

Italy

November 2019

KEY INDICATORS

82%*

Percentage of 2019 sea arrivals informed by UNHCR staff upon disembarkation

5,437*

Referrals of **sea arrivals with specific needs** to appropriate services since January 2015

662*

Monitoring **visits to reception and detention facilities** since April 2013

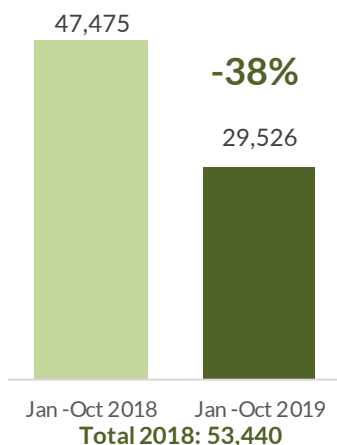
Between April 2013 and December 2016, monitoring visits were conducted jointly with Ministry of Interior, Prefectures, IOM, Save the Children, and Red Cross. Between April 2017 and April 2019, monitoring visits were conducted jointly with Ministry of Interior staff and independent auditors.

* Source: UNHCR

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Asylum applications

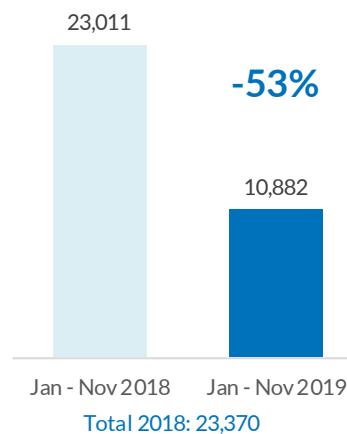
First time applications Jan-Oct 2018-2019



Source: Eurostat and Ministry of Interior

Sea Arrivals

Jan-Nov, 2018-2019

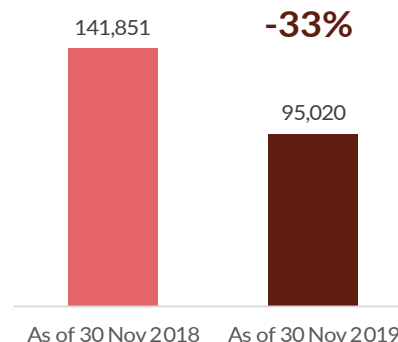


Source: Ministry of Interior

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Reception system

Population of concern in reception centres



Source: Ministry of Interior

Operational Context

- In November, **1,233 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**, compared to 980 in November last year. Monthly sea arrivals most commonly departed from Libya (79%), followed by Tunisia (11%) and Turkey (10%). Persons departing from Libya in November mainly originate from Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Sudan, as well as sub-Saharan, northern, and western African countries. Persons departing from Tunisia mainly originate from Tunisia. Cumulatively, between 1 January and 30 November 10,882 persons arrived in Italy by sea, a 53 per cent decrease compared to same period last year (23,011). Most refugees and migrants arriving by sea since the beginning of 2019 originated from Tunisia (24%), Pakistan (11%), Côte d'Ivoire (10%), Algeria (9%), Iraq (8%), Bangladesh (5%), Iran (4%), Sudan (4%), Guinea (3%), and Morocco (2%). For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy Sea Arrivals Dashboard – November 2019](#).
- Various **NGO rescue vessels** were operational in the Central Mediterranean throughout November, including the Ocean Viking, run by NGOs SOS Méditerranée and MSF, and the Open Arms, run by NGO Proactiva Open Arms, Alan Kurdi vessel, run by NGO Sea Eye and Aita Mari. During the month and on four occasions, Italy allocated a port of safety following commitment by other European states (France, Germany, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Italy) to relocate some new arrivals.
- **Incidents at sea** Incidents at sea continued to occur in November, with reports of refugees and migrants dying or going missing while attempting to cross the Mediterranean and reach Italian shores. On 23 November a **shipwreck** occurred near Lampedusa. Survivors told UNHCR that at least 170 persons were on board a wooden boat that departed from Zuwarah on 22 November, around 4:30 am. During the sea-crossing, within international waters, they reported seeing a fishing vessel which gave them directions on how to reach Lampedusa. The people did not call the authorities to seek help and when they saw the Italian Coast Guard, the boat was reportedly stable, despite the bad weather conditions. When the Coast Guard vessel drew closer to the boat, some of them jumped into the water and the boat capsized. All the persons on board fell into the water and 149 were rescued. For further information on dead and missing persons, please refer to the [Dead and Missing at Sea Dashboard – November 2019](#).
- Similarly to what was registered in October, the vast majority of refugees and migrants who reached Italy by sea in November, i.e. over 430 individuals (35% of the total), disembarked in **Lampedusa**. As a result, the island's hotspot whose official capacity is 96 persons was significantly overcrowded. Concerns thus arose in connection with the adequacy of reception and services provided, as for example the specialized assistance required by the shipwreck survivors. UNHCR reported the issue to the authorities and advocated for the FPA intervention for the survivors.
- The Government is implementing provisions introduced by former Minister of Interior Salvini in the so-called Security Decrees. **Border and accelerated procedures**, based also on a safe country of origin list, are applied for the first time to a total number of 89 asylum seekers

