

ITALY

August 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

20,001
Sea Arrivals

3,092
UASC Sea Arrivals

38,471
Asylum applications

155,619
Persons in reception³

Between 1 January and 31 August 2018, **20,001 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, an 80 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (99,127). The overall reduction trend in arrival numbers to Italy this year continues with lower numbers each month since May 2018. In August 2018, just under 1,500 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores, a 62 per cent reduction compared to 3,914 sea arrivals in August 2017. In August 2018, 47 per cent of refugees and migrants disembarking in Italy departed from Tunisia, followed by 23 per cent from Greece, 16 per cent from Libya, and 7 per cent from Greece and Algeria, respectively. The ten most common countries of origin of refugees and migrants registered at Italian landing points between January and August 2018 are Tunisia, Eritrea, Sudan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Algeria, and Guinea. **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 15 per cent of sea arrivals** since the beginning of the year².

On 20 August 2018, Italian Coast Guard ship Diciotti docked in the Sicilian port of Catania with 190 refugees and migrants on board who had been rescued off the Libyan Coast. Some of the most vulnerable persons on board, including persons in need of medical care and unaccompanied children were allowed to leave the Diciotti, but 150 people remained on board the ship. On 23 August, UNHCR and IOM [urged](#) the Italian government to allow refugees and migrants rescued on board the Diciotti to disembark. Many of those on board were in need of humanitarian assistance, international protection assessments and had already faced incredibly traumatic experiences. Finally, on 25 August, the remaining passengers on the Diciotti were permitted to disembark by the Italian authorities. UNHCR [called](#) for a collaborative and reliable European approach towards persons rescued at sea, and [urged](#) States to accelerate efforts to put in place established and predictable arrangements in the Mediterranean region for the disembarkation of persons rescued at sea.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁴

94%
Sea arrivals informed about their rights and the asylum procedure (Access team)

713
Referrals of persons with specific needs to appropriate services (Access team)

743
Visits to reception centres (Access team)

162
Joint reception monitoring missions (Reception team)⁵

Reception. On 28 August 2018, 100 Eritrean nationals who disembarked Coast Guard Diciotti vessel in Catania were transferred from the Messina hotspot to a reception facility in Rocca di Papa, near Rome. On 29 August, ROSE Regional Representative visited them in Rocca di Papa. Many new arrivals recounted severe abuses in detention in Libya, while some reported previous attempts to leave Libya.

Integration. In August 2018, UNHCR carried out outreach activities in various locations in northern Italy, including land border areas and informal settlements in larger cities. UNHCR staff met with persons of concern, including land and sea arrivals and Dublin returnees, delivering relevant information on asylum related issues. In a number of locations, trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence related risks appeared significant. In Turin, in early August, approximately 90 refugees, mostly Somali nationals, were evicted from an occupied building known as "Ex-MOI". UNHCR conducted outreach activities at the temporary accommodation where some 40 evictees were transferred pursuant to a 2017 MoU between the Municipality and local actors. UNHCR shared its findings on the situation of persons of concern with social workers.

Partnerships. In the context of UNHCR's partnership with Intersos, the [Partecipazione](#) programme was launched in August 2018, aiming at promoting protection, social cohesion, and refugee active participation through capacity-building and empowerment activities in five Italian regions: Sicily, Calabria, Lazio, Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont. More specifically, the programme aims at strengthening the capacity of refugee-led and community-based organisations, also fostering mutual collaboration among such organisations. Following a call for applications, selected organisations will benefit from a training programme, funding opportunities, and the possibility to take part in a networking event at national level to share best practices and strengthen networks.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 31 August 2018 period. Sea arrivals data are based on UNHCR estimates calculated from Official MoI figures shared with UNHCR up to April 2018.

² Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 31 August 2018, available at http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-08-2018.pdf (last access 21/09/2018). 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 For more information, see Ministry of Interior, *ibid*.

⁴ For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR, *What we do in Italy*, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/65386> (last access 21/09/2018)

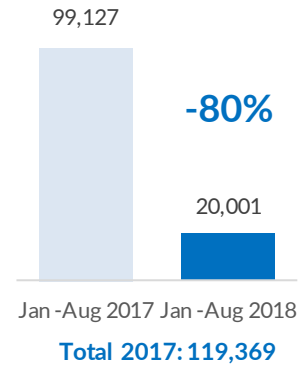
⁵ Visits to reception centres (Access team) are carried out by UNHCR staff autonomously. Joint reception monitoring missions (Reception team) are carried out by UNHCR staff, jointly with MoI representatives and external auditors (Mireco).

UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location



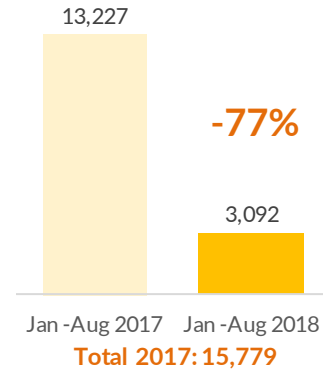
Sea arrivals in Italy

Jan - Aug, 2017-2018



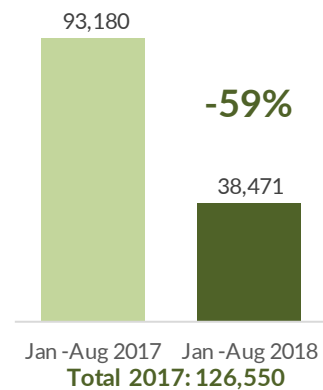
UASC arrivals in Italy

Jan - Aug, 2017-2018



RSD first time applications

Jan - Aug, 2017-2018



External relations

- 31 August 2018: meeting with First Secretary of the Australian Embassy.

The updated version of
UNHCR What we do in Italy - Country Operational Factsheet
is now available on the [UNHCR Data Portal](#)

