



YOUNG INVISIBLE ENSLAVED



Save the Children

**CHILDREN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING
AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN ITALY**

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ABSTRACT

The 2017 Young Invisible Slaves Dossier highlights the cruel practices many lone children arriving in Italy are subjected to at the hand of traffickers. Through the voices and stories told by boys and girls exploited sexually and at work in Italy, the dossier presents a detailed investigation into the main vulnerabilities experienced by victims and provides an up-to-date review of the criminals profiting from them.

Made up of five chapters, the report opens with a review of the international, European and national legal framework on trafficking and serious exploitation.

The report then presents the updated profiles of trafficking and exploitation victims in Italy, highlighting the connections between recent migratory trends and the different types of exploitation suffered by minors.

The vulnerability examined this year, also provides an overview of the main criticalities detected in Ventimiglia, Rome and Calabria, territories where trafficking and exploitation are becoming alarming also with regard to criminals, exploiters and abusers who make a daily profit on girls and boys.

The profiles of those who take advantage of the vulnerability of the trafficked children every day have been examined to provide a faithful picture of the criminal chain, useful also to developing a political and programmatic plan of action against this repulsive crime.

DEFINITION AND DATA OF TRAFFICKING AND SEVERE EXPLOITATION OF UASC

According to UNODC¹, globally, one in five victims of human trafficking are children. Between 2012 and 2014 63,251 victims were detected in 106 countries.

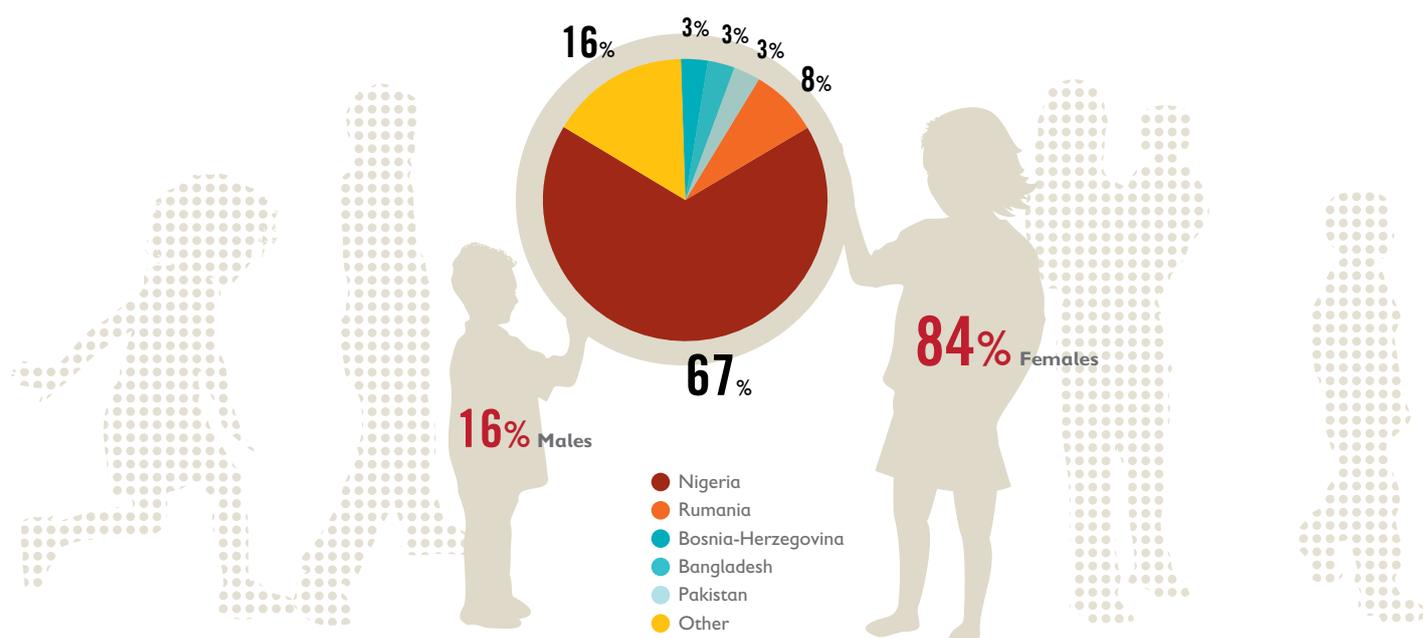
Among these 17,710 were children (where off 5,060 males and 12,650 females).

In Europe, the latest data available on recorded victims of trafficking (those identified as victims or presumed to be victims by competent national authorities) date from 2013-2014 and number 15,846². Furthermore, according to the latest data from the European Commission, the 67% of the victims are exploited in forced prostitution, predominantly girls and women from Nigeria and Rumania, while 21% of those identified as victims or presumed to be victims by competent national authorities been exploited in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, domestic and catering services. In this context, unaccompanied children represent one of the most vulnerable group as potential victims of THB.

In Italy, in 2017, 8,312 unaccompanied children have arrived in Italy by sea, mainly from Guinea (14,7%), Bangladesh (14%), Ivory Coast (11,8%), Gambia (11,8%) and Nigeria (7%) (Italian Minister of the Interior)³.

At national level, in 2016 the Department for Equal Opportunities detected 1,172 victims, where of 107 men, 954 women and 111 children (93 females and 18 males).

Children victims of trafficking and severe exploitation protected by the national protection system in 2016



Source: Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri

More than 50% of children has been identified as victim of sexual exploitation.

The remaining children were exploited in drug dealing (9,1%), child labour (5,41%) bagging (3,6 %) forced marriages (0,9%). Between May 2016 and March 2017, thanks to the outreach activities implemented in the framework of the project Vie d'Uscita⁴, Save the Children detected 1,313 suspected victims of trafficking, where of 1,076 young adults (18-24) and 237 children (12-17), while between January 2015 and April 2016, Save the Children detected 356 victims. According to the Italian Anti-Trafficking National Network, 3,280 people were identified as potential victims of trafficking by outreach activities just in one night. At least 5,1% of them were children (167)⁵. Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling are distinct crimes, but they represent overlapping problems. Indeed, it is more and more common that children who have consented to travel are then turned into victims of trafficking.

1.1 Trafficking in Human Beings

The crime of trafficking in Human Beings consists of three typical elements⁶:

1. **conduct** - the action of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons;
2. **means** - the threat or the use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim;
3. **purpose** - the exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices, and the removal of organs.

A child victim of trafficking is each person under 18 years old recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for exploitation, both inside and outside the country, even without coercion, deceit, abuse of power or other forms of abuse. The use of coercive and misleading conduct by traffickers against the victims makes even an initial consent irrelevant. It excludes any possibility of consent of being trafficked from a victim under the age of 18.

1.2 Smuggling of Migrants

The above elements distinguish trafficking from smuggling, which is the illegal entry of a person into a State where the person is not a citizen or a permanent resident, to obtain a financial or material benefit⁷.

