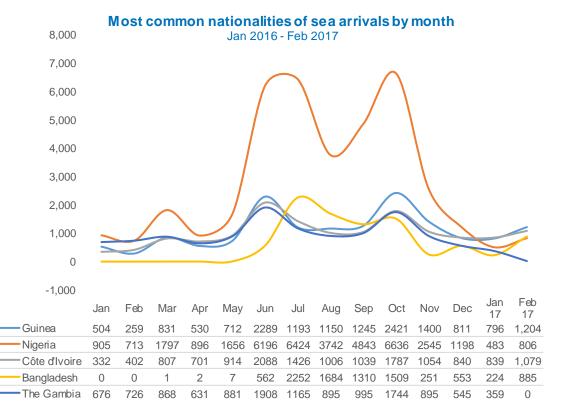


Between 1 January and 28 February 2017, 13,439 persons arrived in Italy by sea. This is a 48% increase compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (9,101). As in previous years, monthly arrivals were comparatively lower during the winter, due to less favourable weather and sea conditions.

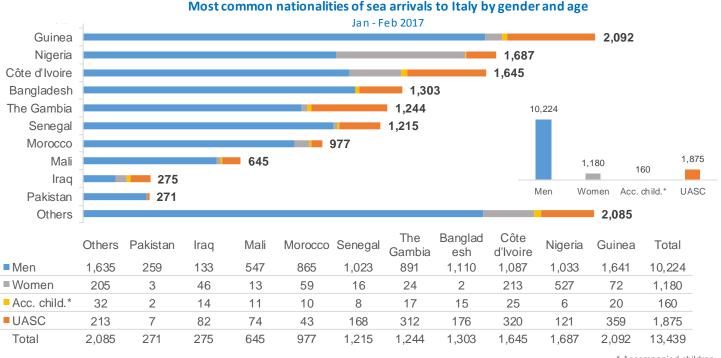
Trends in sea arrivals should be assessed over time, as fluctuations on a monthly basis may be linked to various factors, including weather and sea conditions or the situation in the countries of departure and origin. Geopolitical developments and the capacity of smugglers to organize departures may also affect sea arrivals.



Between 1 January and 28 February 2017, 16% of all arrivals originated from Guinea, followed by Nigeria (13%), Côte d'Ivoire (12%), Bangladesh (10%), The Gambia Senegal (9%), (9%), Morocco (7%), Mali (5%), Iraq (2%), and Pakistan (2%). While this is consistent largely with arrivals in January 2017, a partial shift can be observed from the ten most common sea arrival nationalities recorded in the first two months of 2016 (when Somalia and Sudan were also among the ten most common countries of origin of persons arriving by sea).

The charts below are based on figures from the Italian Ministry of Interior and UNHCR estimates. All figures are provisional and subject to change

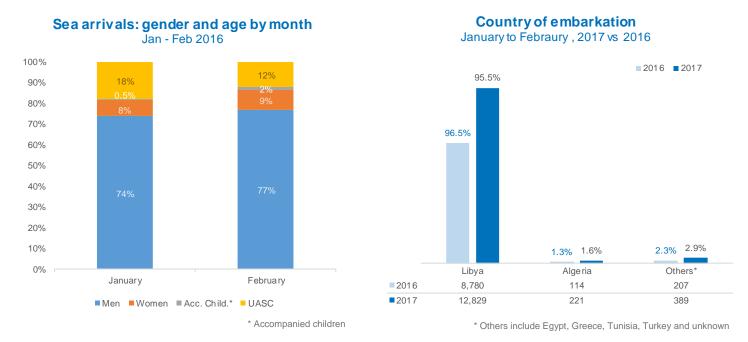




* Accompanied children

Between 1 January and 28 February 2017, most sea arrivals were men (76%), followed by UASC (14%), and adult women (9%). Consistent with last year, the proportion of women is significantly higher among Nigerian sea arrivals. 527 Nigerian women arrived in the first two months of 2017, accounting for 31% of all Nigerians reaching Italian shores since the beginning of the year, up from 25% in the same period last year.

1,875 UASC reached Italian shores (14% of all sea arrivals) between 1 January and 28 February 2017. UASC arrivals have surged compared to the same period last year, when 1,336 UASC arrived. However, the proportion of UASC among sea arrivals is largely comparable to the first two months of 2016, when 15% of those arriving by sea were UASC.



Libya is by far the main country of departure for persons arriving in Italy by sea. Between 1 January and 28 February 2017, 12,829 persons (95.5% of arrivals) crossed from Libya. On 8 February, 3 persons were intercepted by the authorities in Lampedusa who reported having departed from Egypt. The majority of new arrivals are disembarked following SAR operations conducted on the high seas. However, autonomous sea arrivals also occurred during the month of February 2017, with a small number of persons reaching southern Italy from Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Greece. Most vessels arriving autonomously were intercepted by the authorities just off the Italian coast and transferred to port sites, subsequently undergoing identification procedures.