

ITALY

October 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

21,955
Sea arrivals

Between 1 January and 31 October 2018, **21,955 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, an 80 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (111,397). In October 2018, 1,007 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores: while this is largely comparable to monthly arrival numbers in September 2018, it is a very significant reduction compared to the almost 6,000 recorded at landing points in October 2017. The ten most common countries of origin of refugees and migrants registered at Italian landing points between January and October 2018 are Tunisia, Eritrea, Sudan, Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, Algeria Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Guinea.

3,330
UASC sea arrivals

The vast majority of individuals reaching Italian shores since the beginning of the year are adult men (72 per cent). **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 15 per cent of sea arrivals**, while adult women and accompanied children account for 9 per cent, and 4 per cent, respectively.

1,988
Dead and missing

While the proportion of departures from Libya has decreased from 91 per cent in January-October 2017 to 57 per cent in January-October 2018, the proportion of refugees and migrants departing from Tunisia has risen from 4 per cent in the first ten months of 2017 to 24 per cent in the first ten months of 2018. In October 2018, 67 persons reached Italian shores having departed from Libya.

44,555
Asylum applications

On 4 October, a new Italian-flagged civil rescue vessel, Mare Ionio, started operating in the Central Mediterranean, aiming at monitoring the situation off the coast of Libya. The vessel is run by NGO Mediterraneana and also has rescue capacity. At the end of October, three NGO rescue vessels were operational in the Mediterranean.

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

On 5 October, the new Law Decree n. 13/2018 came into force, introducing important developments on asylum. UNHCR issued a [technical note](#) on the Law Decree, and [expressed](#) concerns about potential breaches of international refugee law, risking to weaken guarantees for persons of concern to UNHCR, especially those with specific needs. UNHCR also expressed hope that relevant amendments to the law could be introduced before Parliament during the law conversion process. On 15 October, UNHCR was heard before the Senate's Constitutional Affairs Commission.

Operational update - UNHCR Response²

817
Referrals of persons with specific needs to appropriate services (Access team)

Family reunification. UNHCR signed a new partnership with Caritas to carry out the “Family first” project, aiming at expanding family reunification opportunities in Italy by improving and facilitating procedures and enhancing awareness at public and political level. During the first phase of the project, there will be an assessment of current procedures and practice, to identify possible areas for improvement. The second phase of the project entails an information campaign to raise awareness on family reunification at public and political level. On 12 October, UNHCR issued a [press release](#) to introduce the newly signed project.

986
Visits to reception centres (Access team)

Specific needs and SGBV. Thanks to an agreement between UNHCR and partner organization MEDU, a safe space for women and children opened at [Joel Nafuma Refugee Centre \(JNRC\)](#) in Rome. The safe space is open during the day and aims at minimizing women and children's exposure to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and other forms of exploitation. Partner organization MEDU will be providing psychological support services, while UNHCR will provide support by addressing issues pertaining to protection and SGBV.

214
Joint reception monitoring missions (Reception team)³

Community-based protection. In October, UNHCR delivered capacity-building sessions on fundraising, foundations and the Theory of Change in the framework of the UNHCR-INTERSOS [PartecipAzione](#) Programme, which is aimed at refugee-led and community-based organizations based in five Italian regions (Sicily, Calabria, Lazio, Emilia-Romagna, and Piedmont).

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 30 October 2018 period. Sea arrivals data are based on UNHCR estimates calculated from Official Mol figures shared with UNHCR up to April 2018.

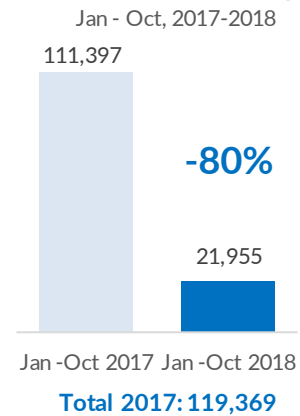
² For information on UNHCR activities in Italy, see UNHCR, *What we do in Italy*, available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/65386> (last access 21/09/2018)

³ 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).

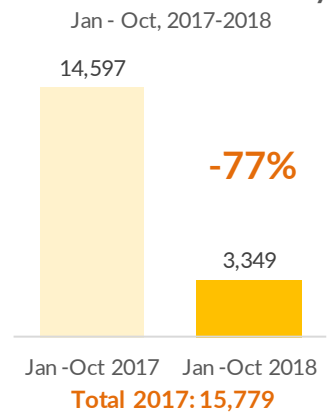
UNHCR teams in Italy:



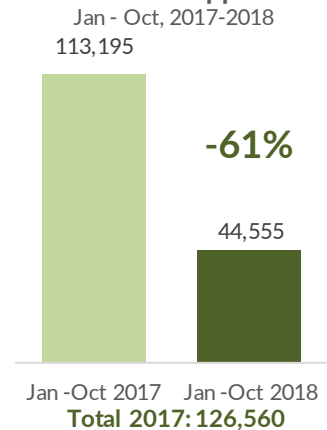
Sea arrivals in Italy



UASC arrivals in Italy



RSD first time applications



External relations

- 2 October 2018: meetings of UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative with the Migration Envoy of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and with US State Department staff on issues relating to the anti-trafficking situation in Italy.
- 2 October 2018: attendance at *Settimana dell'Accoglienza* events in Trento and Bolzano.
- 3 October 2018: participation in the events commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Lampedusa migrant shipwreck that claimed 368 lives. Events included workshops for students and teachers, and round-table discussions (UNHCR [press release](#)).
- 25 October: presentation of the 2018 edition of UNHCR's [Welcome](#) project to promote refugee integration in the workplace.
- 26 October: attendance at a workshop on higher education in crisis contexts organised by Ca' Foscari University in Venice.
- 27 October: attendance at international conference '*Solidarietà: tra dovere e diritto, non un delitto. Una riflessione sugli scenari attuali dell'immigrazione*' in Padova.