

Refugee Youth in Sweden who arrived as Unaccompanied Minors

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Outline

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- Sweden
- Administrative process/different stages
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Definition

UASC: Children under 18 years of age who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents and their legal/customary caregiver are defined as unaccompanied minors / separated children.

Background

- 65 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of 2015 (refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs) (UNHCR, 2016).
- More than half (53%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia.
- The proportion of children increased from 41 in 2009 to 51 percent in 2015.
- We do not know the exact figures of unaccompanied minors.

UNHCR figures

- 2013: 25,300 UM sought asylum in a total of 77 countries
- 2014: 34,300 UM in 82 countries
- 2015: 98,400 in 78 countries
- But does not reflect the real numbers of unaccompanied minors displaced!
- (Border Patrol South Texas: 38,833 UASC in 2013 (mostly from Honduras); ~90,000 2014.)
- *Identifying children without parents and having data on this group is important for the visibility, rights and identifying challenges and achievements of this group.*

Why Sweden

- Largest number of asylum claims in Europe
 - Europe received more than half of the asylum claims by UASC in 2015.
 - Sweden registered the greatest number of asylum claims by UASC (35,369) in the EU28 (followed by Germany, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Netherlands and UK).
- Legal channels (observable)
 - Italy (undocumented unaccompanied minors)
 - In Sweden unaccompanied minors arrive predominantly as asylum seekers instead of through other channels (incentive to seek asylum with an exception for some countries of origin for e.g. Morocco).
- Data
- *Sweden is unique in terms of availability of high quality data on this group.*

Summary (Age)

- Majority are 16 or 17 years old by the time they are registered.
- Some are 18 but they were below 18 when they applied for asylum.
- Boys are older than girls on average.
- Increase in the number of small children...??

Summary (demography)

- Majority are boys (75 percent); however varies by which countries they come from, thus varies by years as well.
- Majority are boys from countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Gender composition is balanced for those coming from Eritrea and Somalia.

Unaccompanied children 2013

Age	Gender composition	Total
	<u>Girls</u>	
0-6	48%	2%
7-12	40%	8%
13-15	15%	32%
16-17	14%	57%
Total	668	3852

Summary (countries of origin)

- Few countries are important.
- Slightly varies over time (depending where the crises is more acute).
- Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Eritrea, Syria.
- Also countries with few UM.

Summary (family reunification)

- 27% have at least one parent in Sweden (21% of boys and 44% of girls).
- 9% have both of their parents in Sweden.
- 18% of boys and 38% of girls are reunified with their mother.
- 9% of boys and 20% of girls are reunified with their father.

International Conventions and Guidelines

- UN Convention on the Status of Refugees (1951)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- The Principle of Best Interests of the Child (an overarching principle and guidelines) (2006)
- To influence: law making, administrative decisions and all other actions affecting the children.
- Specific provisions in the legislation for UAM who arrive in the EU without applying for international protection.

The administrative process

- Not more than 3 months according to law
- On average 4 months (for many longer time)
- Missing documents as explanation
- Age? (below 18?); tests
- From which country? And which part of the country? Testing language spoken
- 2013: 66%, 509 were rejected; 83 were rejected according to the Dublin-convention; 473 withdrew or disappeared (3,852)
- 2014: 75% (7,050)
- 2015: % (35,250)
- 2016: % (1,796) (September, 13)

Introductory stage

- Reception process (Local Governments)

- Accommodation placement (Public: ABO, HVB, foster home; Private: EBO)
 - Importance of staff, daily contact with persons from the Swedish society
 - Lack of clear goals, standards, training and support for the personnel, inappropriate placement
 - EBO out of reach, lack of proper initial screening and further controls
- Appointment of guardians
 - Importance of a main adult contact to trust and receive guidance (Ombusman for Children)
 - Selection, inspection, delays, feedback.
- Public council
- Initial screening, health, education, needs
- Education
- Health

*Cooperation, inspection, feedback, evaluation.

- Asylum process (Migration Agency)

- Age assessment
- Identity assessment
- Investigating family circumstances
- Asylum decision

Literature

Unaccompanied minors / Refugee children

- Resilience vs vulnerability (Ni Raghallaigh and Gillian, 2010)
- Mental health (Huemer and Karnik, 2009)
- Education (Taylor and Kaur Sidhu, 2012; McHugh and Sugarman, 2015)
- Fleeing process (Bucci et al. 2004)
- Reception, asylum experiences (Derluyn and Broekaert, 2008)
- Lack of research with comprehensive longitudinal nation-wide data on the situation and outcomes of this group.

