Unaccompanied and Separated Children from Guinea Conakry in Italy
Sicily, May 2017

Assessment Overview
REACH, in the framework of a partnership with UNICEF, conducted an assessment of the profile, drivers and journey of refugee and migrant unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) who arrived in Italy in 2016 and 2017. This factsheet presents findings on UASC originating from Guinea Conakry, who, as of April 2017, represent 7.8% of the total UASC population in Italy.¹

This assessment is based on cluster level sampling of UASC in dedicated reception facilities across Sicily. In total, 71 UASC aged 15 to 17 from Guinea Conakry were interviewed from January to May 2017 in 40 facilities. Results are statistically representative of the Guinean UASC population in Sicily with a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. Findings which relate to a sub-population of the overall Guinean UASC sample may have a lower confidence level and should be treated as indicative only.

Profile
Proportion of children interviewed, by age and gender:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported child’s caretaker in country of origin:

1. Parent(s) 69%
2. Extended family 18%
3. Other caretaker 6%
3. Alone 3%

Among these child’s caretakers:

- 76% were reported to be still in Guinea Conakry.
- 13% were reported to be in a neighbouring country.
- 11% were reported to be dead.

Primary languages spoken, by proportion of children interviewed:

1. Fula 29%
2. Malinke 25%
3. Peul 18%
4. Sousou 10%
5. Jakande 6%
5. Other 12%

73% of children had reportedly been to school in their country of origin.

27% of children had reportedly not been to school in their country of origin.

Reported level of schooling attended before migration:

1. Middle school 52%
2. High school 21%
3. Primary school 13%
4. Madrasa 13%

35% of children reportedly worked prior to arriving in Italy.

Most reported professions were:

1. Physical labour (construction work)
2. Low skilled service labour

Education and Work Experience
Reported ability of children to read and write in any language:

Read
- Fluent 42%
- A little 37%
- Not at all 21%

Write
- Fluent 42%
- A little 37%
- Not at all 21%

73% of children reportedly attended school in their country of origin.

27% of children reportedly did not attend school in their country of origin.

Reference Map
Map 1: Proportion of UASC facilities assessed by province in Sicily

Map 2: Children’s areas of origin, Guinea Conkary

For more information on this profile please contact:
REACH Initiative: info@reach-initiative.org
Unaccompanied and Separated Children from Guinea Conakry in Italy

Departures
Top five reported reasons for leaving Guinea Conakry:

1. Political or religiously motivated persecution 31%
2. Lack of economic opportunities 31%
3. Problems or violence at home 25%
4. Limited access to education 24%
5. Lack of survival essentials 24%

Reported desired destinations when leaving their country of origin:

- 39% Italy
- 21% West Africa
- 17% Algeria
- 9% Europe (unspecified)
- 7% Libya
- 7% Do not know

Top five reported reasons for planned destination:

1. Better economic opportunities 55%
2. Better education 24%
3. Respect for human rights 10%
4. International protection 9%
5. Friends at destination 9%

Decision Making
Top five sources of information used to decide about the final destination:

1. Family/ friends at destination 30%
2. Family at home 24%
3. Traditional media 24%
4. People on the way 21%
5. Social media 9%

79% of children interviewed reported they were the ones who decided to leave their country of origin.

80% of children interviewed reported they were the ones who chose their desired destination at departure.

41% of children interviewed reported they thought about the risks of the journey before deciding to migrate.

UASC in transit
Most reported countries where children stayed for more than one month during their journey:

1. Libya 97%
2. Niger 39%

Reported reasons for staying in Libya for more than one month:

- Kidnapped and imprisoned in Libya 66%
- Arrested 39%
- To work for less than three months 31%
- To work for more than three months 27%

Journey
On average, children took one year and two months from leaving Guinea Conakry until arriving in Italy.

94% of children left Guinea Conakry traveling alone.

49% of children changed their destination during their journey.

End notes
2. School years were divided as follows: primary school: 1-5 years; middle school: 6-9 years; high school: 10-12 years. ‘Madrasa’ was defined as a ‘college for Islamic instruction’.
3. Respondents could select multiple answer categories.
4. Defined in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention as persecution ‘for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership to a particular social group or political opinion’.
5. Defined as the ‘lack of access to the most basic needs, including food, water and shelter.’

For more information on this profile please contact: REACH Initiative: info@reach-initiative.org

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action