

ITALY

January 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

4,189

Sea Arrivals

586

UASC Sea Arrivals

6,874

Asylum applications

182,537

 Persons in reception⁵

In January 2018, **4,189 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is largely comparable to sea arrivals in the same period last year, when 4,467 persons were registered at landing points in southern Italy. Over 90 per cent of new arrivals reached Sicilian shores, but disembarkations occurred also in Calabria and Sardinia. Furthermore, in early January, 50 refugees and migrants arrived at the Trieste port, in northern Italy, continuing a trend that was first recorded in 2017.

January arrivals commonly originated from Eritrea, Tunisia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Algeria, Guinea, and Sudan. Notably, **unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) accounted for 14 per cent of January sea arrivals**.²

The majority of new arrivals disembarked following search and rescue (SAR) operations conducted on the high seas by various entities, including Italian and other European countries' authorities, NGOs and commercial carriers. In January, NGOs Proactiva Open Arms, Sea Watch, and SOS Méditerranée continued to conduct rescue activities in the Mediterranean.

In the first month of the year, **6,874 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy.³ As of 31 January, **182,537 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities** across the country⁴.

On 27 January, a 30-year-old Nigerian woman died following a fire at the San Ferdinando informal settlement, in Calabria, where some 1,000 persons live. UNHCR [expressed](#) concerns at the living conditions and **difficult integration prospects for persons of concern** and called on authorities to promptly implement planned measures, which include provision of health, social and housing services.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁶

96%

 Sea arrivals informed
(Access team)

Reception. In January, UNHCR staff conducted monitoring visits to 30 temporary reception facilities, jointly with external auditors and representatives from the Ministry of Interior, local Prefectures, and IOM. Findings are shared with the Ministry of Interior and follow-up action is regularly discussed with competent authorities. In January, two temporary facilities were closed due to conditions identified during monitoring visits. UNHCR continues to support the Ministry of Interior and external auditors in developing monitoring guidelines and tools.

194

 Referrals of persons
with specific needs
(Access team)

Land borders. During missions to land border areas in northern Italy, UNHCR met with persons of concern and civil society organisations. In Bardonecchia, the local mountain route has been increasingly used by persons of concern attempting to travel irregularly from Italy to France, exposing themselves to serious protection risks and potentially deadly accidents. In Ventimiglia, UNHCR referred 9 persons with specific needs to competent authorities for adequate follow-up, and held a coordination meeting with NGOs that are operational in the area.

84

 Visits to
reception centres
(Access team)

Community-based protection. In January, UNHCR met with representatives of refugee-led organisations in Turin, in order to promote refugee participation in the drafting phase of the Regional Integration Plan. This will help ensure identification of protection and integration gaps at regional level, as well as determination of priorities and responses based on the experiences of persons of concern.

30

 Joint reception
monitoring missions

Capacity building. UNHCR contributed as a facilitator to the OSCE Live Simulation Based Training on "Combating Human Trafficking on Migration Routes". The training promotes an effective multi-agency approach and was delivered for the first time to an entirely Italian audience including 52 individuals from a variety of backgrounds (immigration police, financial guard, public prosecutors, anti-trafficking NGOs, lawyers, RSD officers). UNHCR focused on the identification of refugees in a mixed migration context and on the implementation of the trafficking guidelines that were developed jointly with the National Commission for the Right to Asylum.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 31 January 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/gennaio_2018.pdf (last access 13/03/2018)

⁴ Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 31 January 2018, http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-01-2018_0.pdf (last access 13/03/2018)

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)

UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location