recently arrived via sea. First instance Interviews are scheduled from December 2 up to December 12.

- According to the latest available data, **29,526 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy between 1 January and 30 October 2019, a 38% decrease compared to the number of applications submitted in the same period last year (47,475). In 2019, first-time claimants more commonly originating from Pakistan (20%), Nigeria (8%), Bangladesh (6%), El Salvador (5%), Peru (5%), Ukraine (4%), Morocco (4%), Senegal (4%), Albania (3%), India (3%) and Venezuela (3%).¹
- As of 30 November 2019, **95,020 asylum-seekers and refugees** were accommodated in **reception facilities** across Italy. Approximately 74% of them (69,971 persons) were accommodated in first-line reception facilities, predominantly located in Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, and Piedmont. An additional 26% (24,568 persons) were accommodated in second-line facilities belonging to the SIPROIMI network, most of which are located in Sicily and Latium. As of 30 November 2019, 481 persons were accommodated in hotspots, mostly in Sicily.²

Main Activities

Access to procedures

- In November, UNHCR staff regularly attended disembarkation sites and nearby reception facilities providing new sea arrivals information on asylum and other relevant procedures, assisting concerned authorities in the identification of persons with specific needs for prompt and adequate follow-up. UNHCR staff also collected testimonies, many reported experiences of torture and ill-treatment in countries of transit, more specifically in detention facilities in Libya.
- UNHCR staff also continued to follow-up on the transfers of individuals who, after disembarkation in Italy, were expected to relocate to other European States.
- UNHCR conducted regular missions to **land border areas** in north-eastern Italy, in particular at the Italy-Austria border in Bolzano and Brenner, where staff visited the transit centre located. During the mission, staff also participated in a meeting with the newly appointed Council of Third Country Nationals in Bolzano. On 19 November, staff attended an Italian-Slovenian NGOs' cross border meeting held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, including UNHCR RRCE. Arrivals of asylum seekers continue to be reported in Trieste, at the Italy-Slovenia border, where reception facilities are at full capacity.

¹ Ministry of the Interior, *I numeri dell'asilo*, available at: <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/documentazione/statistica/i-numeri-dellasilo> (last access 10 December 2019)

² Ministry of the Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 30 November 2019, available at: http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_30-11-2019.pdf (last access 10 December 2019)