1.3 Exploitation

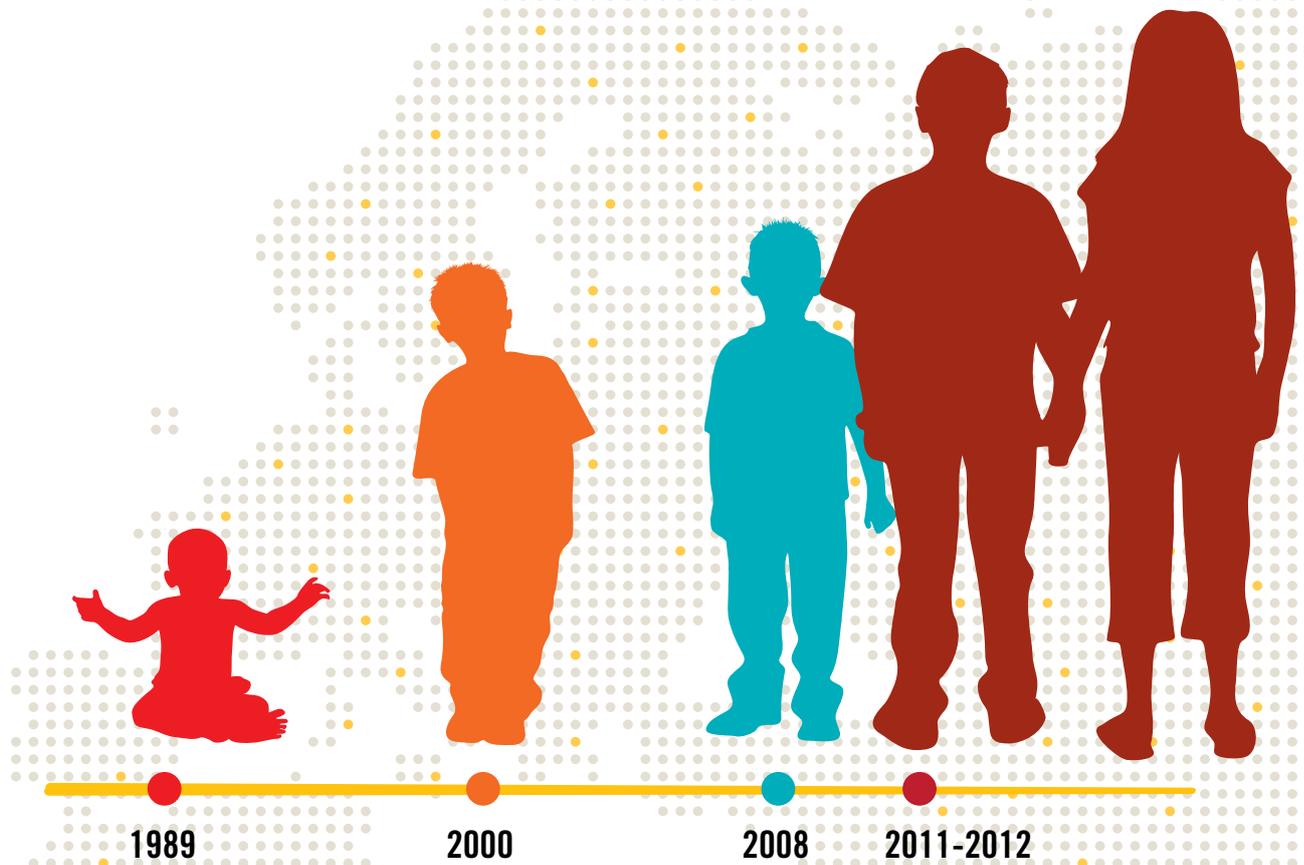
Exploitation consists of taking unfair advantage of another person's activity by means of "imposition", which is based on conduct affecting someone else's will and that deliberately leverages the lack of self-determination in young victims. According to Article 3 of the United Nations Protocol, exploitation can include:

- exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation;
- forced labor or services;
- slavery or comparable practices;
- servitude;
- removal of organs.

The Protocol does not define exploitation in an exhaustive list as it can arise from a wide and unpredictable range of behavior and conduct⁸.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION

INTERNATIONAL AND EU LEVEL



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Acknowledges the importance to adopt “all measures to prevent the abduction, sale or trafficking of children, for whatever purpose and in any form whatsoever”.

Palermo Protocol

Defines the trafficking of children as the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbor or reception of a child for exploitation.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Explicitly prohibits trafficking in human beings.

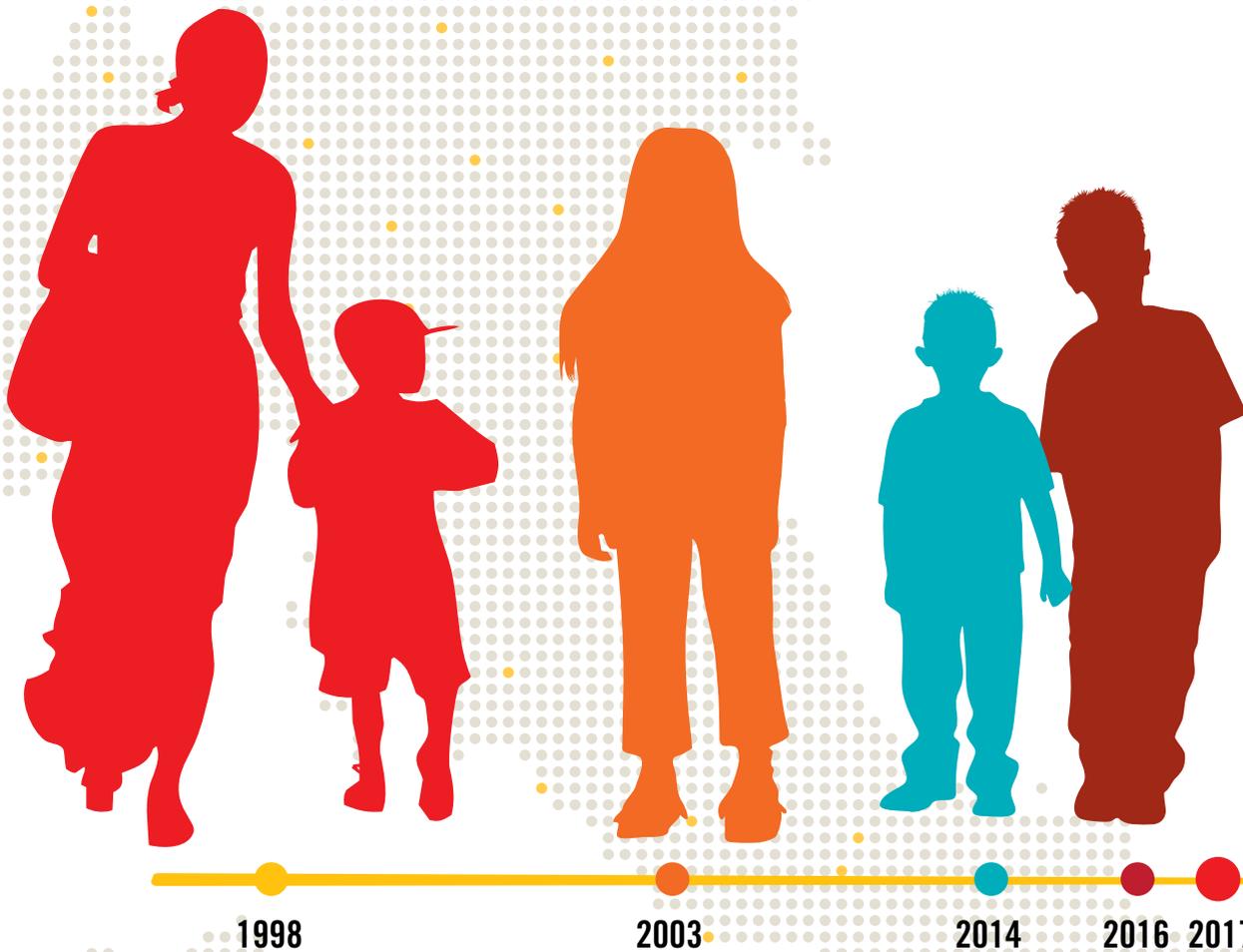
Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Article 79, establishes that the Union shall develop a common immigration policy aimed at “combating trafficking in persons, women and children”.

