

# ITALY

February 2018

## Overview and developments

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

**5,247**  
Sea Arrivals

**747**  
UASC Sea Arrivals

**12,816**  
Asylum applications

**178,778**  
Persons in reception<sup>6</sup>

Between 1 January and 28 February 2018, **5,247 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a 61 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year, when 13,439 persons reached Italian shores. The numbers of monthly sea arrivals in February 2018 (1,058 persons) were the lowest on record since 2014. **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 14 per cent of sea arrivals** since the beginning of the year.<sup>2</sup>

The ten most common countries of origin of refugees and migrants registered at landing points in 2018 so far are Eritrea, Tunisia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Algeria, and Mali. Despite an overall decrease in sea arrivals, there was a significant increase in the numbers of Eritreans and Tunisians reaching Italian shores, compared to the same period last year. In February 2018, Tunisians accounted for 42 per cent of new arrivals.

The second evacuation of 150 asylum-seekers from Libya directly to Italy took place on 14 February 2018. UNHCR supported with the identification and provision of information to evacuees upon their arrival in Rome. The group included children and women who had been held captive for long periods of time in Libya<sup>3</sup>.

Between 1 January and 28 February, **12,816 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy.<sup>4</sup> As of 28 February, **182,537 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities** across the country, compared to approximately 178,800 at the end of January 2018<sup>5</sup>.

On 1 February, [Legislative Decree 220/2017](#) came into force, introducing new provisions regarding the composition of Territorial Commissions, and providing Juvenile Courts with competency over guardian appointments and age determination.

### Operational update - UNHCR Response<sup>7</sup>

**97%**  
Sea arrivals informed  
(Access team)

**Access to territory and procedures.** UNHCR teams at disembarkation sites 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 also advocated with Italian authorities to ensure that individuals were promptly transferred from the Lampedusa hotspot to other facilities on the mainland, and that those who intended to appeal negative decisions be granted access to legal aid.

**294**  
Referrals of persons  
with specific needs  
(Access team)

**Reception.** In February, UNHCR staff conducted joint monitoring visits in 10 reception facilities, jointly with external auditors and representatives from the Ministry of Interior, local Prefectures, and IOM. Furthermore, UNHCR discussed with the Ministry of Interior the findings of over 50 monitoring visits conducted in recent weeks, identifying situations requiring immediate follow-up.

**179**  
Visits to  
reception centres  
(Access team)

**Land borders.** During the month, UNHCR conducted missions to land border areas, including Ventimiglia, where UNHCR personnel undertook outreach activities in informal settlements along the river banks and visited transit facilities. UNHCR also met with civil society organisations and with local authorities, both in Italy and France.

**40**  
Joint reception  
monitoring missions

**Partnerships.** In February, UNHCR signed partnership agreements with the NGOs Cambalache, Carta di Roma, and Lila Catania. The project with [Cambalache](#) aims at fostering social inclusion and self-reliance for 75 refugees through beekeeping and bio-agriculture vocational trainings, while also promoting 30 internships. As in previous years, [Carta di Roma](#) will work to promote fair and balanced representation of refugees in the media, and improve public attitudes towards persons of concern. [Lila Catania](#) will continue the activities initiated in 2017, aiming at reducing the risk of sexual and gender-based violence and at improving access to sexual and reproductive health services.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 28 February 2018 period.

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, *Over 1,000 refugees evacuated out of Libya by UNHCR*, 15 February 2018, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2018/2/5a8451f84/1000-refugees-evacuated-libya-unhcr.html> (last access 14/03/2018)

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Interior, *I numeri dell'asilo*, [http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/febbraio\\_mensile\\_2018.pdf](http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/febbraio_mensile_2018.pdf) (last access 14/03/2018)

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 28 February 2018, [http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto\\_statistico\\_giornaliero\\_28-02-2018\\_0.pdf](http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_28-02-2018_0.pdf) (last access 14/03/2018)

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see Ministry of Interior, *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> 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