Reception and detention

- In November, jointly with institutional counterparts (Prefectures, Ministry of Interior staff) and contracted monitoring body (MiReCo project), UNHCR staff conducted monitoring visits, to 20 reception facilities in 9 different provinces, adopting a participatory methodology involving asylum-seekers in the monitoring process. The visit carried out in Naples led to the immediate closure of the reception facility due to its extremely critical conditions and the transfer of asylum seekers to other centres.
- On 20 November, the 2018 SPRAR/SIPROIMI report was presented in Arezzo, reflecting trends mainly before the entry into force of Law No. 132/2018. A total of 41,113 people benefited from projects, against 35,881 places available by the end of 2018. Numbers show that there has been a low turnover of guests as they tend to extend their stay beyond the standard maximum 6 month period, because within 6 month the majority of them is not able to reach housing and work autonomy.
- Regular monitoring of asylum seekers in detention has been carried out. Media monitoring suggests that new administrative detention facilities should open soon in Sardinia as well as in Friuli Venezia Giulia. Preparatory works for a pilot initiative to address issues related to vulnerabilities in detention have started, involving Prefecture, detention facility managing personnel, Immigration Office of Turin detention center as well as other key health institutions operating in Piedmont. The initiative will be co-organised with the Regional Ombudsperson for persons deprived of their personal freedom.

Refugee status determination

- On 25-26 November, UNHCR contributed as trainer to four EASO training modules (gender and sexual orientation and/or gender identity; inclusion; interviewing techniques; exclusion) targeting the caseworkers of the Ministry of Interior working in the Territorial Commissions. UNHCR delivered these training modules together with MOI caseworkers who previously attended the relevant Train-the-Trainer sessions.

Individual case management

- In November, UNHCR provided assistance to 125 individuals who approached UNHCR for information and assistance, including with regard to family reunification and marriage-related procedures. Front desk and individual counselling activities have allowed UNHCR staff to keep abreast of relevant issues impacting asylum-seekers and refugees' access to rights and have their advocacy work with relevant authorities at local and national levels adequately informed.

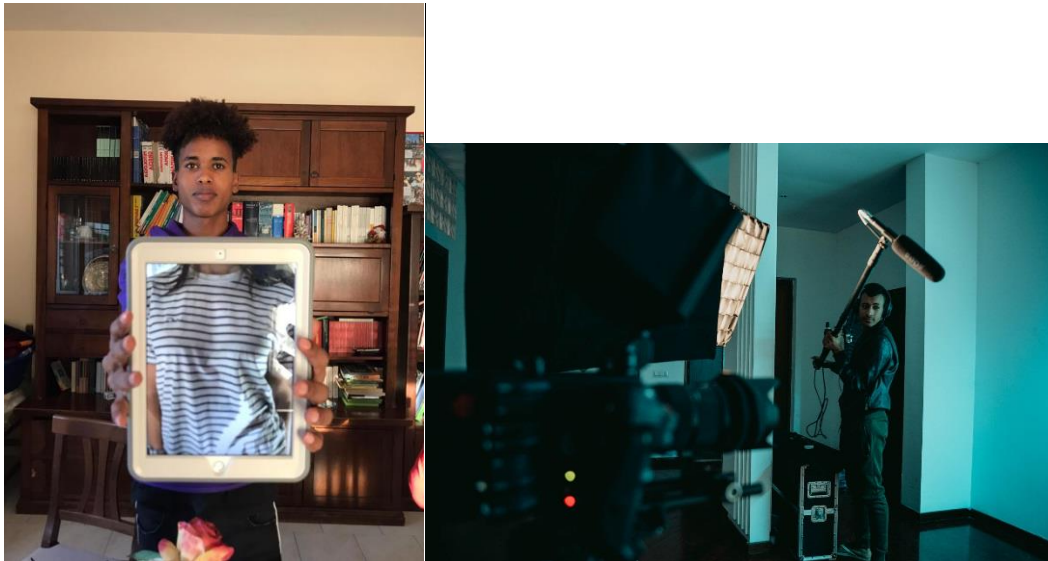
Community-based protection

- On 4 and 5 November, UNHCR Italy hosted its yearly Partners' Coordination Meeting "Enhancing Protection in Italy" workshop which aimed at validating the COP 2020 main protection priorities, strengthening its networks and nurture IP cross-fertilization.