Directive 2011/36/EU and the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016

Establish the first strategic framework to address the phenomenon and recognize the responsibility of each Member State in combating trafficking in human beings in accordance with five strategic lines (protection, prevention, prosecution, partnership, knowledge of the phenomenon).

NATIONAL LEVEL



Art. 18 of Legislative Decree no. 286/98

Introduces social protection with the aim of ensuring that victims are safeguarded so that they can come out from the conditions of enslavement.

Art. 13 of Law 228/2003

Establishes a special support programme guaranteeing adequate housing, subsistence and healthcare conditions for the physical and psychological recovery of victims of crimes defined under Articles 600 and 601 of the Penal Code, on a transitional basis.

Legislative Decree 24/2014

Introduces the individual assessment for each victim in accordance with her/his vulnerability.

April 7, 2017

Law 47/2017, known as Zampa Law

Specifically Art. 17 "Minor Victims of Trafficking", providing protection measures for unaccompanied minors exploited and abused in trafficking in human beings.

Law no. 199/2016

Provides a reformulation of the criminal offence of "Unlawful intermediation and labour exploitation".

February 2016

National Action Plan against Trafficking and Severe exploitation of Human Beings 2016-2018

Defines Government intervention strategies to prevent and tackle the issue of human trafficking and severe exploitation.

May 16, 2016

Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers (DPCM)

Concerning "Definition of the Single Programme for Emergency, Assistance and Social Integration for foreigners and citizens referred to in Article 18 of Legislative Decree no. 286/98, victims of the offences listed in Articles 600 and 601 criminal code".

Decree 10 November 2016, no. 234

Concerning "Regulation for determining the age of unaccompanied children victims of trafficking".

3.1 Sexual exploitation: the Nigerians and the Rumenians

NIGERIANS

Age of victims - Victims from Nigeria are girls coming from poorly educated and disadvantaged contexts: they are mostly aged from 15 to 17 years with a growing number of 13 or 14 years old.

Social background and push factors - Most of girls are from Benin City or from rural areas and less developed regions of Anambra State, Delta State and Lagos State. Especially the firstborn and mother orphans are traditionally obliged to support the living parent and younger brothers: in that case, the mobility to Europe is often perceived as the only possible choice of survival.

Recruitment - Weak family ties and social and family deprivation are often behind the decision of young girls to trust the “Italos”⁹: former victims of trafficking who recruit younger ones to join them in Italy by bragging the economic success achieved in Italy and promoting the stereotype of successful life there. In fact the recruitment is carried out by girls’ acquaintances throughout fake job offers in Europe. In this way, girls are put in the hands of traffickers: once recruited, they must take an oath through a juju or voodoo ritual under which they swear to repay their debt for a sum of around 20,000 to 50,000€.

Route and travel - Unlike in the ‘90s and early 2000s, the mobility of Nigerian girls to Italy is no longer takes places by air. The land route covers Kano (Nigeria), Zinder (Niger), Agadez (Niger), Dirkou (Niger), Sabha (Libya) e Tripoli (Libya). In Libya, girls are segregated in the connection houses and forced into prostitution until they are sold to the madams living in the EU area.

Arrival - After landing in Italy, the girls’ accounts to Save the Children staff bear all the hallmarks of trafficking: often they deny being children even when they are clearly and visibly underage, because they have been instructed by those exploiting them to avoid the child protection system. In many cases, they say they do not know how they arrived in Italy or even claim not to have paid anything for the journey.

Exploitation and abuse - To avoid violence and extortion towards themselves or their families in Nigeria, girls work under slavery-like conditions for periods ranging from 3 to 7 years. They are forced to carry out sexual activities regardless of their physical condition, and in remote streets and suburban areas for very low prices (starting from 10 or even 5€). Because of the work on the street, girls suffer severe physical traumas. This often leads them to take drugs and medicines. Social workers estimate that a Nigerian girl forced into sexual exploitation will be obliged to use Cytotec - a medicine with abortive effects when overdosed - at least 2 or 3 times in her life.

RUMANIANS

Age of victims - Most of Rumanian girls lured into trafficking are 16-17 years old.

Social background and push factors - They come from impoverished social and economic backgrounds, typically from Muntenia and Moldova Regions including the districts of Bacau, Galati, Braila, Neamt and Suceava. They often originate from affectively deprived or crushed families or from orphanages.

Recruitment - Girls are recruited via fake job advertisements by peers or by older men who ostensibly promise a stable relationship and a better future in Italy.

Route and travel - When a *boyfriend* recruits a girl, he pays her trip to Italy. Usually, the travel is done on private vehicles or vans that cover the Romania-Italy route passing through Trieste. During the travel adults who accompany girls show to the cross-border police authentic identity cards, but declare false parental ties with the victims especially if they are still children.

Arrival - After arriving, the victims are housed in flats inhabited by nationals and located in areas of the city where there is a strong Rumanian community.

Exploitation and abuse - Following arrival in Italy, girls are subjugated by exploiters through systematic physical and psychological violence. Due to a prolonged state of submission and life on streets, these girls often live in constant anxiety, desperation and resignation and have problems relating to drug and alcohol use or the abuse of medicines.



Foto: Francesco Alesi per Save the Children

3.2 Children on the move: the Eritreans

Age of victims - The Eritreans smuggled in Italy are mainly boys aged between 14 and 17 with a growing number of younger victims.

Social background and push factors - The young Eritreans mostly come from rural and underdeveloped areas with a Development Index lower than in the urban areas. In rural areas, 35% of all children aged up to 5 years old are undernourished. In addition, difficult access to water is experienced by around 40% of the population. Additionally, young Eritreans flee their Country also to avoid military service, which is compulsory both for men and women. It consists in a training period lasting six months to one year. Amnesty International, the US Department of State and Landinfo, however, observe that military service can last for more than 10 years¹⁰. Other push factors to migration are linked to serious restrictions of civil rights.

