

Mediterranean

1. Large scale mixed migration flows from the Middle East and North Africa region to Europe were around 50% of arrivals in 2017. Arrivals by sea across the Mediterranean Sea in 2017. Nearly 650 died or were lost at sea in the first five months of 2018. In the first five months of 2018, the number of arrivals to Europe by sea across the Mediterranean Sea was approximately 32,210 persons. Approximately 3,140 are known to have died or gone missing en route by sea to Europe.

Western and Eastern Med

2. On the route towards Spain, at approximately 28,350 persons, the total number of arrivals in 2017 was more than double that of 2016. Although the rate of land arrivals remained unchanged, sea arrivals increased from around 8,000 in 2016 to over 21,000 in 2017, with Algerian and Moroccan nationals representing 12 % of arrivals. In 2017, the route to Greece witnessed a drastic drop in arrivals as the “Balkans route” remained closed. 30,000 people arrived using this route.

need to prioritize saving lives at sea continues. Approximately 13,360 refugees and migrants arrived by sea to Italy in the first five months of 2018, representing an almost 80% decrease compared to the same period in 2017. Close to 119,400 made the journey in the course of 2017. The most common nationalities represented on this route were Nigerian, Guinean, Ivoirian, Bangladeshi, and Malian. Although it is not possible to comprehensively account for the decrease, possible reasons may be linked to increased enhanced capacity by the Libyan authorities to engage in search and rescue at sea, changes in smuggling networks’ dynamics, weather conditions, and conflict near key departure areas in Libya. Departures from Tunisia to Italy quadrupled in 2017 to 4,774, with the majority being Tunisians.

4. Despite the reduction of numbers arriving in Italy, there has been a significant increase in the rate of deaths in relation to arrivals to Italy, with approximately one death for every 28 persons who arrived in Italy from August 2016 and May 2017.

Italian Coast Guard data, over 40 per

cent of those rescued in the central Mediterranean Sea in 2017 were rescued

6. With regards to Libya, a major concern relates to refugees having no access to protection. A number of measures are underway to address their situation through evacuation and resettlement to third countries, advocacy on alternatives to detention, and strengthened support in urban settings.
7. An increased proportion of people are being rescued or intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard and returned to Libya. While the numbers crossing from Libya to Italy between August 2017 and May 2018 decreased some 81% compared to between August 2016 and May 2017, the number of persons rescued or intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard and returned to Libya increased by 26%. UNHCR is concerned that disembarkation in Libya is followed by the transfer to detention facilities of rescued persons, including those in need of international protection.
8. Those disembarking in Italy having departed from North Africa continue to include a significant minority in need of international protection. In addition, over 1,400 unaccompanied or separated children reached Italy in the first four months of 2018, as well as victims of trafficking. Refugees and migrants interviewed by UNHCR staff for the period of 15 October 2017 to 15 February 2018.

14. In Djibouti, since March 2015,

The 84 refugees who did arrive in Indonesia disembarked in accordance with Indonesia's 2016 Presidential Regulation Concerning the Handling of Foreign Refugees.

21. Large scale maritime movements of refugees and migrants to countries other than Bangladesh otherwise remained disrupted. Despite the political commitments made by all Bali Process member states in their March 2016 Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crime, the Indonesian Presidential Regulation is the sole legal commitment in South East Asia to rescue and disembark refugees in distress. With the support of UNHCR, IOM, and UNODC, the third meeting of the Bali Process Task Force on Planning and Preparedness in March 2018 focused on the development of national plans of action to respond to maritime movements, and as one outcome will develop a contact list of search and rescue and other operational personnel in the region. UNHCR also helped to develop and facilitate a training program for Asia Pacific officials on responding to mixed movements that was piloted in October 2017 by the Bali Process at the UNITAR CIFAL centre in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

Caribbean

22. There is a growing number of asylum seekers and refugees arriving in the Caribbean, with diverse profiles and travel patterns, and originating from over 50 countries worldwide in 2017. While mixed flows of refugees and migrants by sea continued to be evident in the Northern Caribbean, there was a notable increase in arrivals by sea to the Southern Caribbean in 2017, as a result of outflows from Venezuela.

23. Throughout the Caribbean, 100 maritime incidents involving over 2,800 persons were recorded in 2017. These incidents involved refugees and migrants from over 10 countries of origin, principally Haitian (57%), Cuban (19%), and Venezuelan (13%) nationals. The number of Cuban nationals involved in incidents at sea in 2017 decreased by 87%, while the number of Venezuelan nationals increased more than tenfold. Further, while the number of incidents recorded in 2016 and 2017 respectively indicated a decrease of almost 75%, the number of persons reported deceased and missing increased by 25%.

24. The second technical meeting of the Caribbean Migration Consultations met in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda in 2017.