- The final networking event of [PartecipAzione](#) project – a capacity-building programme implemented under UNHCR-INTERSOS partnership – took place in Naples on 29 and 30 November. It proved to be an extraordinary opportunity for 25 community based organizations (CBOs) supported in 11 Italian regions to meet, exchange practices, consolidate networks and start new collaborations. About 150 people attended the two-day events, (round tables; thematic workshops on public speaking, storytelling, two theatre performances; a photo exhibition; a music concert). Two of the CBOs were also awarded the UNHCR Innovation Fund and EIYF. For further information, see: UNHCR [press release](#) and [dedicated webpage](#), the [final video](#) (soon available also in English).
- In November, as part of the “Safe Space” project, 2 informative sessions (Paediatric care/Breastfeeding and Weaning) have been delivered to refugee and migrant women in Joel Nafuma Refugee Center in Rome, through partnership with MEDU. 9 women and 8 children attended the sessions. In the same reporting period, MEDU continued to provide medical health care to refugees and asylum seekers in Rome and Calabria IS. In November, 47 new patients (out of which 20 PoCs) were reached through MEDU mobile clinic.

Child protection

- On November 8th, in partnership with UNICEF and IOM, UNHCR published the report “*A un bivio - la transizione all’età adulta dei minori separati e non accompagnati in Italia*” (“*At a crossroads – the transition to adulthood of unaccompanied and separated children in Italy*”). The report, based on a participatory research approach, highlighted how 60.000 young refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy as unaccompanied minors are still in need of continuous support to successfully transition to adulthood.
- On 14 and 15 November, Child Protection Unit facilitated a workshop on Italian protection system for refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs in collaboration with CNOAS (National Council of Social Workers) and CROAS (Regional Council of Social Workers). Around 30 social workers from Tuscany and Lazio attended the event.
- The same date, UNHCR attended a two-day workshop in Tunis on family reunification for children at risk, with the aim of improving internal capacity on building/enhancing family reunification systems with the receiving countries. The workshop allowed exchanges over the best way to collaborate on individual cases, advocate and communicate/collaborate with relevant mechanisms and tools.
- On 19 November, the National Authority for Children and Adolescents celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention of the rights of the Child. UNHCR made a presentation stating that Italy’s advanced legislation, still requires efforts to reduce, *inter alia*, child exposure to risks, irregular movements de facto detention as well as to facilitate identification, including age assessment. During the event, National Authority and UNHCR shared a video made by unaccompanied minors hosted in first and second-line reception facilities in Rome aimed at raising awareness over racism and intolerance faced by unaccompanied minors in Italy. The video is the result of a participatory workshop held with unaccompanied minors in Rome.



Participatory activities conducted with children from first-line reception facilities in Rome in the framework of the partnership between UNHCR and AGIA.

- On 21 November, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF met the MOH Undersecretary to discuss implementation of the child protection legislation, Law 47/2017, as well as to foster advocacy on the age assessment protocol.
- On 21 and 22 November UNHCR organized an internal training on “teacher toolkit” for colleagues who will eventually facilitate trainings and workshops for Italian teachers on the use of the toolkit.
- At the end of November, UNHCR staff organized a session of the project titled “*Viaggio in Italia tra i principi della CRC*” (A journey across Italy through the Convention on the Rights of the Child principles) in Palermo, following similar events in Turin and Naples. The aim of the session was to raise awareness on children’s right to participate and strengthen inclusion opportunities through participatory activities; this project takes place in the framework of the ongoing partnership between UNHCR and the National Authority for Children and Adolescents.
- During the month, UNHCR staff contributed to capacity building initiatives on child protection in various locations, including in two workshops organized by EASO in Reggio Calabria and Palermo for staff in charge of children reception facilities, two Trainings of Trainers for SIPROIMI staff in Cremona and Roma, and training sessions for students of the University of Turin and for social workers in Rome. Furthermore, UNHCR delivered the second and third modules of the online training directed at social workers and organized in the framework of the partnership between UNHCR and the National Board of Social Workers (CNOAS).
- Throughout the month of November, UNHCR continued to provide support to staff of AMIF-funded reception facilities for children in Molise and Sicily. In particular, it carried out several

participatory activities on the right to be informed and the right to be heard for children accommodated in these facilities.