Route and travel - The journey of young Eritreans to Italy is an extremely lengthy one, lasting from 6 months to one or even two years. The mobility of Eritreans to Europe starts from neighboring regions to Ethiopia (Gasc-Barca), including the Southern regions of Senafe, Adi Keyh, Tserona and Adi kuala, Tesenay, and Dankàlia Region on the Red Sea. These children pay more than 6,300€ for a journey covering Ethiopia, Sudan and Libya, or Egypt. During the journey, Eritrean children and adolescents are kidnapped, sold and detained by traffickers, criminal gangs and police. When crossing the Chad border, children are often kidnapped and segregated in “mazraa” a sort of detention compound until a sum around 3,000\$ has been paid.

Arrival - The atrocious living conditions and multiple acts of violence experienced during the journey are evident from the physical appearance of the Eritrean adolescents and children when they land in Italy: as well as reporting various physical traumas, they show signs of skin diseases and infections, such as advanced scabies, fevers and respiratory or gastrointestinal problems that suggest a prolonged state of dehydration and poor sanitary/hygiene conditions. Children sustain considerable psychological trauma that shows through their behavior, in the form of panic attacks, depression or post traumatic syndrome.

Exploitation and abuse - As young Eritreans usually avoid entering the Italian protection system because they aim to reach the northern European countries, this national group is at high risk of experiencing violence and abuse perpetrated by criminals. This can even be a consequence of the need to find more money to pay traffickers, who will help them across borders.

3.3 Labour exploitation: the Egyptians and the Bengalis

EGYPTIANS

Age of victims - Egyptians leaving their country are generally boys with an average age of 15-17 years old coming from rural villages or remote areas. These boys show a very low level of education. Since their childhood, they have been included in low-skilled jobs in the sectors of farming, sheep farming and building.

Social background and push factors - The Egyptian children met by Save the Children in Rome and Milan come from the districts of El-Gharbiyya, El-Buhayra, El-Minoufia, El-Sharkia e El-Dakhiliyah, while those in Turin are from Monofiya and Kalyobia. These areas are characterized by a strong social destabilization because of the deep national economic crisis. Consequently, mobility toward Europe is one of the best chances to improve living conditions for both the child and his family.

Recruitment - A network of facilitators organizes recruitment and the journey from Egypt to Italy. These people are perceived as reliable and influential. They draw up a contract with the family of the children who are leaving for a debt that varies depending on the type of the journey performed.

Route and travel - Children coming from the Southern regions of the Country pay 4,000€ to cross the Mediterranean Sea, while those living on the coast pay a sum ranging from 2,000€ to 2,500€.

Arrival - Many Egyptians attempt to enter the Italian protection system for children. It happens that the same countrymen direct young Egyptians towards specific territorial reception centers. In the vast majority of cases observed by Save the Children, when relatives or compatriots offer accommodation to children a condition of labour exploitation begins.

Exploitation and abuse - Although Egyptian children are increasingly aware of the risks of labour exploitation in Italy, many of them accept whatever conditions of work are offered because of the need to repay the debt incurred for travel. In Turin and Rome, for instance, Egyptian adolescents work every day, including evenings or nights, in grocery stores, pizza and kebab shops or for scaffolding firms where they earn no more than 300€ a month. In carwashes, adolescents work 7 days a week, 12 hours for a day, for an average wage of 2 or 3€ per hour.

BANGALIS

Age of victims - Bengalis reaching Italy by sea are typically adolescents or young adults who often declare that they are children. Boys receive clear information about the chance to be identified as minors by the Italian authority and consequently to receive a birth certificate useful for the conversion of a residence permit for work reasons already during the planning of their journey. Generally, Bengalis attempt this path in Italian towns where their national community is deeply rooted, e.g. Rome, Pisa, Bologna, Bari and Milan.

Social background and push-factors - Bengalis come mostly from deprived social backgrounds and large family groups with low education and scarce professional expectations. In recent years, poverty and high unemployment have acted as key push factors for the travel by Bengalis to Italy.

Exploitation and abuse - Most of these boys have already experienced slavery-like conditions in the country of origin, especially those belonging to the Dalit caste. Therefore, many Bengalis hardly perceive the abuses perpetuated by traffickers and exploiters in Italy who exploit Bengalis children in Bengalis-run mini-market, in the street-hawking and in the selling of a variety of wares such as lighters, tissues, car fresheners, flowers, toys or jewelry, as exploitation, mostly humble, tedious and underpaid jobs offered by countrymen who mask exploitation of children as an act of solidarity and brotherhood.

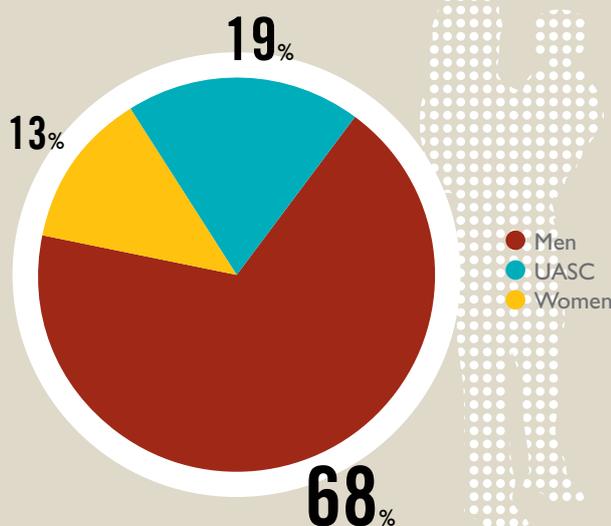


Foto: Francesco Alesi / Parallelozero per Save the Children

VENTIMIGLIA

Ventimiglia is a city close to the Côte d'Azur. For years, this border city has been a place of transit into and out of France. More recently, thousands of unaccompanied minors - primarily from Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia - have come here after crossing Italy in the hope of reaching France and Northern Europe. For many, the goal is to get to Calais, and then to the UK. In the recent years, due to increasing controls on the borders, the journey has become increasingly risky and difficult and more and more children have been stranded in Ventimiglia for long periods, waiting to cross again and exposing themselves to the risks of exploitation. To minimise the probability of being stopped by police on trains or main motorways, many children move at night on dangerous mountain paths, risking getting lost or falling. Because of the lack of an official reception facility dedicated to children on the move, their temporary reception has been offered by an informal network of volunteers who arrange beds and hot meals in the Sant'Antonio Church of the Gianchette District. However, the limited places available in this structure sets a priority for reception limited only to families, women and children.

Children on the move transited through Ventimiglia



Source: Caritas Diocesana Ventimiglia Sanremo

This means that a growing number of unaccompanied adolescents have been left out from the centre, ending up trapped in a kind of 'grey area of invisibility'. These young boys and girls spend their days waiting to cross the borders and living in the informal settlements located along the River Roja.



