The Treatment of Migrants and Refugees Rescued at Sea

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Mixed Migration?

Movement of refugees and irregular migrants increasingly interconnected

- irregular travel
- similar routes
- similar modes of transport
- trafficking or smuggling
Boat arrivals in the Mediterranean (Italy, Spain, Greece, Malta, Cyprus)

- 2007: 51,000 arrivals

- 2008 (until mid June):
  - Italy: 7,793 (of which 7,185 in Lampedusa)
  - Greece: 3,847
  - Cyprus: 449
  - Spain: 4,120 (Canary Island 2,837)

International protection needs Italy 2007

- Out of a total of 19,900 arrivals roughly 35% applied for asylum
- Roughly 65% of these were granted a form of protection (refugee status or humanitarian protection)
- > 22% of arrivals in Italy were found to be in need of international protection
International Protection needs Malta

- Almost all arrivals apply for international protection
- Roughly 80% of those who are applied are granted a form of international protection (refugee or humanitarian protection)

Mediterranean – Dead and missing 2008

- Figures only refer to the sea between Libya, Tunisia, Malta and Italy:
- January 1 missing
- February -
- March: 40 dead, 70 missing
- April: 1 dead
- May: 21 dead, 45 missing
- June: 22 dead, 8 missing
> Total: 84 dead, 124 missing
Gulf of Aden

- boats: 448
- Total arrivals: 21,036
- Somalis: 13,293
- Ethiopians: 2448
- Others: 72

- Total buried: 167
- Total missing: 220

Key problems

- Lack of coastal States’ capacity
- Influence of border control objectives
- Unclear responsibility for disembarkation
- Lack of burden sharing mechanisms

- Lack of adequate reception arrangements
- Lack of differentiated solutions
- No comprehensive approach
The treatment of persons rescued at sea: conclusions and recommendations from recent meetings and expert roundtables convened by UNHCR

- International migration by sea
- Preserving the integrity of the search and rescue regime, including through capacity building measures
- Duties of shipmasters, shipping and insurance agencies
- Minimizing the inconvenience for private actors in fulfilling their maritime obligations
- Disembarkation
- Reception standards, profiling and referral to differentiated procedures after disembarkation
- Comprehensive solutions
- Combating smuggling and trafficking
- Prevention: information strategy, addressing root causes
- Improved information management
- Cooperation and responsibility sharing
UNHCR’s Ten Point Action Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration

- 1. Cooperation Among Key Partners
- 2. Data Collection and Analysis
- 3. Protection Sensitive Entry Systems
- 4. Reception Arrangements
- 5. Mechanisms for Profiling and Referral
- 6. Differentiated Processes and Procedures
- 7. Solutions for Refugees
- 8. Addressing Secondary Movements
- 9. Return Arrangements for Non-Refugees and Alternative Migration Options
- 10. Information Strategy