

ITALY

June 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

16,566
Sea Arrivals

2,593
UASC Sea Arrivals

32,455
Asylum applications

165,080
Persons in reception³

Between 1 January and 30 June 2018, **16,566 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, an 80 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (83,752). **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 13 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 June 2018 are Tunisia, Eritrea, Sudan, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Guinea, Pakistan, Iraq, and Algeria. In June 2018, just over 3,100 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores. This is a decrease compared to arrivals in May 2018 (3,900), and a significant reduction compared to 23,500 sea arrivals in June 2017. In June 2018, approximately 70 per cent of sea arrivals departed from Libya.

In June 2018, Italy and Malta **refused** disembarkation permission to NGO SOS Méditerranée's Aquarius vessel, carrying over 600 refugees and migrants, many of whom had initially been rescued by Italian flagged vessels. The Aquarius eventually docked in Valencia, the Spanish government having granted permission to disembark, a decision which was **welcomed** by UNHCR. Furthermore, at the end of June, a vessel by NGO Mission Lifeline was granted permission to disembark over 230 rescued individuals in Malta following commitments by other European countries to relocate some new arrivals. Additionally, a Danish-flagged cargo vessel that had rescued over 100 persons was granted disembarkation permission in Italy only after several days of waiting off the Italian coast.

UNHCR **expressed** concerns regarding restrictions resulting in reduced search and rescue capacity, and called for a collaborative regional approach to sea crossings providing clear and predictable guidelines for search and rescue, and disembarkation. In the first six months of 2018, 938 persons were reported dead or missing while trying to cross the Central Mediterranean to Italy. In June 2018 alone, one person died for every seven who crossed to Italy via the Central Mediterranean route.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁴

96%
Sea arrivals informed
(Access team)

645
Referrals of persons
with specific needs
(Access team)

536
Visits to
reception centres
(Access team)

145
Joint reception
monitoring missions
(Reception team)⁵

Specific needs and SGBV prevention. In the context of the national partnership with the Di.Re anti-violence network, UNHCR teams in Calabria delivered a training course on international protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and persons with specific needs at an anti-violence centre in Catanzaro. The course, attended by nearly 30 women with different professional backgrounds, stressed the need to consolidate referral mechanisms with other SGBV services and networks, and with Territorial Commissions. UNHCR is in the process of organizing further trainings on SGBV and related issues including access to services aimed at health workers, to provide a very practical course with a special focus on identification and response for persons with specific needs, with a view to strengthening referral pathways and exchange of best practices.

Child protection. In June 2018, UNHCR conducted outreach activities in Ventimiglia, near the Italy-France border. Push-backs of unaccompanied and separated children at the Italy-France border continue to be reported. UNHCR, together with NGOs working with unaccompanied children, is working on a common strategy to address unaccompanied children needs, aiming at developing standard operating procedures.

Integration. UNHCR teams in Calabria follow-up on the situation in the informal settlement of San Ferdinando, providing technical support to authorities and civil society to identify practical solutions to reach more dignified conditions for persons living in the area. UNHCR inputs regarded the identification of durable solutions, the participation of refugees and the identification and referral of persons with specific needs. On 11 June 2018, UNHCR briefly met Mr. Fico, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, during his visit to the area remarking its availability to continue supporting Italian authorities on matters related to the protection of persons of concern to UNHCR.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 31 May 2018 period. Sea arrivals data are based on UNHCR estimates calculated from Official Mol figures shared with UNHCR up to April 2018.

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

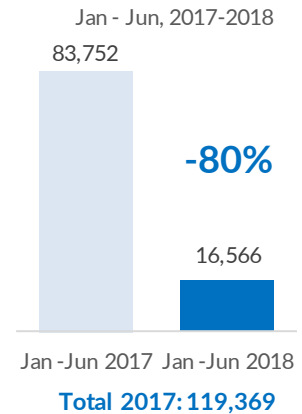
⁴ For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR, *What we do in Italy*, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/60825> (last access 20/11/2017)

⁵ 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).

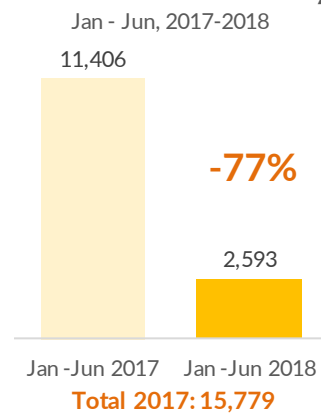
UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location



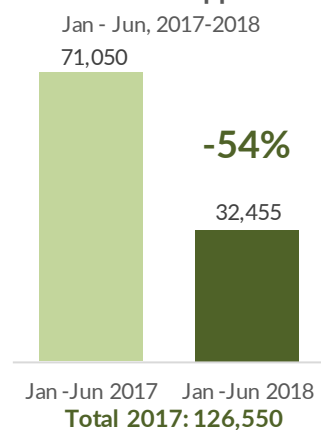
Sea arrivals in Italy



UASC arrivals in Italy



RSD first time applications



External relations

- 6 June 2018: meeting with Ms. Nancy Iris, Deputy Director of the US Department of State's Bureau of Refugees, Population and Migration
- 12 June 2018: attendance at launch event of the Euro-Mediterranean Movement of Solidarity with Persons in Exile, in Rome
- 15-16 June 2018: attendance at "New Frontiers of Migration", in Catania
- 27 June 2018: meetings with Heads of Immigration Department and Social Integration Office at the Ministry of Labour, and with the Head of the Democratic Party group at the Constitutional Affairs Commission at the Chamber of Deputies