“François was born in 2000 in Côte d'Ivoire. The father is an imam who obliged his son to study Islamic doctrine. François decided to escape from his country because of his sexual identity. In 2016, he arrived in Sicily and, then, attempted to cross the Swiss border but he has been sent back four times.

Thanks to the legal information provided by Save the Children, he has been able to declare his desire to stay in Italy. At last, François has been transferred to Milan where has entered a Community”.

JANUARY 1 , 2016

JUNE 30, 2017

385 landings

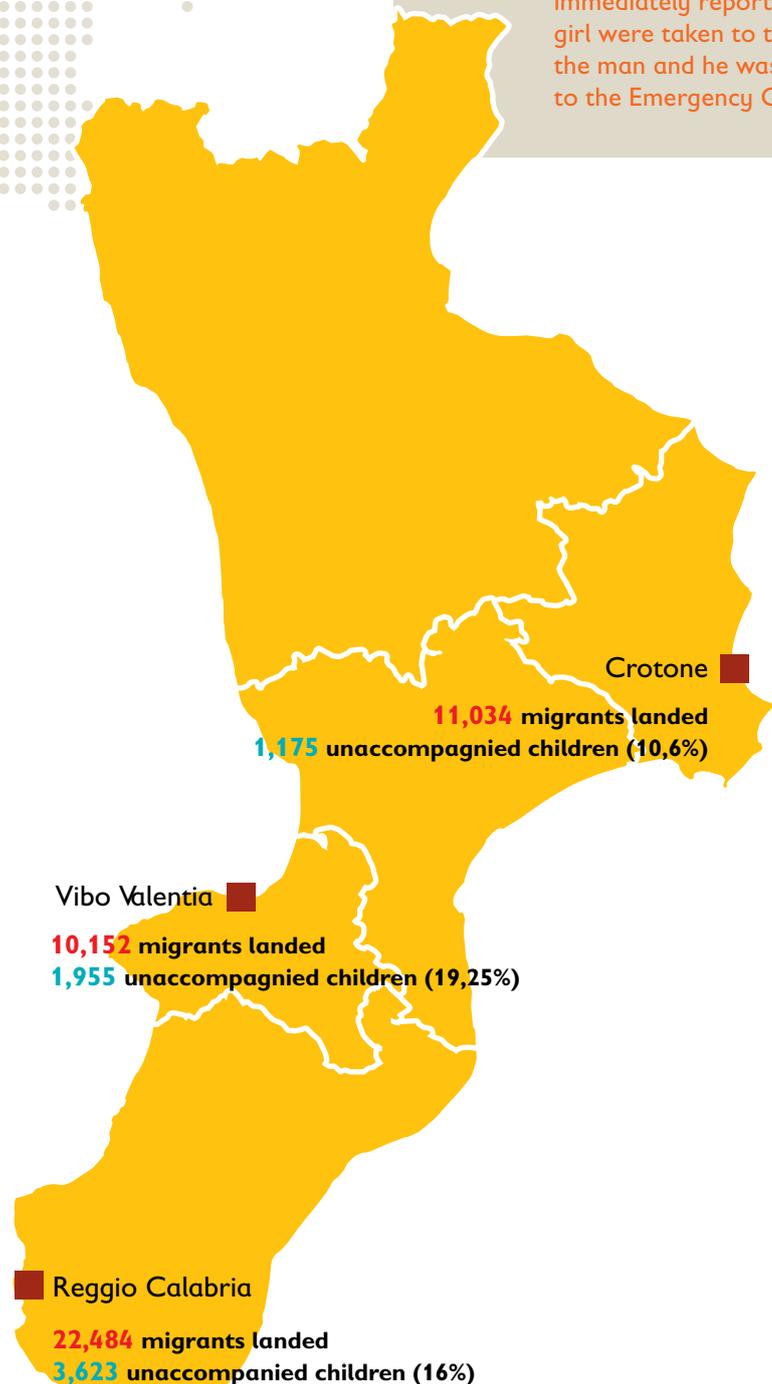
49,723 new arrivals

CALABRIA

The significant increase in the arrival of children in Calabria, especially between the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017, has complicated the proper management of the early identification of the victims of trafficking, and this has been observed in a general context marked by the overall scarcity of well-trained and equipped staff. The escape from local reception centers of many unaccompanied children exposes them to the risk of trafficking and makes them a target for exploiters and traffickers.



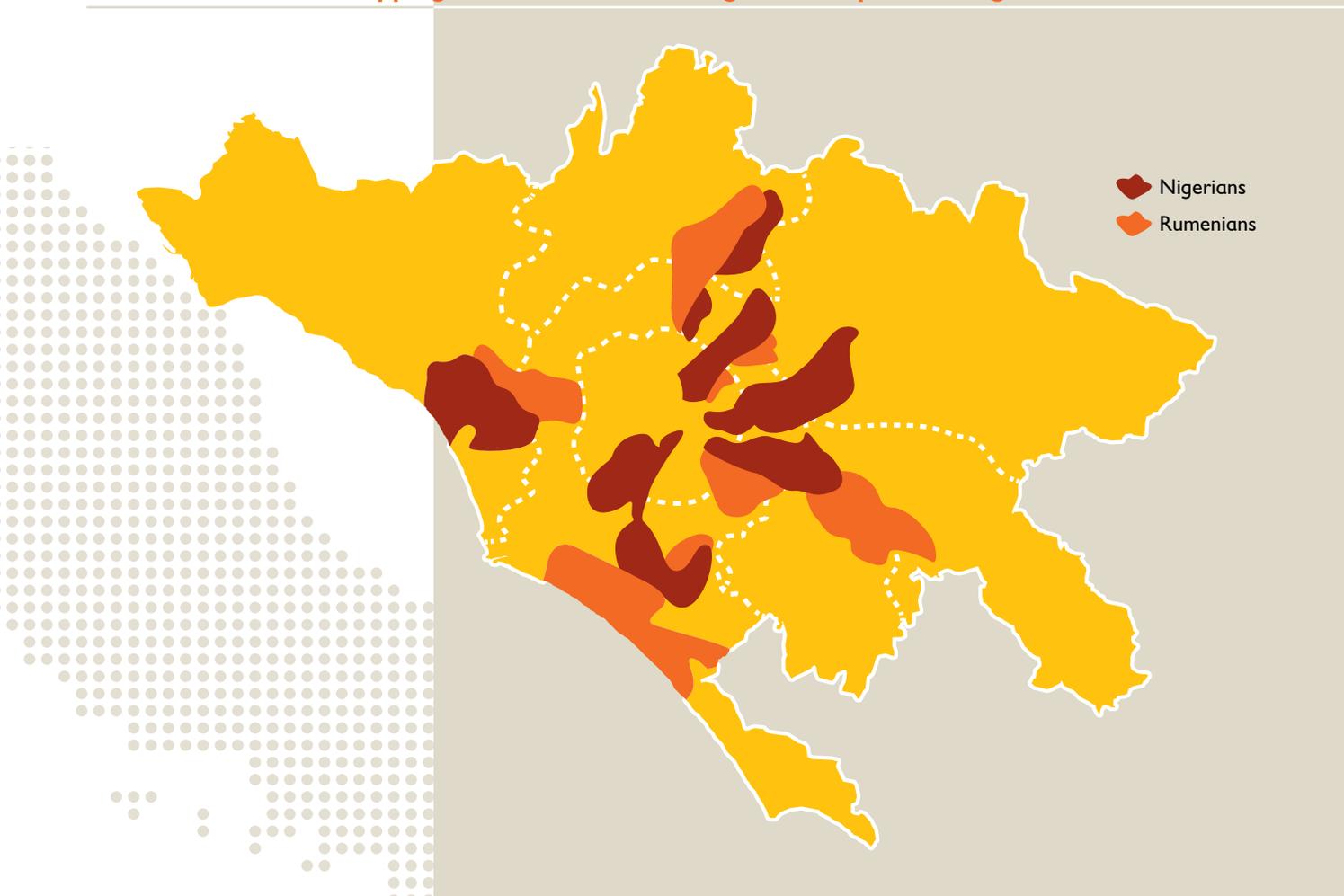
“Harmony arrived in a region of Southern Italy. She declared that she was an adult even though she clearly looked like a child. After the intervention of Save the Children she declared her age and admitted to being 16 years old. However, due to a lack of available places in a center specialized in trafficking victims, she was placed in the Emergency Centre and subsequently ran away. After five days, Save the Children staff met the girl with a Nigerian man in the Railway Station. She was showily dressed and wearing high heels. When Harmony saw the Save the Children staff, she burst into tears and told them that she was going with the man to Rome by train. Save the Children immediately reported the situation to the Police. Both the man and the girl were taken to the Central Police Station. Harmony did not report the man and he was released immediately, while she was brought back to the Emergency Centre”.



