

ITALY

September 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

20,948
Sea arrivals

3,254
UASC sea arrivals

1,737
Dead and missing

41,524
Asylum applications

94%
Sea arrivals informed about their rights and the asylum procedure
(Access team)

Between 1 January and 30 September 2018, **20,948 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, an 80 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (105,418). In September 2018, just under 950 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores, an 85 per cent reduction compared to 6,291 sea arrivals in September 2017. Monthly sea arrivals numbers in September 2018 were the lowest since February 2013.

While the total number of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe has fallen, the death rate has risen sharply, particularly for those crossing the Mediterranean Sea. In the Central Mediterranean, one person died or went missing for every 48 people who crossed to Europe between January and September 2018, compared to one death for every 52 people who crossed in the same period in 2017. Between 1 January and 30 September 2018, 1,737 persons died or went missing while crossing to Europe, of whom 1,245 lost their lives in the Central Mediterranean. UNHCR has [called](#) strongly for increasing search and rescue capacity in the Central Mediterranean and for leaving space for NGOs to contribute in a coordinated manner to these efforts. UNHCR has also encouraged the establishment of predictable arrangements in the Mediterranean for the disembarkation of people rescued at sea.

In September 2018, 54 per cent of refugees and migrants disembarking in Italy departed from Tunisia, followed by 29 per cent from Turkey, 7 per cent from Libya, 6 per cent from Greece, and 4 per cent from Algeria. The ten most common countries of origin of refugees and migrants registered at Italian landing points between January and September 2018 are Tunisia, Eritrea, Sudan, Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Algeria, Mali, and Guinea. **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 16 per cent of sea arrivals** since the beginning of the year.

On 24 September, the Italian Council of Ministers approved a law decree introducing important developments on asylum. In a [note to the press](#), UNHCR confirmed that it will share technical comments with the Government of Italy so that they can be taken into account in the discussion before Parliament, stressing the need for provisions to comply with the principles enshrined in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

Operational update - UNHCR Response²

748
Referrals of persons with specific needs to appropriate services
(Access team)

745
Visits to reception centres
(Access team)

188
Joint reception monitoring missions
(Reception team)³

Specific needs and SGBV. In mid-September, a workshop was delivered by UNHCR partner organization D.i.Re. (national anti-violence network), in collaboration with UNHCR, in Catania. Approximately 40 persons attended, including caseworkers, staff working in D.i.Re. anti-violence centres, public sector professionals and NGOs across southern Italy. The workshop focused on working with asylum-seeking and refugee women who have survived sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), aiming at capacity-building and experience-sharing on intervention methods and asylum procedures. UNHCR's partnership with D.i.Re. provides asylum-seeking and refugee women who survived SGBV with improved and access to anti-violence centres and key services.

Integration. In early September, UNHCR met with representatives from the Welfare Department of the Rome Municipality to discuss the situation following the eviction in early August of some 100 persons of concern, mainly Sudanese nationals, from an occupied building in the Via Scorticabovè area. Representatives from NGOs were also present, together with evicted refugees.

Statelessness. On 17 September, UNHCR issued a [call](#) to award three scholarships to stateless persons in Italy. The scholarships will fund studies, training, workshops, etc. to enhance stateless persons' opportunities to pursue a career or further studies. Each scholarship covers costs up to 300 Euros.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 30 September 2018 period. Sea arrivals data are based on UNHCR estimates calculated from Official MoI figures shared with UNHCR up to April 2018.

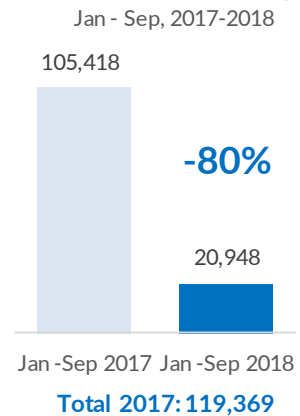
² For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR, *What we do in Italy*, available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/65386> (last access 21/09/2018)

³ 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 MoI representatives and external auditors (Mireco).

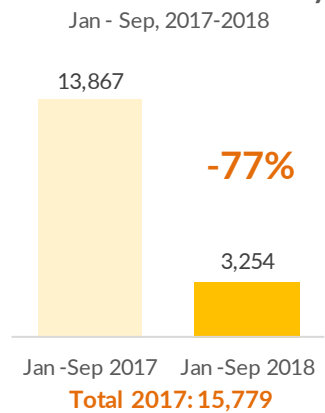
UNHCR teams in Italy:



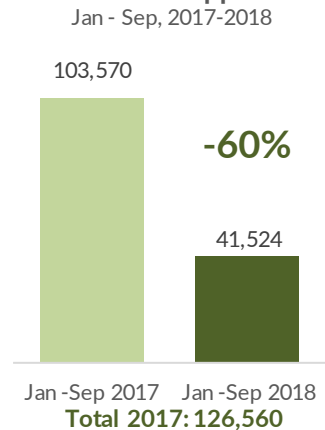
Sea arrivals in Italy



UASC arrivals in Italy



RSD first time applications



External relations

- 12-14 September 2018: **mission of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, and Europe Bureau Director, Ms. Pascale Moreau, to Italy.** The mission included meetings with refugees, as well as with Italy's President of the Republic, Prime Minister, Ministers of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Transport. The High Commissioner also attended a press conference at the Foreign Press Association and delivered a speech at the conference on the Iraqi-Syrian crisis at the Pontificia Università Urbaniana at the Vatican.
- 20 September: **meeting** of UNHCR Regional Representative for Southern Europe **with the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Roberto Fico.**
- 22 September: UNHCR attended Terra Madre – Salone del Gusto in Turin for **Food for Inclusion. La differenza a tavola**, a dinner prepared by refugees trained under the 'Food for Inclusion' project run by the University of Gastronomic Sciences (UNISG) in Pollenzo with support from UNHCR.

