

ITALY

May 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

13,430

Sea Arrivals

1,749

UASC Sea Arrivals

27,137

Asylum applications

167,739

Persons in reception⁶

Between 1 January and 31 May 2018, **13,430 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a 78 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year, when 60,228 persons reached Italian shores. Over 3,900 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores in May: while this represents an increase compared to numbers recorded in February, March and April this year, monthly sea arrivals are significantly lower than in May 2017, when almost 23,000 refugees and migrants were registered at landing points in southern Italy. **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 May 2018 are Tunisia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Mali, Pakistan, Guinea, Algeria, and Iraq. Despite an overall decrease in sea arrivals, the numbers of Tunisians reaching Italian shores have been on the rise, compared to the same period last year. Furthermore, the numbers of Eritrean arrivals are comparable to the first five months of 2017, with over 2,200 reaching Italian shores in the January-May 2018 period, compared to some 2,300 in the January-May 2017 period. Between January and May 2018, Tunisians and Eritreans together accounted for 37 per cent of new arrivals.

The overall decrease in sea arrivals also reflects in lesser individuals applying for asylum and accessing accommodation in reception facilities, compared to last year. Between 1 January and 31 May 2018, **27,137 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy³. This is a 53 per cent decrease compared to the numbers of applications submitted in the same period last year. As of 31 May 2018, **167,739 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities** across the country, compared to approximately 184,000 at the end of December 2017⁴. In addition, as of 31 May 2018, 13,318 UASC were accommodated in ad hoc reception facilities in Italy, 59 per cent of whom were aged 17 and above⁵.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁷

94%
Sea arrivals informed
(Access team)

Access to territory and procedures. UNHCR teams attended disembarkations and regularly visited reception facilities, delivering information to new arrivals and ensuring access to asylum and other procedures, as well as prompt identification and referral of persons with specific needs. In May 2018, UNHCR staff conducted missions to land border areas in northern Italy, including Como, Gorizia, and Ventimiglia. UNHCR staff carried out outreach activities and delivered information sessions to persons of concern in transit facilities and informal settlements near the border areas, as well as in Milan. UNHCR teams also regularly liaised with civil society organisations and reception facility staff.

453
Referrals of persons
with specific needs
(Access team)

RSD. A five-week training course for the 250 newly recruited government RSD caseworkers started in Rome on 21 May 2018. UNHCR Regional Representative for Southern Europe delivered an opening speech, while UNHCR staff conducted numerous training sessions. The course marks the start of the implementation of the RSD reform in Italy, with the new system becoming operational in July 2018. UNHCR staff will no longer interview asylum-seekers, but will have a crucial role in supporting the newly recruited caseworkers, including with interviews, COI research and decision drafting.

423
Visits to
reception centres
(Access team)

Specific Needs and SGBV prevention. In May 2018, UNHCR organized a LGBTI awareness raising workshop in Rome, to strengthen key asylum stakeholders' awareness of issues faced by LGBTI refugees, enhance LGBTI associations' knowledge of the Italian asylum protection system, and include LGBTI persons in SGBV prevention and response mechanisms. Jointly with civil society organisations, LGBTI refugees developed recommendations that were delivered to representatives of selected ministries and key stakeholders. Common protection challenges, including those relating to LGBTI children and transgender persons. The conclusions of the workshop will form the basis for increased operational collaboration between key ministries, LGBTI refugees, NGOs, and relevant civil society actors for a more LGBTI sensitive asylum system.

130
Joint reception
monitoring missions
(Reception team)⁸

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 Ministry of Interior, *I numeri dell'asilo*, http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/maggio_mensile_2018_ss.pdf (last access 27/06/2018)

⁴ Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 31 May 2018, http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-05-2018_0.pdf (last access 27/06/2018)

⁵ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, *Report mensile MSNA*, 31 May 2018, <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Documents/Report-MSNA-mese-maggio-2018-26062018.pdf> (last access 28/06/2018)

⁶ For more information, see Ministry of Interior, *ibid.*

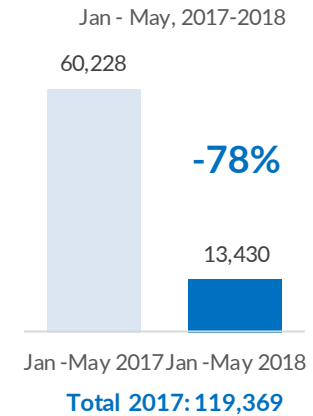
⁷ For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR, *What we do in Italy*, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/60825> (last access 20/11/2017)

⁸ 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).

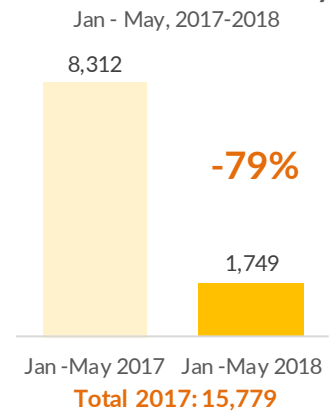
UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location



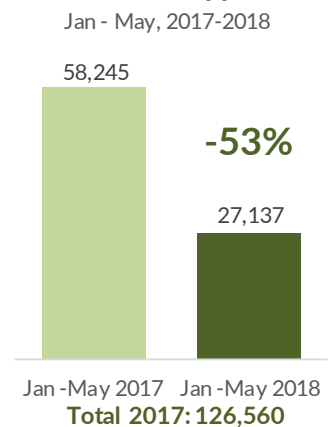
Sea arrivals in Italy



UASC arrivals in Italy



RSD first time applications



External relations

- 2-3 May 2018: meetings with Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Ms. Ulla Tørnæs, in Rome and Sicily
- 3 May 2018: meeting with the President of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum
- 3 May 2018: meeting with UNIMED, the Mediterranean Universities Union
- 22 May 2018: meeting with the Director of the International Labour Organization Office in Italy and San Marino
- 31 May 2018: meeting with the President of the Calabria region