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Unaccompanied and Separated Children from Egypt 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 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



Map 2: Children's areas of origin, Egypt



Among these child's caretakers:

- 94% were reported to be still in Egypt.
- 3% were reported to be dead.

P Reference Map

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



🛄 Education and Work Experience

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



Primary languages spoken, by proportion of children interviewed:

| 1. Arabic | 97% | |
|------------|-----|---|
| 2. English | 3% | I |

- 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 school28%3. Primary school15%
- 3. Primary school

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

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Most reported professions were:

- 1. Carpenter
- 2. Farmer

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🖈 Departures

Top five reported reasons for leaving Egypt:4

- 1. Lack of economic opportunities
- 2. Limited access to education
- 3. Lack of survival essentials⁵
- **4.** Persecution for political or religious reasons⁶

| 22% | |
|-----|---|
| 9% | • |
| | |

81%

53%

63%

53%

25%

9%

6%

Reported desired destinations when leaving their country of origin:

000/



| 00 /0 | italy |
|-------|--------|
| 12% | France |
| | |

Italy

Top five reported reasons for planned destination:⁴

- 1. Better economic opportunities
- 2. Better education
- 3. Family at destination
- 4. Friends at destination
- 5. Respect for human rights

Journey

81% of children left Egypt traveling alone.

9% of children changed their destination during their journey (while in Egypt).

Map 3: Primary route taken from Egypt to Italy



🗅 Decision Making

Top five sources of information used to decide about the final destination: $^{\!\!\!\!\!^{4,7}}$

- 1. Family/ friends at destination59%2. Family at home22%3. Smuggler9%4. People on the way6%5. Traditional media6%
- 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.
- of children interviewed reported they thought about the risks of the journey before deciding to migrate.

Top three risks considered before deciding to migrate:4

 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

¹ Italian Ministry of Labour, **UASC Monthly Monitoring Report**, April 2017.

 ^2No 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.'

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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.