

ITALY

October 2017

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

111,397

Sea Arrivals

14,597

UASC Sea Arrivals

9,960

 Relocations⁴

Between 1 January and 31 October 2017, **111,397 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a **30 per cent decrease** compared to the same period last year, when 159,427 persons were registered at landing points in southern Italy. In 2017 so far, the most common nationalities of sea arrivals are Nigeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mali, Sudan, Senegal, Eritrea, The Gambia, and Morocco. Men and women constitute 75 per cent and 11 per cent of sea arrivals, respectively, while **13 per cent are unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)**². Another one per cent are accompanied children.

The decrease in total sea arrivals this year so far reflects fewer disembarkations from mid-July onwards, compared to the same period last year. In October 2017, 5,979 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores, while over 27,000 disembarked in southern Italy in October 2016.

In the first ten months of 2017, 94 per cent of sea arrivals departed from Libya. In the recent months, however, departures from Tunisia have proportionally increased. Between 1 and 31 October 2017, 43 per cent of sea arrivals departed from Libya, while 45 per cent departed from Tunisia. The vast majority of individuals departing from Tunisia arrived autonomously or were intercepted close to Italian shores.

Between 1 January and 31 October 2017, **some 116,000 persons lodged an asylum claim in Italy**³.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁵

365

Attendances at disembarkation (Access team)

Access to territory and procedures. UNHCR teams at disembarkation sites in southern Italy delivered information to new arrivals and worked to ensure access to asylum and other procedures, as well as prompt identification and referral of persons with specific needs. UNHCR relocation teams carried out missions to reception facilities and informal settlements in various locations across Italy, liaising with reception facilities staff and competent authorities to ensure prompt registration of individuals who are eligible to apply to the programme.

1,639

Referrals of persons with specific needs (Access team)

Reception. In October, UNHCR Monitoring Associates carried out nine joint monitoring visits to temporary reception facilities, together with Ministry of Interior representatives and external auditors. UNHCR staff in southern Italy (Access team) also visited first-line reception facilities and hotspots on a regular basis. Furthermore, UNHCR teams in northern Italy undertook 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. On 8 October, a 13-year-old Iraqi asylum-seeking child with a disability died in Bolzano, near the Italy-Austria border. The child had travelled with his family from Sweden to northern Italy, but had no access to reception facilities in Bolzano. UNHCR called upon the authorities to abolish a local regulation that limits persons with specific needs' access to reception. UNHCR also successfully called for the child's family members to be immediately granted access to adequate reception and psychological support⁶.

993

Visits to reception centres (Access team)

Capacity building. UNHCR staff working in the context of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) held workshops on trafficking-related issues in Genoa and Turin, rolling out the guidelines for the referral of potential victims of trafficking who seek asylum, with a view to enhancing the capacity of decision-makers, reception centre staff and anti-trafficking organizations to address trafficking issues in the asylum context⁷.

Partnerships. On 6 October, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents, aimed at jointly promoting child protection initiatives in Italy. The collaboration entails participatory activities to be carried out in at least 15 first-line and second-line UASC facilities across the country⁸.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 31 October 2017 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/it/documentazione/statistica/i-numeri-dell-asilo> (last access 16/11/2017)

⁴ Relocations refer to the October 2015-20 October 2017 period. For more information, please visit Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto giornaliero*, http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_15-11-2017.pdf (last access 16/11/2017)

⁵ 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)

⁶ UNHCR, *UNHCR esprime profondo dolore per la morte di un bambino iracheno a Bolzano*, <https://www.unhcr.it/news/comunicati-stampa/unhcr-esprime-profondo-dolore-la-morte-un-bambino-iracheno-bolzano.html> (last access 16/11/2017)

⁷ For more information, see the Ministry of Interior press release, available at <http://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/formazione-genova-sul-sistema-segnalazione-vittime-tratta> (last access 16/11/2017)

⁸ UNHCR, *L'Autorità Garante per l'Infanzia e l'Adolescenza e l'UNHCR insieme per la protezione dei minori stranieri separati e non accompagnati in Italia*, <https://www.unhcr.it/news/comunicati-stampa/autorita-garante-linfanzia-ladolescenza-lunhcr-insieme-la-protezione-dei-minori-stranieri-separati-non-accompagnati-italia.html> (last access 16/11/2017)

UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location

