

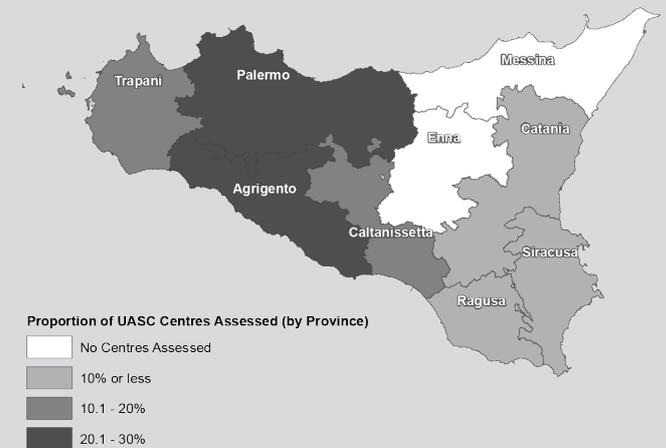
Assessment Overview

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 The Gambia, who, as of April 2017, represent 13.8% 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, 123 UASC aged 15 to 17 from The Gambia were interviewed from January to May 2017 in 73 facilities. Results are statistically representative of the Gambian 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 Gambian 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

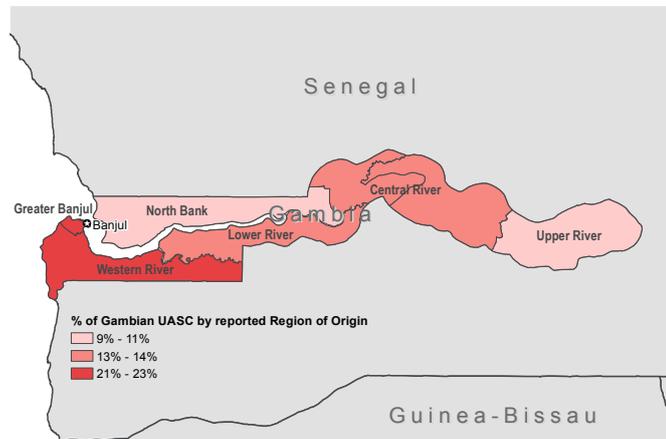


Profile

Proportion of children interviewed, by age and gender:²



Map 2: Children's areas of origin, The Gambia



Reported child's caretaker in country of origin:

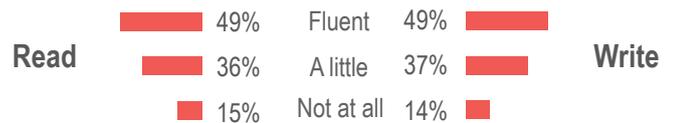


Among these child's caretakers:

- **89%** were reported to be **still in The Gambia**.
- **7%** were reported to have **moved to other countries**.
- **2%** were reported to be **dead**.

Education and Work Experience

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



Primary languages spoken, by proportion of children interviewed:



75% of children reportedly had been to school in their country of origin.

25% of children reportedly had **not** been to school in their country of origin.

Reported level of schooling attended before migration:³



42% of children reportedly **worked prior to arriving in Italy**.

Most reported professions were:

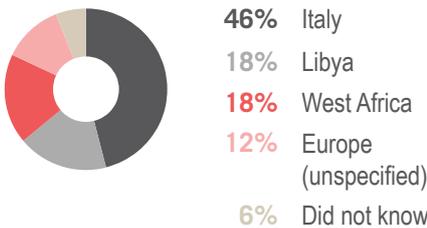
1. Fisher/ farmer
2. Low skilled service labour

Departures

Top five reported reasons for leaving The Gambia:⁴

- | | | |
|--|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. Problems or violence at home | 47% | <div style="width: 47%;"></div> |
| 2. Limited economic opportunities | 26% | <div style="width: 26%;"></div> |
| 3. Limited access to education | 17% | <div style="width: 17%;"></div> |
| 4. Social pressure to leave ⁵ | 11% | <div style="width: 11%;"></div> |
| 5. Do not want to answer | 12% | <div style="width: 12%;"></div> |