ROME

Between 2015 and 2016, in Rome, evidence has shown a rise in very young Nigerian and Rumenian girls trafficked for sexual exploitation and an increase in the exposure of children on the move, mainly Eritreans, to the risks of exploitation and abuse. As regards Eritrean asylum seekers on the move, according to a recent EC provision¹, they are eligible for relocation across Europe. This relocation is available to people in clear need of international protection, belonging to nationalities whose recognition of international protection is equal to or greater than 75%, based on Eurostat data. In this context, since 30th January 2017, CivicoZero in Rome has supported 12 Eritrean children to apply for the relocation procedure offering legal and technical advice.

The Mapping of Children Trafficking in Rome provided by CivicoZero



Human trafficking is one of the most lucrative illicit business in the world. It represents, globally, the second biggest source of illicit profits for criminals after drugs trade, with an annual profit of \$32 billion¹². In Europe, Europol registered 8,037 people suspected for crimes related to THB and 7,500 victims.

KEY NUMBERS

In Europe 8.037 suspected people¹³

(Europol Data
2013-2014)

In Italy 324 denounced and/or arrested people¹⁴
for crimes related to reduction or
maintenance of slavery or servitude

- 207 ex Art. 600 Penal Code (only in 2015)
- 99 ex Art. 601 Penal Code (only in 2015)
- 18 ex Art. 602 Penal Code

Offender's profile

Gender and age¹⁵ **2 out of 3** men
35 years on average

Nationalities¹⁶ **30%** Romania
29% Nigeria
16% Albania
16% Italia
9% Bulgaria, Serbia, Cina, Marocco



Foto: Sylvain Cherkaoui / Cosmos per Save The Children

WHO PROFITS ON CHILDREN TRAFFICKING

GLOBALLY

32 BILLIONS
Turnover

Second source of globally revenue for criminal organizations.



IN EUROPE

2010-2012 (Eurostat data)

12,760
supposed traffickers

6,642 males
3,187 females
1,017 kind not available

2013-2014 (Europ. Comm. data)

15,846

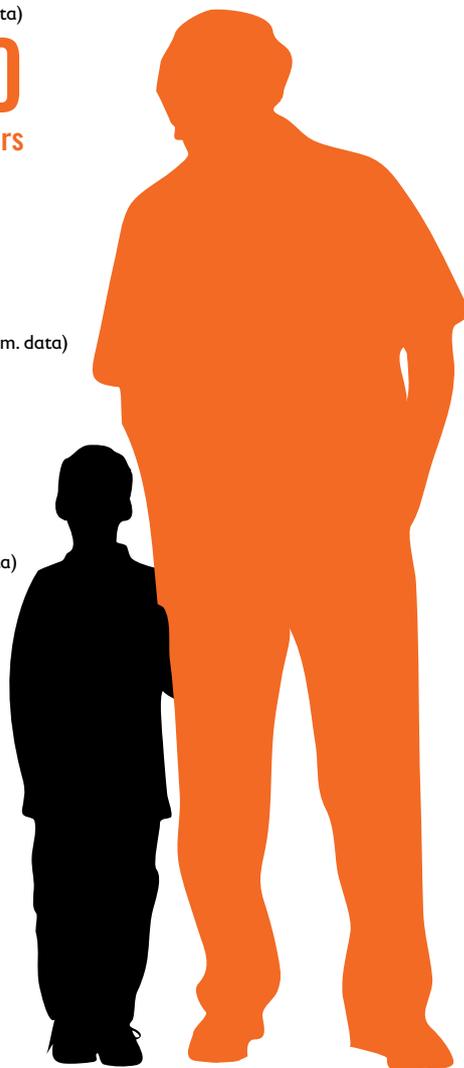
TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
2,375 children

2014-2015 (Europol data)

8,037

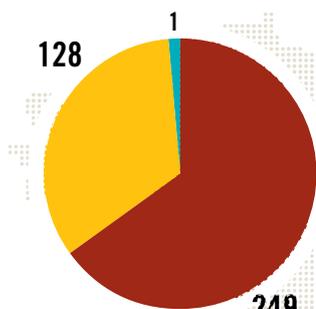
suspects for crimes related to trafficking

7,500
VICTIMS



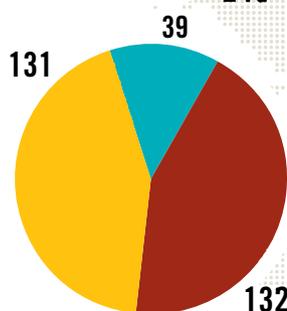
IN ITALY

2010-2012



376
supposed traffickers

● males
● females
● other



● Nigerians
● Rumenians
● Italians

CHAPTER 4

In Italy, a five years analysis (2011 - 2015) from the Minister of Justice¹⁷ offers an overview on the statistical trend of the People reported or/and arrested for crimes related to trafficking (ex Art. 600, 601 e 602 Italian Penal Code): almost the 73% of people were charged under the Art. 600 of the Italian Penal Code (Reduction and maintenance in slavery), 23% ex Art. 601 (Trafficking in Human Beings) and the remaining 4% ex Art. 602 (Purchase and sale of slaves).