Who comes to Sweden?

- Between 2008 and 2013, UM seeking asylum in the EU did not increase (increase in 2014 and especially in 2015).
- However, between 2008-2013 the distribution across countries have changed.
- Those seeking asylum in Sweden and Germany have increased while those seeking asylum in the UK and the Netherlands have declined.

Data

- Statistics Sweden (SCB)
 - High quality register data in Sweden, where every person has a record: by-product of registers held for administrative purposes
 - The Population Registry is administered by the Swedish Tax Agency
 - Main source (multigeneration register, education register, earnings register, geography register, etc.)
 - personal ids are anonymized + all projects must undergo ethical vetting for each data source
- Migration Board (the decision process)
- The National Board of Health and Welfare (in patient, out patient registers, housing).

The study includes

- The whole population of UM registered in Sweden during the years 2003-2012, Age: 19-26.
- Compare with those who arrived as children from the same countries of origin but with their parents (10 percent random sample).

Our question

- This is the most exposed and fragile feature of migratory flows into the EU.
- Lack social relationships and familial system at a crucial developmental period of their life in a new culture and they have to overcome various obstacles in relation to key integration areas.
- Influence on labor market outcomes later in life
- Vulnerability vs resilience

A group defined as in need of protection:

Main responsibility state versus parents:

- Legal guardian, housing facilities, daily contact with staff, navigating self in the system, activities, informal networks

Education in Sweden

- 15 compulsory education
- 16 compulsory school or high school
- 17-21 high school, komvux
- 22 komvux, folkhögskola, högskoleutbildning, other forms of education

Proportion (%) of those aged 16-27 undergoing education at different ages

Age	Women	Men
16	68	70
17	74	82
18	84	92
19	77	88
20	62	67
21	56	50
22	43	35
23	38	29
24	40	26
25	36	24
26	22	26
27	23	15

Proportion (%) of unaccompanied minors aged 16–27 with employment

Ålder	Kvinnor	Män
16	0	0
17	0	1
18	2	5
19	9	12
20	11	19
21	22	33
22	29	45
23	40	53
24	46	60
25	51	62
26	47	65
27	42	65

Proportion (%) of those aged 16–27 who are not in employment or education (NEET)

Ålder	Kvinnor	Män
16	30	28
17	25	16
18	14	5
19	19	6
20	28	13
21	29	18
22	31	17
23	30	19
24	28	14
25	22	16
26	33	17
27	39	18

Employment

- Low employment rates among teenagers; higher for those age 21 and older
- Higher employment rates among men than among women (larger differences than among Swedish born)
- Concentrated to some mainly jobs with low qualification requirements (different for males and females)
- NEET rates are high among females

Employment

- Empowering
- Social inclusion
- Language
- Reduce depression (Warfa et al., 2012)
- Knowledge & information on the workings of the society and the labor market
- Financial, support self and family
- Education, training opportunities
- Success & well-being: types of jobs, ability/opportunity to give direction to their situation in the labor market.

Sample means for youth who arrived as unaccompanied and accompanied minors by gender (age 19–26).

	Unaccompanied		Accompanied	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
<i>Demographic characteristics</i>				
Age	20.86	20.62	22.34	22.34
Employed	0.20	0.27	0.39	0.44
Earnings (log)	10.40	10.46	10.91	11.06
Under education	0.59	0.62	0.49	0.41
Compulsory edu. (<9 yrs.)	0.15	0.24	0.05	0.05
Compulsory edu. (9 yrs.)	0.21	0.22	0.19	0.25
High school	0.23	0.18	0.44	0.46
Short tertiary edu.	0.02	0.02	0.10	0.07
Long tertiary edu.	0.07	0.02	0.12	0.07
Missing edu.	0.38	0.33	0.10	0.09
Days registered/100	16.68	15.30	48.55	48.84
Single	0.63	0.86	0.71	0.89
Internal migration	0.26	0.21	0.24	0.20
<i>County of residence</i>				
Stockholm county	0.33	0.25	0.33	0.30
Skåne	0.08	0.11	0.13	0.13
Västra Götaland	0.15	0.14	0.17	0.18
Other counties	0.44	0.50	0.38	0.38
<i>Country of origin</i>				
Afghanistan	0.04	0.29	0.04	0.04
Iraq	0.15	0.40	0.22	0.26
Somalia	0.45	0.18	0.06	0.08
Other countries in the M.E.	0.05	0.03	0.32	0.30
Other countries in Africa	0.23	0.07	0.10	0.10
Europé	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00
Other countries in Asia	0.02	0.02	0.27	0.23
Number of observations	2,565	7,706	24,783	24,535

