## 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 Nigeria, who, as of April 2017, represent 8.4% 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, 68 UASC aged 15 to 17 from Nigeria were interviewed from January to May 2017 in 32 facilities. Results are statistically representative of the Nigerian 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 Nigerian UASC sample may have a lower confidence level and should be treated as indicative only.
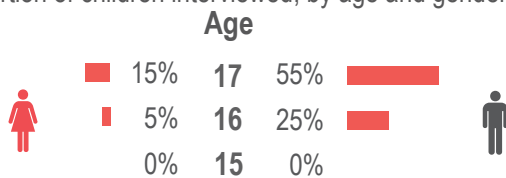
Reference Map

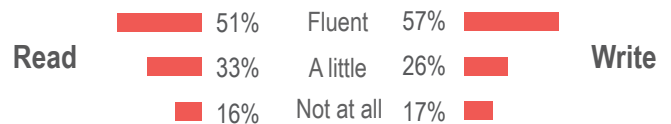**Map 1: Proportion of UASC facilities assessed by province in Sicily**

Proportion of UASC Centres Assessed (by Province)
- No Centres Assessed
- 10% or less
- 10.1 - 20%
- 20.1 - 30%
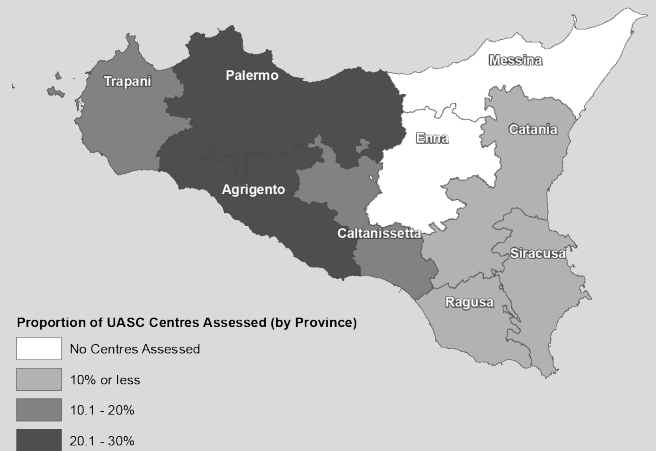
Profile

Proportion of children interviewed, by age and gender:

Age

	Female	Age	Male	
	15%	17	55%	
	5%	16	25%	
	0%	15	0%	

Map 2: Children's areas of origin, Nigeria

% of Nigerian UASC by reported Region of Origin
- 1% - 4%
- 12%
- 72%
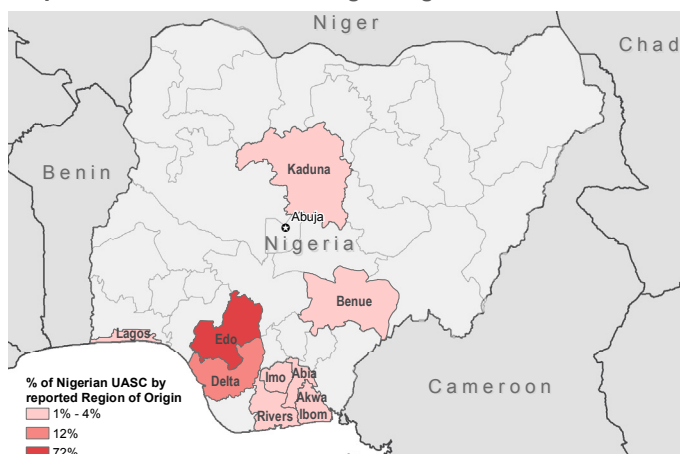
Reported child's caretaker in **country of origin:**

1. Parent(s) — 69%
2. Extended family — 21%
3. Alone — 5%
4. Other caretaker — 4%
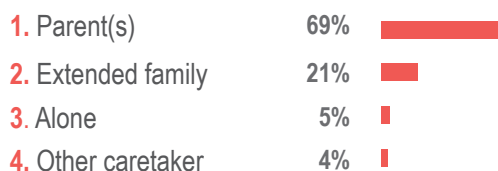
Among these child's caretakers:

- **66%** were reported to be **still in Nigeria.**
- **17%** were reported **to be dead.**

Education and Work Experience

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

Read
- 51%
- 33%
- 16%

	Write
Fluent	57%
A little	26%
Not at all	17%

Primary languages spoken, by proportion of children interviewed:

1. Bini (Edo state language) — 46%
2. Igbo — 13%
3. Esan — 12%

85% of children had reportedly been to school in their country of origin.

