered at landing points since the beginning of 2018 have also been 50 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

The overall decrease in sea arrivals also reflects in lesser individuals applying for asylum and accessing accommodation in reception facilities, compared to last year. Between 1 January and 30 April 2018, **23,441 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy³. On 30 April 2018, the Territorial Commissions in Caserta, Enna, Frosinone, Ragusa, and Trapani discontinued their work, while new Territorial Commissions are due to open in other locations, including Naples and Turin. As of 30 April 2018, **171,379 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities** across the country, compared to approximately 184,000 at the end of December 2017⁴.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁶

94%
Sea arrivals informed
(Access team)

Access to territory and procedures. UNHCR teams attended disembarkations and regularly visited reception facilities, delivering information to new arrivals and ensuring access to asylum and other procedures, as well as prompt identification and referral of persons with specific needs. In April, UNHCR intervened on behalf of 11 individuals who were denied access to the international protection procedure following their disembarkation in Lampedusa. Persons had expressed their intention to claim asylum, but were unable to formalize their request in writing, and were served with a refusal of entry. UNHCR successfully called for the authorities to promptly grant access to the procedure and to accordingly arrange accommodation in reception facilities.

424
Referrals of persons
with specific needs
(Access team)

Reception. In April, UNHCR staff held focus group discussions with persons of concern accommodated at temporary reception facility in the Rome area. Participants particularly highlighted issues affecting persons with specific needs, including adults and children with disabilities. The findings of such focus group discussions will help UNHCR better focusing its advocacy and operational support activities.

376
Visits to
reception centres
(Access team)

Partnerships. In April 2018, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with [AMMI](#) (Multiethnic Association of Intercultural Mediators), for a project focusing on training and empowering 13 intercultural mediators working with unaccompanied and separated children, and strengthening their connection with authorities in Piedmont., UNHCR renewed its MoU with the [Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescent](#), which provides for joint visits to unaccompanied children facilities and participatory activities aimed at developing SOPs and guidelines for voluntary guardians. UNHCR also signed a letter of mutual intent with the [Italian Refugee Council](#), to develop a project aimed at strengthening child protection in two Italian regions. In Friuli Venezia Giulia the project will focus on legal assistance, counselling and capacity-building for referral purposes. In Sicily, the project will aim at setting up a sustainable and efficient guardianship system for unaccompanied and separated children, arranging training sessions and focus group discussions.

92
Joint reception
monitoring missions
(Reception team)⁷

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 30 April 2018 period.

² For further details and statistics, please refer to UNHCR updates including Sea Arrivals Dashboards and UASC Dashboards, available on the UNHCR data portal at <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5205>

³ Ministry of Interior, *I numeri dell'asilo*, http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/aprile_mensile_2018.pdf (last access 21/05/2018)

⁴ Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 30 April 2018, http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_30-04-2018_2.pdf (last access 17/05/2018)

⁵ For more information, see Ministry of Interior, *ibid*.

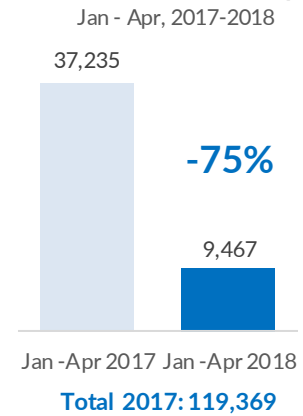
⁶ For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR, *What we do in Italy*, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/60825> (last access 20/11/2017)

⁷ Visits to reception centres (Access team) are carried out by UNHCR staff autonomously. Joint reception monitoring missions (Reception team) are carried out by UNHCR staff, jointly with Mol representatives and external auditors (Mireco).

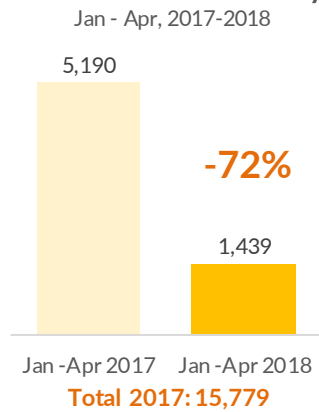
UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location



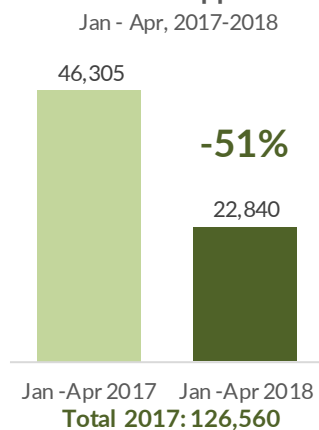
Sea arrivals in Italy



UASC arrivals in Italy



RSD first time applications



External relations

- 14-15 April 2018: UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Yusra Mardini was on mission to Italy. Together with UNHCR staff, Ms. Mardini visited a reception facility, an aggregation centre for unaccompanied children and facilities for disembarkation procedures at the Catania port.

