ITALY
December 2017

Key Figures[1]

119,369
Sea Arrivals

15,779
UASC Sea Arrivals

130,180
Asylum applications

183,681
Persons in reception

11,464
Relocations[7]

Overview and developments

Between January and December 2017, **119,369 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a **34 per cent decrease** compared to the same period last year, when 181,436 persons reached Italian shores. Notably, **13 per cent of sea arrivals were unaccompanied and separated children** (UASC)[2]. Sea arrivals most commonly originated from Nigeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mali, Eritrea, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Senegal. 91 per cent of them departed from Libya. Departures from Tunisia accounted for 4 per cent of sea arrivals, followed by Turkey (3 per cent), and Algeria (1 per cent).

In 2017, **130,180 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy[3]. As of the end of the year, **183,681 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities** across the country[4]. In December 2017, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and Italian authorities signed a new Operating Plan, which will see EASO expand its support in the country in 2018, with a focus on areas such as RSD, reception, UASC and information provision.

Throughout 2017, 985 refugees were resettled to Italy in the context of the Italian Resettlement Programme. Furthermore, on 22 December 2017, the first evacuation of 162 highly vulnerable asylum-seekers from Libya directly to Italy took place: UNHCR provided support in identifying and informing evacuees, while the Italian government facilitated their transport through an Italian military plane[5].

In December 2017, the Italian Council of Minister approved a decree which reformed the set-up of Territorial Commissions, and introduced measures to strengthen child protection and enhance SGBV prevention in reception facilities[6]. The Chamber of Deputies' Budgetary Commission approved the allocation of funds to social cooperatives hiring beneficiaries of international protection.

Operational update - UNHCR Response[8]

89%
Sea arrivals informed
(Access team)

1,855
Referrals of persons
with specific needs
(Access team)

1,125
Visits to
reception centres
(Access team)

Access to territory and procedures. UNHCR teams at disembarkation sites delivered information to new arrivals and worked to ensure access to asylum and other procedures, as well as prompt identification and referral of persons with specific needs. UNHCR also followed-up on a number of individual cases, including those of 7 asylum-seekers whose nationality had been wrongly recorded upon arrival and who had been detained: in December, all 7 were released and given access to relevant procedures.

Land borders. During visits to reception facilities and informal settlements in northern land border areas, UNHCR teams met with persons of concern and civil society organisations gathering information on local responses to land arrivals and persons in transit. UNHCR staff also monitored the situation in transit facilities and informal settlements, providing information on asylum and other relevant procedures.

Community-based protection. From 13 to 15 December 2017, the first meeting of the "Refugee Coalition for Europe" was held in Milan. The coalition brings together 15 refugee representatives living in different European countries, promoting communication with communities and refugee integration. UNHCR is to consult with the coalition on policies and initiatives UNHCR is to pursue in Europe[9]. In December 2017, UNHCR also held two participatory assessments with refugees who were consulted on their perceptions of the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews and procedures.

Capacity building. In December, UNHCR staff working in the context of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) held a workshop on trafficking-related issues in Rome, rolling out the guidelines for the referral of potential victims of trafficking who seek asylum, with a view to enhancing the capacity of decision-makers, reception centre staff and anti-trafficking organizations to address trafficking issues in the asylum context. Furthermore, UNHCR child protection staff delivered training sessions to voluntary guardians in various Italian regions, including in collaboration with the Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents and with UNHCR's implementing partner Defence for Children.

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[1] Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 30 November 2017 period.
[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.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/documentazione/statistica/i-numeri-dellasilo (last access 10/01/2018)
[4] Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 31 December 2017, http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-12-2017.pdf (last access 10/01/2018)
[5] UNHCR, Groundbreaking first evacuation of 162 vulnerable refugees from Libya to Italy, 23 December 2017, http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/12/5a3e3d155/ground-breaking-first-evacuation-162-vulnerable-refugees-libya-italy.html (last access 10/01/2018)
6 Council of Ministers, Press release, 18 December 2017, http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n62/8672 (last access 10/01/2018)
[7] Relocations refer to the October 2015-31 December 2017 period. For more information, see Ministry of Interior, *ibid.*
[8] 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)
9 UNHCR, *UNHCR welcomes launch of the "Refugee Coalition for Europe"*, 15 December 2017, http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/12/5a33add34/unhcr-welcomes-launch-refugee-coalition-europe.html?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_content=UNHCR%20Communication%20Service&utm_campaign= (last access 10/01/2018)

UNHCR teams in Italy: deployment by location

Gorizia 9

Monza 9 Bergamo
Novara 9 Milan 1 3 9 10 Brescia 9 Vicenza 9 Treviso 9
Verona 9 Padua 9
Turin 7 9

Genoa 9 Bologna 7 9
Forli' 9
Florence 9
Livorno 9 Ancona 9
Perugia 9

Rome
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14

Frosinone 9 Campobasso 9 Foggia 9
Caserta 9 Bari 9 12
Salerno 9 Taranto 1 3 10 Lecce 9

Cagliari 9

Crotone 1 9 10 12
Lamezia Terme 10 7 Catanzaro

Palermo
Trapani 1 9 3 9 Reggio Calabria 3

Caltanissetta 9 Catania 1 3 9 14
Augusta 1
Pozzallo Siracusa 9
1 10

Lampedusa
1 10

1) ACCESS
2) ADMIN/FINANCE/HR/PROGRAMME
3) CHILD PROTECTION
4) COMMUNITY BASED PROTECTION
5) DROP-IN SERVICE
6) INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
7) INTEGRATION

8) RECEPTION
9) REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION
10) RELOCATION
11) RESETTLEMENT
12) SPECIFIC NEEDS
13) STATELESSNESS
14) PUBLIC INFORMATION

Background Map source: Wikimedia commons