

MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

ITALY: STATE OF PLAY REPORT

Effectively managing the pressure of migratory flows on some parts of the shared external Schengen border requires both responsibility and solidarity on the part of all Member States. It is of crucial importance that two key measures are fully implemented: the 'hotspot' approach and the relocation scheme – with the fingerprinting of all migrants, the prompt selection and relocation of asylum applicants and establishment of adequate reception capacities. The other essential component is action to secure swift return, voluntary or forced, of people not in need of international protection and who do not therefore qualify for relocation.

Almost 150,000 people have arrived in Italy by sea this year. The scale of arrivals is huge and the Commission is working very closely with the Italian authorities to assist them in this challenge.

A dedicated team of Commission officials has been working on the ground for months, hand in hand with the Italian authorities.




150,000



HOTSPOTS



What has been done

- 6 hotspots identified
- 1 functional hotspot in Lampedusa, 2 more are expected to open soon
- Hotspot coordination group set up
- 64 Frontex experts deployed in the hotspots, 248 outside hotspot areas
- Over 200 Frontex agents and 18 EASO agents helping with border management and asylum applications

What remains to be done

- Complete construction of the remaining hotspots by early 2016
- Improve screening and registration process
- Systematically fingerprint migrants and enter data in central Eurodac system
- Frontex to deploy 165 additional experts

RECEPTION CAPACITY

What has been done

- Reception capacity for 93,000 asylum seekers, including in the hotspot areas
- Upgraded capacity for processing asylum applications
- Dedicated facilities identified for pre-relocation accommodation

What remains to be done

- Improve the quality of reception conditions so they all reach the same standards
- Conclude tendering process for internal transfers prior to relocation
- Establish a single database to manage migration flows

RELOCATION



What has been done

- **143** people relocated to other EU Member States
- **186** relocation candidates identified
- 12 Member States have made 1,041 places available

What remains to be done

- Improve the workflow for receiving unaccompanied minors
- EASO to deploy cultural mediators to support national authorities
- Member States to substantially reduce the response time to relocation applications
- Member states to substantially increase their pledges for relocation places

RETURN

What has been done

- 14,133 forced returns in 2015
- 560 detention places are available to carry out returns
- Bilateral return agreements in place with Egypt and Tunisia

What remains to be done

- Restart voluntary returns through new IOM programme
- Temporarily increase detention capacity with EU funding to support return programme
- Commission to step up engagement with third countries on readmission

IMPROVING BORDER MANAGEMENT

What has been done

- Frontex Operation Triton deployed in Central Mediterranean region - contributed to saving over 56,000 lives at sea
- EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan on migration management
- EUNAVFOR MED operation (Operation Sophia) to fight human smuggling

What remains to be done

- Monitor shifting migratory flows and assess need for Frontex redeployment to Slovenian land border
- Maintain Member State assets for EUNAVFOR MED

FUNDING

- Commission has provided **€19 million** in emergency funding
- Commission is providing **€560 million** for migration and border management from 2014-20 to facilitate reception, returns, and relocation in Italy.

