

# ITALY

September 2017

## Overview and developments

### Key Figures<sup>1</sup>

**105,418** Sea Arrivals

Between 1 January and 30 September 2017, **105,418 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a **20% per cent decrease** compared to 2016, when 132,043 persons arrived by sea in the same period last year. Most 2017 sea arrivals (94% per cent) departed from Libya and disembarked in southern Italy. The most common nationalities of sea arrivals are Nigeria, Guinea, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Eritrea, The Gambia, Senegal, Sudan, and Morocco. Men and women constitute 75 per cent and 11 per cent of sea arrivals, respectively, while **13 per cent of persons reaching Italian shores are unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)**<sup>2</sup>.

**13,867** UASC Sea Arrivals

Improved registration upon arrival and more effective controls at land borders in northern Italy have contributed to the majority of sea arrivals registering their asylum applications in Italy and remaining in the country. In the first nine months of 2017, **over 106,000 persons lodged an asylum claim** in Italy<sup>3</sup>.

Individuals from nationalities with an overall international protection recognition rate of 75 per cent or higher across the EU, who arrived in Italy until 26 September, are eligible to register for the EU relocation scheme.

**9,126** relocated persons<sup>4</sup>

On 26 September, the Italian **National Integration Plan** was approved. The Plan incorporates a number of recommendations UNHCR advocated for, including the inclusion of asylum-seekers in activities to facilitate integration and measures to ensure job opportunities for beneficiaries of international protection.

### Operational update - UNHCR Response<sup>5</sup>

**365** landings attended

**Access to territory and procedure.** UNHCR staff followed-up on the cases of individuals whose nationality had been incorrectly assessed upon disembarkation, liaising with local authorities to ensure access to the asylum and relocation procedures. UNHCR teams in northern Italy carried out missions to land border areas, monitoring the situation of persons in transit who are not accommodated in governmental reception facilities, and liaising with the authorities to ensure that persons of concern are provided with adequate services. UNHCR staff also delivered relocation training to reception centre staff and information sessions to relocation candidates in various locations, liaising with the authorities to ensure prompt registration.

**892** visits to reception centres (Access team)

**Capacity building.** In September, UNHCR Monitoring Associates carried out 21 joint monitoring visits with Ministry of Interior representatives and external auditors. During the month, UNHCR staff working in the context of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) held workshops on trafficking-related issues in Siracusa and Verona. By rolling out the guidelines for the referral of potential victims of trafficking who seek asylum, these workshops aim at enhancing the capacity of decision-makers, reception centre staff and anti-trafficking organizations to address trafficking issues in the asylum context.

**93,851** Persons informed (Access team)

**Cooperation with EU agencies.** UNHCR met with representatives of EASO, Frontex, and the European Commission, discussing developments and arrangements in view of the end of the relocation scheme. On 30 September, UNHCR participated in an EASO information event with the Eritrean diaspora in Italy<sup>6</sup>.

**Integration.** UNHCR followed-up on the situation of the refugees who were evicted from an occupied building in Rome in late August<sup>7</sup>, meeting with the refugees and facilitating their dialogue with relevant authorities.

**Partnerships.** UNHCR signed a project partnership agreement with CeSPI (Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale), to carry out a profiling exercise of new arrivals from selected nationalities in a number of Italian regions. Additional partnerships were established with Teatro dell'Argine and Sport senza Frontiere, to enhance refugee youth integration, and with Fondazione Adecco per le Pari Opportunità, to promote job opportunities for beneficiaries of international protection. Furthermore, starting in September, UNHCR will support MEDU outreach activities in informal settlements in the Rome area.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January - 30 September 2017 period.

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

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Interior, *I numeri dell'asilo*, <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/documentazione/statistica/i-numeri-dellasilo> (last access 11/10/2017)

<sup>4</sup> Relocations refer to the October 2015-30 September 2017 period.

<sup>5</sup> For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR Italy Factsheet (October 2017), available at (<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/60545>)

<sup>6</sup> EASO, *EASO meets with the Eritrean diaspora in Italy*, <https://www.easo.europa.eu/eritrea-diaspora-meeting> (last access 12/10/2017)

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR chiede urgentemente soluzioni per i rifugiati sgomberati a Roma ed un impegno per l'integrazione a livello nazionale*, 24 August 2017, <https://www.unhcr.it/news/unhcr-chiede-urgentemente-soluzioni-rifugiati-sgomberati-roma-ed-un-impegno-lintegrazione-livello-nazionale.html> (last access 12/10/2017)

## UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location



- 1) ACCESS
- 2) ADMIN/FINANCE/HR/PROGRAMME
- 3) CHILD PROTECTION
- 4) COMMUNITY BASED PROTECTION
- 5) DROP-IN SERVICE
- 6) INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
- 7) INTEGRATION

- 8) RECEPTION
- 9) REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION
- 10) RELOCATION
- 11) RESETTLEMENT
- 12) SPECIFIC NEEDS
- 13) STATELESSNESS
- 14) PUBLIC INFORMATION