

ITALY

March 2018

Overview and developments

Key Figures¹

6,296
Sea Arrivals

927
UASC Sea Arrivals

18,916
Asylum applications

173,150
Persons in reception⁵

Between 1 January and 31 March 2018, **6,296 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. This is a 74 per cent decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year, when 24,292 persons reached Italian shores. The numbers of monthly sea arrivals in March 2018 (1,049 persons) are lower than in previous months. Notably, they are the lowest on record since late 2013. **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) account for 18 per cent of sea arrivals** since the beginning of the year.²

The ten most common countries of origin of refugees and migrants registered at landing points in 2018 so far are Eritrea, Tunisia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Guinea, Senegal, and Mali. Despite an overall decrease in sea arrivals, the numbers of Eritreans and Tunisians reaching Italian shores have been on the rise, compared to the same period last year. In March 2018, Tunisians and Eritreans together accounted for 35 per cent of new arrivals. The numbers of Libyans registered at landing points since the beginning of 2018 have also been much higher than in the same period last year, with 240 Libyan nationals arriving by sea between 1 January and 31 March 2018, compared to 88 in the same period last year.

The overall decrease in sea arrivals also reflects in lesser individuals applying for asylum and accessing accommodation in reception facilities, compared to last year. Between 1 January and 31 March 2018, **18,916 new asylum applications** were lodged in Italy.³ As of 31 March 2018, **173,150 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities** across the country, compared to approximately 184,000 at the end of December 2017⁴.

Operational update - UNHCR Response⁶

94%
Sea arrivals informed
(Access team)

Access to territory and procedures. UNHCR teams attended disembarkations and regularly visited reception facilities, delivering information to new arrivals and ensuring access to asylum and other procedures, as well as prompt identification and referral of persons with specific needs. UNHCR staff also conducted missions to land border areas, including Como, Gorizia, and Ventimiglia, and to urban areas accommodating significant numbers of persons of concern, including Milan. UNHCR personnel undertook outreach activities and liaised with local authorities and civil society organisations to ensure adequate assistance and accommodation and access to procedures.

330
Referrals of persons
with specific needs
(Access team)

Communication with communities. On 15 March 2018, UNHCR implementing partner ARCI launched [Juma-Refugees Map Services](#), a nationwide mapping of refugee services which was recently developed in collaboration with UNHCR. *Juma* is currently available in Italian, English, French, Arabic and Chinese. Relevant information and available services (e.g. shelter, legal assistance, health assistance, language schools, etc.) are shown on a user-friendly map, which service providers can directly update.

283
Visits to
reception centres
(Access team)

Refugee inclusion and participation. On 22 March 2018, UNHCR awarded the 2017 [Welcome - Working for Refugee Integration](#) logo to Italy-based companies promoting job placements and successful social inclusion of refugees, and providing relevant support to refugees launching income-generating activities. Awarded companies included small and medium size companies as well as large companies, such as Adecco, Cromology Italia, Freudenberg Sealing Technologies. Furthermore, UNHCR supported the set-up of a refugee facilitators group who will be consulting with local authorities in Piedmont to identify protection gaps and community-based solutions that could be reflected in the regional integration plan. During the month, UNHCR also held consultations with refugees and civil society organisations, collecting their views on effective ways of addressing protection gaps in Italy.

72
Joint reception
monitoring missions
(Reception team)⁷

Partnerships. In March 2018, UNHCR signed partnership agreements with the Emilia-Romagna-based NGO Camelot and with Pollenzo University. The project with [Camelot](#) intends to promote the accommodation of asylum-seekers and refugees by Italian families through capacity-building and information provision activities. Furthermore, in partnership with UNHCR, [Pollenzo University](#) will offer vocational training in the field of gastronomy to 20 asylum-seekers and refugees in Piedmont.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, key figures refer to the 1 January – 31 March 2018 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.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/marzo_mensile_2018.pdf (last access 11/04/2018)

⁴ Ministry of Interior, *Cruscotto statistico giornaliero*, 31 March 2018, http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-03-2018.pdf (last access 11/04/2018)

⁵ For more information, see Ministry of Interior, *ibid*.

⁶ 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)

⁷ 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: deployment by location