Sexual and gender-based violence

- On 5 November, UNHCR, jointly with representatives from the anti-violence network and partner organization D.i.RE., co-delivered workshops in Cosenza, Ferrara, and Turin focusing on asylum-seeking and refugee women survivors of SGBV. The workshops were aimed at service providers and persons working in the reception system, with a view to strengthen the relationship between the reception sector and local institutions, as well as prevent and address forms of violence that negatively impact on the inclusion of migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee women.
- A cycle of training modules was delivered to health authorities in Apulia (19, 20, 21 November) and in Calabria (27, 28 November), including provincial health clinics, family clinics and hospital, with a view to raising awareness on protection response to persons of concern with specific needs, in the frame of agreements signed with Regional health authorities.

Protection of people with diverse SOGIESC

- On 14-15 November, UNHCR delivered an opening speech and a presentation on the international protection of LGBTI asylum-seekers and refugees during the Annual Conference organized by Rete Lenford with the support of CILD (Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti Civili) at the University of Trieste. The need for further training on asylum claims based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity was a recurring issue.
- On 25 November UNHCR participated in a round table and supported a photo exhibition organized by trans-association Libellula aimed at raising awareness on TDOR – Trans Day of Remembrance. The event also marked the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, a landmark date for the fight for rights of LGBTI persons.

Complementary pathways

- On 5 November, 54 PoC (51 asylum-seekers and 3 refugees), including 13 UASC, were evacuated from Niger to Italy, bringing the total number of evacuees to Italy since December 2017 to 913, most of whom arrived directly from Libya. The 5 November group comprised 22 Sudanese, 12 Somalis, 11 Ethiopians, and 9 Eritreans, almost all of whom experienced torture or severe ill-treatment in detention in Libya. Upon arrival at Fiumicino airport in Rome, new arrivals were issued with an entry visa, and went through medical screening, as well as identification and fingerprinting procedures. UNHCR provided new arrivals with relevant information and will continue to follow-up on relevant individual cases to ensure provision of adequate care for PwSN and prioritized RSD procedures. UNHCR produced photos and B-roll of the evacuation that were subsequently released to Italian and

international media and got a good pickup, including in social media. For further information, see UNHCR [press release](#).



On 5 November 2019, UNHCR relocated 54 vulnerable refugees from the UN Refugee Agency's Emergency Transit Mechanism centre and urban areas in Niger to Italy.

- On 20 November, the final event of the Family Reunification project, [Family First](#), took place. The material developed during the project with support from UNHCR was presented and included: Report on family reunification and recommendations, Handbook for legal/social operators, the informative material (website (www.ricongiungimento.it)) brochure, video and poster in 7 languages (English, French, Arabic, Urdu, Somali,



Family First Project aims, among others, at providing information to refugees and beneficiaries of international protection who would like to bring family members to Italy. Watch the [video](#) in different languages.

Tigrinya). The event was attended by approximately 100 persons, including many NGOs and an MFA representative. For further information, see UNHCR [press release](#).

- On 21 November, a technical seminar on the continuation and expansion of the University Corridors for Refugees (UNI-CO-RE) project took place. More than 15 universities attended the meeting during which the existing model, launched in 2018 in cooperation with University of Bologna, MFA and caritas Italiana was presented. The seminar allowed for brainstorming on the engagement of other Italian universities and partners in 2020. Universities expressed great interest in the initiative.

Inclusion and integration

- UNHCR is cooperating with the [PowerCoders](#) coding academy for refugees run in Turin by Le Wagon Italy and supported by Reale Foundation, Accenture Foundation Italy and Specchio dei Tempi - La Stampa. The recruitment and selection phase started in November. The pilot intensive course addressed to 20 refugees will take place between January and April 2020 and be followed by internships in IT companies and departments.



