ACCESS OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN TO CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IN ITALY

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Head of the Children on the Move Unit - SC Italy
## MIGRANTS ARRIVED IN ITALY BY SEA
### Jan-Sept 2015  Source: MoI – Dep.Public Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total of migrants arrived</th>
<th>132,000</th>
<th>(138,800 in 2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total of children arrived</td>
<td>10% 13,700</td>
<td>(22,000 in 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied children</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>(11,500 in 2014)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age
- 15-17

### Countries of origin
- Eritrea (2,900)
- Egypt (1,350)
- Somalia (1,000)
ERITREAN UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- They escape from the forced military service
- Detention in Libya (sexual violence and exploitation)
- Main destination: **Northern European Countries**
- They try to avoid identification (fingerprint) procedures -> **use of force**
- They leave coastal areas within a few hours after disembarkation
- They **transit through Rome (occupied houses) and Milan** -> smugglers
• Mainly from Delta Region and Assyut
• Push factors: positive stories from their peers (facebook)
• Pushed to leave by their families (debt); low level of education
• They early leave the border to reach Rome and Milan
• High risk of exploitation
• Lack of cooperation for voluntary return

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2015</td>
<td>1.350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALL the unaccompanied children in Italy (even if they are NOT asylum seekers):

- can’t be expelled
- can stay in Italy when they turn 18 if they obtain a positive evaluation by the Ministry of Welfare
- can’t be detained in Centers for adults
- have the right to be hosted in care facilities for children (12 places each) as well as all the other children’s rights recognized

**Legal Framework**

Children without family and Migration Law
Unaccompanied Children in Italy: more relevant protection gaps

- Lack of a national reception system
- Uncertainty on fundings for UASC reception
- Low standards of reception at the arrival and in care facilities for children at the border (in particular, not authorized)
- A national protocol with procedures for age assessment is still missing
- Delay on the appointment of the Guardian and Majors of Municipalities appointed as guardians (bad practice).
  Law on temporary guardian not applied
- Lack of clear and fast procedures for family reunification in Italy or in EU countries -> children in transit -> risk of trafficking and exploitation
Legal Framework: last developments

10 July 2014: AGREEMENT between the Government and the Italian Regions includes specific provisions for the reception of unaccompanied children

- **a coordination body** for the reception of unaccompanied children among the Ministry of Interior is established

- **a double-level of reception for unaccompanied children** is introduced: **the first reception and assistance** by shelters selected by the Minister of Interior overall Italy (maximum 4 for each Region with at least 50 places each) and **the second reception**, ensured by the children’s homes included in the system for the protection and assistance of asylum seekers and refugees (SPRAR), opened to all the unaccompanied children (not only asylum seekers), with limits of places and resources available

Up today, 15 first reception shelters are opened (750 places) and 1,000 new places for unaccompanied children in the SPRAR system are going to be approved
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unaccompanied children reported to MLSP (September 2015)</th>
<th>15,290</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>9,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian</td>
<td>2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albanian</td>
<td>1,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrean</td>
<td>1,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappeared</td>
<td>5,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrean</td>
<td>1.465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>1.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian</td>
<td>1.180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

CHILD PROTECTION AT BORDERS
Sicily, Apulia, Calabria

CIVICOZERO – Drop in Center and outreach
Rome
Milan
(Turin)

A 28 – Night Center
Rome
WHAT WE DO: ACTIVITIES AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

SUPPORT IN ASSESSING VULNERABILITIES
  early identification and referral

PROVIDING LEGAL INFORMATION

MONITORING RECEPTION CONDITIONS
CHILDREN’S NEEDS: showers, washing machines, clothes, food, internet

LEGAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE

EDUCATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES: CLIO (learning Italian), art/photography and video laboratories, Newsletter (GRIOT)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
(mobile Unit – BAOBAB Centre)

45 unaccompanied children per day in Rome, mainly Egyptians
200 in 6 months in Milan, mainly Egyptians and Albanians
22 (+2) places in the centre of Rome from 10 PM to 8 AM every day of the year. It provides protection, satisfaction of basic needs and legal information to unaccompanied children in transit: not fingerprinted nor registered by law enforcement authorities.

mainly Afghans until 2013 (600 per year) since 2014 mainly Eritreans.
Improving the capacity of the Italian territory to receive unaccompanied children

capacity building activities to support the start up of the 15 first reception shelters for unaccompanied children

Coordination:

Partnership:

From March 2015 to February 2016
OUR APPROACH

ADVOCACY

PROGRAMMES
ADVOCACY: A COMPREHENSIVE LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Drafted by SC IT in July 2013

Officially presented by the Parlamentarians of the main Italian parties in October 2013

Supported by the main IT NGOs

Actually under the exam of the Chamber of Deputies
Thank you for your attention!

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