15% of children had reportedly **not** been to school in their country of origin.

Reported level of schooling attended before migration:[2]

1. Middle school — 44%
2. Primary school — 40%
3. High school — 16%

43% of children reportedly **worked prior to arriving in Italy**.

Most reported professions were:

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

Girls were more likely to have worked prior to migration than boys.

Departures

Top five **reported reasons for leaving Nigeria**:[3]

1. Limited economic opportunities — 26%
2. Political or religiously motivated persecution[4] — 24%
3. Problems or violence at home — 22%
4. Separation from family — 16%
5. Generalised violence — 9%

Reported **desired destinations** when leaving their country of origin:

- 46% Italy
- 33% Libya
- 2% West Africa
- 3% Europe (unspecified)
- 16% Did not know
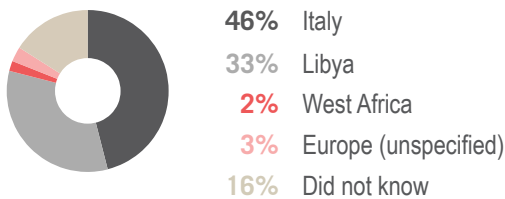
Girls were more likely to have left Nigeria already planning to reach Italy, rather than a country in West or North Africa.

Top five **reported reasons for planned destination**:[3]

1. Better economic opportunities — 38%
2. Respect for human rights — 13%
3. Better education — 11%
4. International protection — 8%
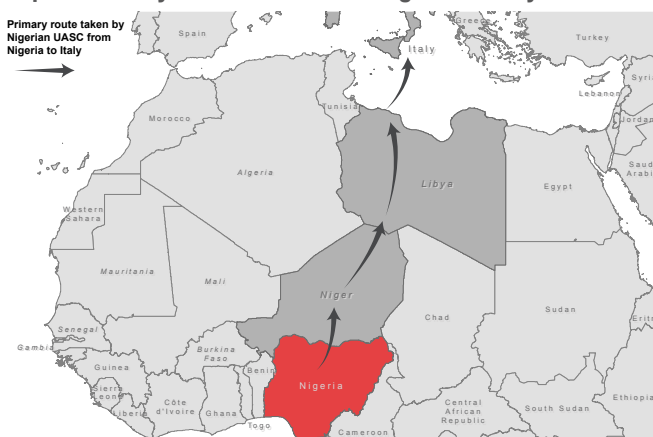5. Family at destination — 8%

Journey

On average, children took **eight months from leaving Nigeria until arriving in Italy.**

83% of children **left Nigeria traveling alone.**

37% of children **changed their destination during their journey.**

Map 3: Primary route taken from Nigeria to Italy

Primary route taken by Nigerian UASC from Nigeria to Italy

Decision Making

Top five **sources of information** used to decide about the final destination:[3,5]

1. Family/ friends at destination — 31%
2. Smuggler — 26%
3. People on the way — 19%
4. Family at home — 19%
5. Traditional media — 14%

60% of children interviewed reported **they were the ones who decided to leave** their country of origin.

67% of children interviewed reported they were the **ones who chose their desired destination at departure.**

20% of children interviewed reported they thought about the **risks of the journey before deciding to migrate.**

Girls were less likely to have thought about the risks of migration prior to leaving Nigeria.

Top **five risks** considered before deciding to migrate:[3]

1. Be killed — 60%
2. Be put in prison — 46%
3. Get hurt — 31%
4. Run out of money — 14%
5. Be kidnapped — 11%

UASC in transit

Most reported countries where children **stayed for more than one month during their journey:**[3]

1. **Libya** — 94%
2. **Niger** — 3%

Reported reasons for **staying in Libya** for more than one month:[2]

- To work for three months or more — 39%
- Kidnapped and imprisoned in Libya — 38%
- Waiting for smuggler — 16%
- To work for less than three months — 15%
- Ran out of money — 10%

End notes

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

[2] School years were divided as follows: primary school: 1-5 years; middle school: 6-9 years; high school: 10-12 years.

[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] Social media was not reported as a source of information.