Italy - Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) Dashboard

Between 1 January and 31 December 2018, 3,536 unaccompanied and separated children arrived in Italy by sea, representing 15 per cent of all sea arrivals this year. Consistent with an overall decrease in sea arrivals in 2018, the number of UASC reaching Italian shores this year is considerably lower than last year, when 15,779 landed in Italy. However, the proportion of UASC among sea arrivals in 2018 (15 per cent) is slightly higher than in 2017 (13 per cent).

UASC arrival by sea in 2018 most commonly originate from Tunisia (940), Eritrea (633), Guinea (251), and Iraq (192). During this period, significant numbers of UASC arrivals also originate from Pakistan (184), Sudan (179), Côte d'Ivoire (178), Mali (156), Somalia (140), and Nigeria (92). The downwards trend of sea arrivals in 2018 has also affected the number of UASC per national group. With the exception of Tunisia (940 UASC sea arrivals in 2018 vs. 544 in 2017), UASC numbers among the ten most common nationalities of UASC sea arrivals in 2018 are significantly lower than in 2017. Notably, 92 UASC arrived by sea in 2018, compared to 1,228 in 2017.

Over half of UASC arrivals in 2018 originate from Eritrea, Tunisia, and Sudan. In 2018, 40 per cent of Somali arrivals were UASC, followed by 35 per cent of Sierra Leonean arrivals, 31 per cent of Guineans, 30 per cent of Gambians, 23 per cent of Bangladeshi, 19 per cent of Eritreans, 18 per cent of Tunisians, 18 per cent of Malians, and 17 per cent of Ivorians.

The proportion of UASC among the most common nationalities of UASC arrivals is generally higher in 2018 than in 2017. Notably, the proportion of UASC among Tunisian and Tunisian sea arrivals rose to 19 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively, compared to 8 per cent and 19 per cent last year. On the other hand, the proportion of Eritrean UASC sea arrivals this year (19 per cent) is comparable to last year (17 per cent).

Most UASC arriving by sea are boys and are 16 and 17 years old. However, exact figures on gender of UASC sea arrivals are currently unavailable.

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

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – data.unhcr.org/mediterranean