Factors influencing employment (I)

Estimations with only unaccompanied minors
(probit, marginal effects); all, men, women
(age:19-26)

- Female (-), age (+), education (+), taking part in education (-), country of origin, single (-) for males
- Time in Sweden (+)
- Parents joining (-) for females
- Internal migration (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)

Factors influencing employment (II)

Estimations with youth arrived as UM and comparison group; (probit, marginal effects); all, men, women

- Unaccompanied minors (+) for both males and females

- Demand side factors: discrimination
- Supply side factors: selection in immigration, differences in fleeing process, differences in adjustment process.
- Policies: regulations and practices (asylum, reception, housing, guardianship).

Earnings equations (log earnings) (I)

Estimations with only refugee youth arrived
as UM (OLS); all, men, women

For males:

- Age (+)
- Time in Sweden (+)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)

For females:

- High school (+)

Earnings equations(log earnings) (II)

Estimations with refugee youth arrived as UM
and comparison group; (OLS); all, men,
women

- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Unaccompanied minors (+) males & females
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- First year (-)
- Moving (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +++)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan +)

Some conclusions

- The longer UM have been in Sweden the higher their employment rate is (given age).
- UM have a higher employment rate than those who arrived with their parents (given age and education).
- Those who are settled in Stockholm have a higher employment rate than those living in other regions in Sweden.

Some conclusions

- Wage income increases with age and time in Sweden.
- Wage income is higher for UM compared with those who arrived with their parents from the same countries of origin (given age and education).
- Compared with those with a background in Sweden UM have almost the same level of wage income (with controls). Not hourly wage!

Estimation of a probit model for employment and being under education for youth who arrived as unaccompanied and accompanied minors from the same countries, marginal effects.

Variables	All (1)	All (2)	Male	Female
Unaccompanied	-0.022	0.018	0.008	0.019
	(0.003)**	(0.005)**	(0.005)	(0.009)*
Female		0.019		
		(0.003)**		
Number of observations	59,589	59,589	32,241	27,348

* indicates significance at the 5-% level, and ** at the 1-% level.

Estimation of a probit model for not being employed and not being under education for youth who arrived as unaccompanied and accompanied minors from the same countries, marginal effects.

Variables	All (1)	All (2)	Male	Female
Unaccompanied	-0.036	-0.073	-0.055	-0.074
	(0.005)**	(0.005)**	(0.007)**	(0.009)**
Female		0.009		
		(0.004)*		
Number of observations	59,589	59,589	32,241	27,348

* indicates significance at the 5-% level, and ** at the 1-% level.

Estimation of a probit model for employment for youth who arrived as unaccompanied minors and those born in Sweden whose parents are also born in Sweden, marginal effects, year 2012.

Variables	All (1)	All (2)	Male	Female
Child+parents born in Sweden	Reference category			
Unaccompanied	-0.373	-0.040	-0.025	-0.142
	(0.008)**	(0.011)**	(0.013)	(0.025)**
Female		0.023		
		(0.004)**		
Controls	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Number of obs.	75,569	75,569	39,717	35,852

* indicates significance at the 5-% level, and ** at the 1-% level.

Estimation of an OLS model for earnings for youth who arrived as unaccompanied minors and those born in Sweden whose parents are also born in Sweden, year 2012.

Variables	All (1)	All (2)	Male	Female
Child+parents born in Sweden	Reference category			
Unaccompanied	-0.189	-0.000	-0.011	0.024
	(0.024)**	(0.024)	(0.025)	(0.058)
Female		-0.251		
		(0.006)**		
Controls	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Number of obs.	46,786	46,786	24,345	22,441

* indicates significance at the 5-% level, and ** at the 1-% level.

Question

Mechanisms behind our findings

- Selected group (with high capacity?)
- More support to navigate in the Swedish society?
- Higher pressure to support their families abroad?
- Higher pressure to support themselves?

Some questions

- The situation and the future (short and long run) for the more recent arrivals?
 - Several legislative changes
 - Changes in group composition
- What happens to UM in the longer run?
 - Occupational segregation
 - Low qualification jobs
 - Dead end or can they move on
- Mechanisms behind the gender gap!?
- Differences across the regions within Sweden?
 - Labor market strength
 - Differences in practice
 - Selection/internal migration

Current questions

- Education
- Residential + housing effects
- Health
- Arrival / asylum procedures

Thank you!

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