People reported/arrested for crimes related to trafficking

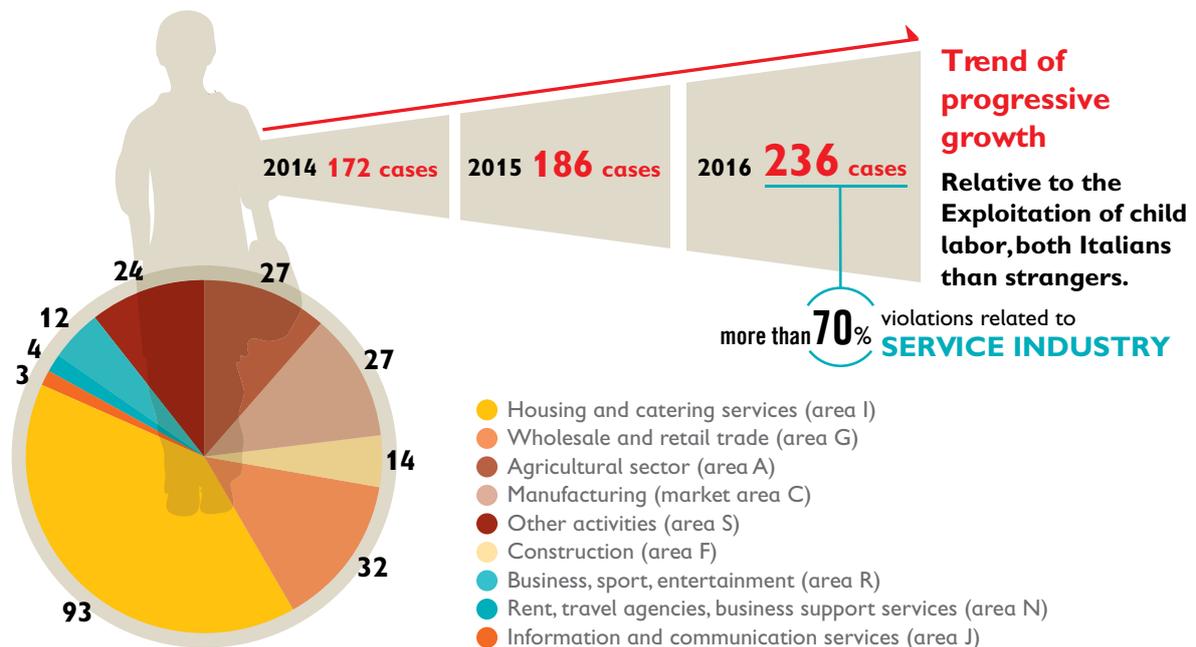


Source: Ministero dell'Interno

CHAPTER 4

As regards the labour exploitation of children in Italy, in 2016, the National Labour Inspectorate saw progressive growth, ranging from 172 cases in 2014 to 187 in 2015 and to 236 in 2016. 70% of the violations are related to the service sector. In 2016, there were 93 violations involving children, both Italian and foreign, involved in housing and catering services, followed by 32 violations involving children working in the wholesale and retail sector, 27 in the agricultural sector and 27 in the manufacturing sector, while 24 children were exploited in other sectors. The remaining violations relate to minor workers employed in the building, entertainment rental, and support services.

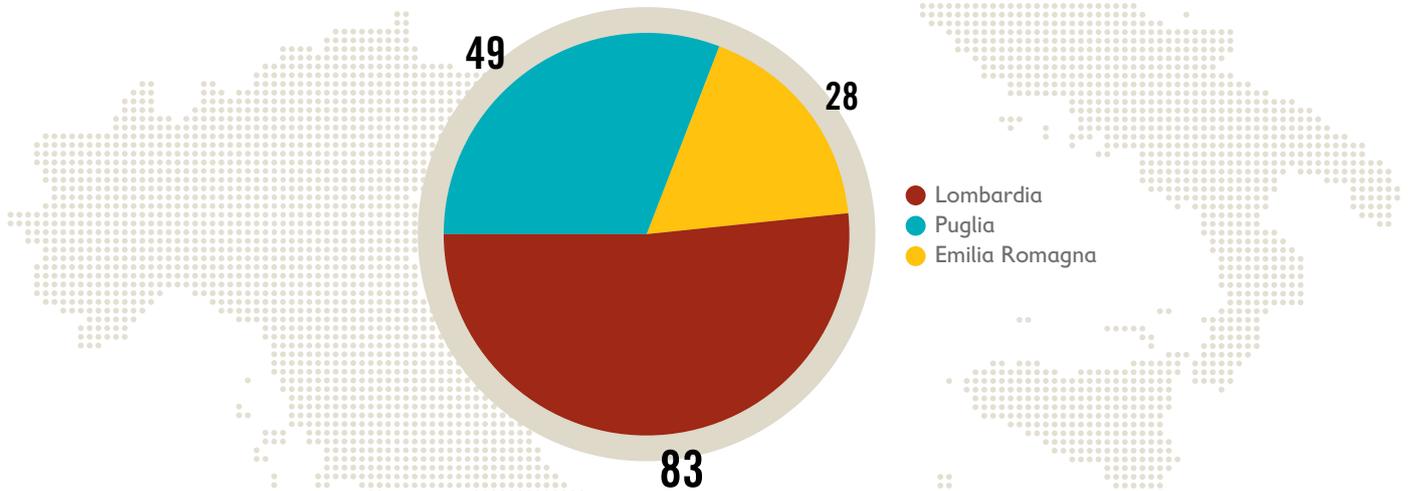
The sectors of the exploitation



Source: Ispettorato Nazionale del Lavoro

The exploitation of minors is reported extensively from North to South Italy. According to data from 2016, most of the violations were reported in Lombardy (83), Puglia (49) and Emilia Romagna (28). However, over the past three years, Lombardy has become the region with the greatest number of violations, ranging from 48 to 2014, 68 to 2015, 83 to 2016.

Regions with the greatest number of reports



Source: Ispettorato Nazionale del Lavoro

4.1 The transnational criminal model: from Nigeria to Italy

The evidences collected by Save the Children and other organizations working in combating trafficking in human beings allow to identify the key criminal figures operating in this illegal business.



Foto: Riccardo Venturi per Save the Children

THE CRIMINAL CHAIN

From Nigeria to Europe:
who profits from
trafficking and
exploitation of girls.

KEY PHASES OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL CHAIN:

1. Recruiting in Nigeria.
2. Transport and concentration of children in Libya.
3. Sale of victims to Ghanaian and Libyan criminals.
4. Acquisition of victims from Libya by the mamans active in Italy.
5. Arrival in Italy, insertion into the reception facilities.
6. Interception by maman's lieutenants in the reception centers.
7. Induction to escape from the structures and subsequent disappearance of the girl.
8. Transfer to the cities of exploitation.

#BOGA #TROLLEYMAN

Nigerian citizens who operate for the transfer of the victims from **Nigeria** to **Niger**. Here, they sell trafficked girls to Arab criminal groups who transport them into **Libya** and segregate these girls in the connection houses.

