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 Egypt, who, as of April 2017, represent 13.7% 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, 32 UASC from Egypt aged 15 to 17 were interviewed from January to May 2017 in 18 facilities. Findings pertain to the assessed population only and are not statistically representative of the Egyptian UASC population in Italy. Findings which relate to a sub-population of the overall sample should be treated with particular care.

Profile

Proportion of children interviewed, by age and gender:2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map 2: Children’s areas of origin, Egypt

Reported child’s caretaker in country of origin:
1. Parent(s) 100%

Among these child’s caretakers:
- 94% were reported to be still in Egypt.
- 3% were reported to be dead.

Education and Work Experience

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Write</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>A little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Not at all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary languages spoken, by proportion of children interviewed:
1. Arabic 97%
2. English 3%

91% of children had reportedly been to school in their country of origin.
9% of children had reportedly not been to school in their country of origin.

Reported level of schooling attended before migration:3
1. Middle school 59%
2. High school 28%
3. Primary school 15%

59% of children reportedly worked prior to arriving in Italy.

Most reported professions were:
1. Carpenter
2. Farmer

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

Top five reported reasons for leaving Egypt:

1. Lack of economic opportunities 81%
2. Limited access to education 53%
3. Lack of survival essentials* 22%
4. Persecution for political or religious reasons* 9%

Reported desired destinations when leaving their country of origin:

88% Italy
12% France

Decision Making

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

1. Family/ friends at destination 59%
2. Family at home 22%
3. Smuggler 9%
4. People on the way 6%
5. Traditional media 6%

97% of children interviewed reported they were the ones who decided to leave their country of origin.

88% of children interviewed reported they were the ones who chose their desired destination at departure.

56% of children interviewed reported they thought about the risks of the journey before deciding to migrate.

Journey

81% of children left Egypt traveling alone.
9% of children changed their destination during their journey (while in Egypt).

Top three risks considered before deciding to migrate:

1. Shipwreck 94%
2. Be killed 28%
3. Get hurt 11%

Please note that the section ‘UASC in transit’ and information on the length of the journey from leaving the country of origin until arriving in Italy are excluded from this factsheet, as all Egyptian UASC assessed came directly from Egypt to Italy without crossing other countries.

End notes

2 No Egyptian girls in the age group 15 to 17 could be found in assessed reception facilities at the time of the assessment.
3 School years were divided as follows: primary school: 1-5 years; middle school: 6-9 years; high school: 10-12 years.
4 Respondents could select multiple answer categories.
5 Defined as the 'lack of access to the most basic needs, including food, water and shelter.'
6 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.
7 Social media was not reported as a source of information.