In November, the recruitment process of the PowerCoders coding academy for refugees started in Turin. UNHCR is part of the working team leading the project. The training course will be held between January and April 2020.

Communication and External Relations

- UNHCR spoke at and gave visibility on social media to the final event of the Venice Biennale project Rothko in Lampedusa, Spreading CreActivity, organized in collaboration with the College of Fashion and Goldsmiths College of the University of Arts, London, and focusing on the role of fashion in the inclusion of women refugees in particular. The UNHCR Pavilion

closed on 24 November, having attracted 15,000 visitors. On the same day the UNHCR flag was raised on the Catty Sark for the transatlantic regatta ARC 2019, in a joint initiative with Rothko in Lampedusa partner Moleskine Foundation to promote the imperative of rescue at sea. UNHCR gave visibility to the event with a [press release](#) and activity on social media.

- UNHCR coordinated production and dissemination of the joint UNHCR-IOM-UNICEF report “At a crossroads” on the obstacles faced by UASC in Italy transitioning to adulthood, including by organising a well-attended press conference in Rome and ensuring media placement and coverage on social media. For further information, see UNHCR [press release](#).
- UNHCR organized and gave visibility to a public event at the Casa del Cinema in Villa Borghese to mark the fifth anniversary of the [#IBelong campaign](#) to eliminate statelessness by 2024, and which included presentation of UNHCR’s new report on the difficulties experienced by stateless persons in accessing human rights in Italy, Spain and Portugal. For further information, see UNHCR [press release](#).
- UNHCR supported organisation of and gave visibility to “Happy Hour with Refugees”, the final event of the joint UNHCR-UNISG (University of Gastronomic Science) project [Food for Inclusion](#). Michelin-starred chef Viviana Varese, recently acquired by UNHCR as a High Profile Supporter, was also present to share her views about gastronomy and social inclusion. UNHCR produced photo and video material of the event, which was shared on its social media channels.



UNHCR Italy’s Food For Inclusion project is a collaboration with the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, northern Italy. It aims to empower refugees in the job market by training them in the field of gastronomy, and thereby improving their integration into Italian society.

- UNHCR produced local content for use on social media in support of the annual 16 days of Activism campaign based on material collected during a workshop for cultural mediators working with victims of SGBV led by UNHCR partner Di.re. It also gave support to the PSP legacies campaign with specific interviews for TV2000 and on social media, as well as providing support to the PSP campaign #Mettiamocelointesta by ensuring GWA and HPS participation.
- UNHCR took part in a training for journalists, “The spectacle of fear. The fear that creates spectacle”, organised by UNHCR partner Carta di Roma on ethical reporting of migration and asylum-related issues.
- UNHCR presented the book *Anche Superman era un Rifugiato* to students and the general public in Erba, Como and Milan; gave a guest lecture at the private Bocconi University in Milan on Refugees: A global Perspective for global solutions, attended by approx. 600 students; spoke on the inclusion of vulnerable minors during the seminar *Diritti in crescita. Nuove sfide per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza a 30 anni dalla Convenzione Onu*, organised by the National authority for children and adolescents (AGIA) on the 30th anniversary of the CRC.

Working with Partners

- Since 2017, UNHCR has engaged in partnerships with a number of NGOs in Italy, with a view to enhancing its protection delivery, focusing in particular on SGBV prevention and response, child protection and integration. In 2019, partners include [AIDOS](#), [ARCI](#), [Cambalache](#), [Caritas \(Conorzio Communitas\)](#), [Carta di Roma](#), [CIDAS](#), [Consiglio Italiano Rifugiati](#), [Di.RE](#), [Fondazione Adecco](#), [Intersos](#), [Laboratorio 53](#), [LILA Catania](#), [MEDU](#), and [University of Gastronomic Science in Pollenzo](#). Further information is available on the [What we do in Italy](#) publication, as well as on the “[partenariati](#)” dedicated page of UNHCR website.



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