Reported desired destinations when leaving their country of origin:⁴



Top five reported reasons for planned destination:⁴

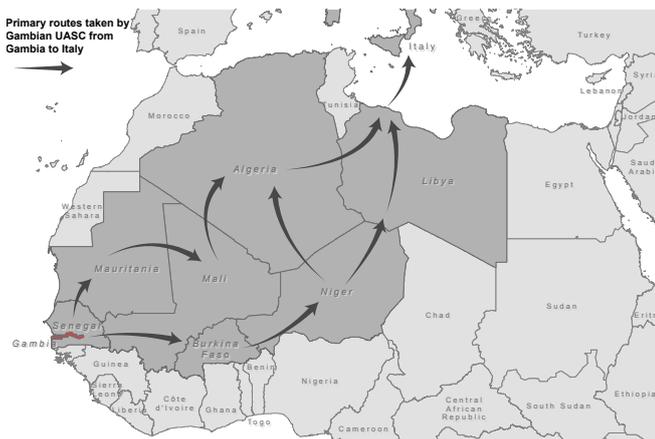
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. Better economic opportunities | 57% | <div style="width: 57%;"></div> |
| 2. Respect for human rights | 20% | <div style="width: 20%;"></div> |
| 3. Better education | 20% | <div style="width: 20%;"></div> |
| 4. Friends at destination | 17% | <div style="width: 17%;"></div> |
| 5. International protection | 11% | <div style="width: 11%;"></div> |

Journey

On average, children took **one year** from leaving The Gambia until arriving in Italy.

- 91%** of children left The Gambia traveling alone.
- 42%** of children changed their destination during their journey.

Map 3: Primary routes taken from The Gambia to Italy



Decision Making

Top five sources of information used to decide about the final destination:^{4,6}

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. Family/ friends at destination | 35% | <div style="width: 35%;"></div> |
| 2. Traditional media | 26% | <div style="width: 26%;"></div> |
| 3. People on the way | 25% | <div style="width: 25%;"></div> |
| 4. Family at home | 10% | <div style="width: 10%;"></div> |
| 5. Do not know | 11% | <div style="width: 11%;"></div> |

64% of children interviewed reported they were the ones who decided to leave their country of origin.

81% of children interviewed reported they were the ones who chose their desired destination at departure.

52% of children interviewed reported they thought about the risks of the journey before deciding to migrate.

Top five risks considered before deciding to migrate:⁴

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. Get hurt | 48% | <div style="width: 48%;"></div> |
| 2. Be killed | 41% | <div style="width: 41%;"></div> |
| 3. Shipwreck | 29% | <div style="width: 29%;"></div> |
| 4. Get lost | 23% | <div style="width: 23%;"></div> |
| 5. Be put in prison | 22% | <div style="width: 22%;"></div> |

UASC in transit

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

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 1. Libya | 99% |
| 2. Niger | 30% |
| 3. Senegal | 19% |

Reported reasons for staying in Libya for more than one month:⁴

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| To work for three months or more | 66% | <div style="width: 66%;"></div> |
| Kidnapped and imprisoned in Libya | 39% | <div style="width: 39%;"></div> |
| Arrested | 27% | <div style="width: 27%;"></div> |
| To work for less than three months | 22% | <div style="width: 22%;"></div> |
| Waiting for smuggler | 2% | <div style="width: 2%;"></div> |

End notes

- ¹ Italian Ministry of Labour, [UASC Monthly Monitoring Report](#), April 2017.
- ² No Gambian 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. 'Madrasa' was defined as a 'college for Islamic instruction'.
- ⁴ Respondents could select multiple answer categories.
- ⁵ This was reported in some communities, where the 'culture of migration' is so widespread that migration is seen as rite of passage to adulthood.
- ⁶ Social media was not reported as a source of information.