

Geneva, Switzerland, June 17 (Infosplusgabon) - UNICEF, the UN children's fund, has expressed relief that migrants who had been rescued from the Mediterranean, have arrived in Spain's port of Valencia.

"We at UNICEF are relieved that all 123 children, including 60 unaccompanied children, have landed safely on the coast of Spain and are in good care after a distressing 8 days at sea," UNICEF said in a statement on Sunday.

The Aquarius, the ship that had rescued 630 migrants was rejected by Italy and Malta. But on Sunday, three vessels, including the Aquarius, which rescued the migrants last weekend, was allowed to dock in Valencia.

"Spain has not only done the right thing by taking in these extremely vulnerable children and pregnant women but has shown an example to other countries, on both sides of the Mediterranean, to share responsibility on migration and act in accordance with humanitarian principles and international law," UNICEF said.

It said from its partner Intersos on board the Italian Coastguard ship, 'Dattilo', it knows that many of the 123 children, including 60 unaccompanied and separated children, have experienced a dreadful ordeal, exposed to violence, torture, suffering from scabies,

seasickness, dehydration and sheer exhaustion after more than a week at sea.

UNICEF said while on board, its partners have helped identify the most vulnerable children giving them information, psychosocial support and health and hygiene care.

“We are grateful and confident that Spain will now offer these children not only safety, care and health services on dry land, but a chance to have their best interests determined in a timely and protective manner,” it added.

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