#CONTROLLERS #LIEUTENANTS

Figures active when the victims arrive in Italy in the places of disembarkation and first reception. They inform traffickers about the arrival of the girls and teach victims how to deal with the national identification system and entrance to the reception center.

Many controllers are often themselves victims, who carry out these tasks in exchange for a reduction of their debt.

#RECRUITERS

Belonging to parental network of victims, recruit girls in **Nigeria** and organize their transfer to **Libya**.

#BROTHER #MAMAN

Active in **Italy**. They buy the victims detained and exploited in the connection houses and organize their travel to Italy and **Europe**.

#ACCOMPLICES

Working in the Italian territory for the "sorting" of girls and their management at work places.

The relationship between the victim and the maman is complex: current exploiters have been often victims themselves and this makes ties with girls extremely ambiguous, because the latter could perceive a career as a maman in a criminal network as a viable chance to achieve economic success.

4.2 The transnational criminal model: from Rumania to Italy

In Rumania the recruiting of the victims of trafficking is mainly managed by the so-called *boyfriend*. Generally an adult much older than the girls lured into trafficking. These men push victims to engage in illegal activities already in the Country of origin and drive them to abandon their families when they disagree with the relationship. According to Save the Children's sources, frequently, a romantic relationship between exploiter and victim makes it hard for the victim to see clearly that she is being exploited. Often girls are convinced they are acting of their own free will and they do not recognize the influence exerted by their partners, who actually control them through constant telephone calls or by keeping watch on the place where they work.



To ensure early identification, protection and assistance for child victims of trafficking and exploitation, and to allow full activation of their rights, Save the Children recommends:

1. To the Italian Department of Equal Opportunities - Presidency of Council of Ministers:

- to implement and monitor the commitments under the National Action Plan against Trafficking and Severe Exploitation, ensuring that financed projects increasingly offer services and interventions to protect minors victims of trafficking;
- to define, with the support of the local authorities and of the victim protection associations, an integrated system of services for the child victims of trafficking and severe exploitation;
- to ensure that the Single Programme for Emergency, Assistance and Social Integration, as approved in 2016, the anti-trafficking toll number and the *regional operations units* active in each Region intercept and properly address the needs of children who are victims of trafficking and exploitation. With this aim, Save the Children recommends provision of an adequate number of available protected places and a joint initiative between Governmental and NGOs that guarantees that children are immediately cared for and rapidly relocated from the place of their identification;
- to provide for and to coordinate at national level an analysis of the situation including both quantitative and qualitative data highlighting also the hidden features of trafficking and exploitation in children, since data provided by the Italian Government only reveals the emerged part of the phenomenon;
- to allocate a proportion of the overall funds dedicated to the single programme of emergency, assistance and social integration to finance awareness campaigning at national level on trafficking and severe exploitation of minors, specifically addressing young generations in order both to increase their knowledge of the phenomenon and avoid collusion with it.

2. To the Autonomous Regions and Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, Municipalities, Metropolitan Cities, mountain communities, mountain community unions, municipal unions and their consortia acting as proposing and implementing actors of the Call for Proposals 2/2017, published by the Department for Equal Opportunities for the Single Emersion Program:

- to ensure interventions specifically focused on child victims of trafficking, providing them adequate reception conditions and psycho-social, health and legal assistance, and ensuring a long-term protection pathway beyond the age of majority as stated in Art. 17 of Law 7 April 2017, no. 47 “Provisions on measures for the protection of unaccompanied minors”.

3. To the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies:

- to combat labour exploitation by enhancing job controls, especially in those territories where forms of child labour exploitation is strong;
- in addition, it is requested to integrate the Minor Information System (SIM), established with D.P.C.M. 535/1999 (Articles 2 (i) and 5) and Legislative Decree no. 142/2015 (Article 19, paragraph 5), and the social folder of the child established with the Art. 9 of Law No. 47/2017, with data on unaccompanied minors victims of trafficking disaggregated by age, gender, origin and type of exploitation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. To the Ministry of Justice:

- to strengthen data collection and to share statistical data on offenders and criminals dealing with trafficking and exploitation of minors, constantly updating data about final judgments relating to trafficking offences ex Art. 600, 601, and 602 of the Italian Criminal Code.

6. To the Italian Government:

- to define, without any delay, the implementing Decrees of Law 47/2017 promptly allocating funds to ensure adequate protection and assistance of minor victims or those at risk of trafficking, as stated in the Art. 17 of the above-mentioned law.

7. To the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator of the European Commission:

- to strengthen and promote inter-institutional dialogue on trafficking and severe forms of exploitation in minors both at EU level and Member State level to enforce knowledge-based action on emerging issues related to child trafficking, using updated systems of data collection, analysis and exchange at national and transnational level.

8. To the European Commission:

- to update the EU Strategy in Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016) by providing dedicated interventions to analyse the growing phenomenon of victims recruited over the internet and via social networks — including recruitment with the help of intermediaries.

Notes

- ¹ UNODC, 2016, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf
- ² European Commission, 2016. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings.
- ³ Ministero dell'Interno, 2016. Dipartimento della Pubblica Sicurezza, Direzione Centrale dell'Immigrazione e della Polizia delle Frontiere. Riepilogo per nazionalità delle persone sbarcate.
- ⁴ Save the Children Italy, Project Vie d'Uscita, <https://www.savethechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/progetti/vie-uscita>
- ⁵ Anti-Trafficking National Platform, <http://piattaformaantitrattra.blogspot.it/2017/05/prima-mappatura-nazionale-della.html>
- ⁶ Art.3, lett. a) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- ⁷ Art.3, lect. a), Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: "Smuggling of migrants shall mean the procurement, to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident".
- ⁸ Art.3, lect. a) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- ⁹ Ditmore, M. H. (Ed.), 2006. Encyclopedia of Prostitution and Sex Work: AN. Vol. 1. Greenwood Publishing Group.
- ¹⁰ EASO, 2016. Country of Origin Information Report Eritrea National service and illegal exit.
- ¹¹ Council Decision (EU) 2015/1523.
- ¹² European Commission, 2016. Human Trafficking in the EU - Slavery of new times, https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/infographic_on_human_trafficking_-_facts_and_figures_1.pdf
- ¹³ Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Statistics and Organizational Analysis, https://webstat.giustizia.it/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx
- ¹⁴ Ministero Interno, Relazioni sull'attività delle forze di polizia, sullo stato dell'ordine e della sicurezza pubblica e sulla criminalità organizzata, 2015.
- ¹⁵ Ministero della Giustizia - Direzione Generale di Statistica e Analisi organizzativa disponibile su https://webstat.giustizia.it/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx
- ¹⁶ Ministero dell'Interno, Relazioni sull'attività delle forze di polizia, sullo stato dell'ordine e della sicurezza pubblica e sulla criminalità organizzata, 2015.
- ¹⁷ Ministero della Giustizia - Direzione Generale di Statistica e Analisi organizzativa disponibile su https://webstat.giustizia.it/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx



Foto: Francesco Alesi per Save The Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In Italy and around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard.

We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.



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