

Unaccompanied and Separated Refugee Minors in Sweden

Aycan Çelikaksoy* & Eskil Wadensjö

Stockholm University

Presentation at SUITS Higher Seminar (Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies) 19 May 2015

*Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University Linnaeus Center for Integration Studies (SULCIS) aycan.celikaksoy@sofi.su.se



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN EUROPEAN UNION
Europeiska flyktingfonden European Refugee Fund

Outline

- Background & Introduction
 - Why Sweden
 - Identification and visibility
- Data / Project
- Overview/Trends:
 - Gender, age, country of origin, where they live in Sweden
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Income
- Conclusions

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 separated children.

Background & Introduction

- 51.2 million individuals were forcibly displaced by the end of 2013 (refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs) (UNHCR, 2014).
- 86 percent of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries. (For e.g. 1.7 million Syrians are in Turkey now (1st largest refugee hosting country in the world).
- More than half (53%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia.
- Children below 18 years constituted 50 percent of the refugee population in 2013.
- Sweden was the 3rd country in terms of the number of asylum applications during 2013 in the EU (54,259) and continued to be the 3rd country in 2014 (81,301), where 28% are children (31% UASC).
- 25,300 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) in 77 countries in 2013 (UNHCR, 2014). 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.)
- *Having data on this group is important for the visibility, rights and identifying challenges and achievements of this group.*

Why Sweden

- Europe received more than half (15,700) of the asylum claims by UASC in 2013.
- Sweden registered the greatest number of asylum claims by UASC (3852) in the EU28 (followed by Germany, UK and Austria) (in 2013) and this figure has almost doubled in 2014 (7049).
- Italy (undocumented unaccompanied minors).
- In Sweden unaccompanied minors arrive predominantly as asylum seekers instead of through other channels.
- *Sweden is unique in terms of availability of high quality data on this group.*

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 under go ethical vetting for each data source
- Migration Board
- The National Board of Health and Welfare

Overview of the group we are talking about Asylum applications in Sweden

| All asylum applications in Sweden in 2013 | Children | Unaccompanied children |
|---|----------|------------------------|
| 54,259 | 30% | 23% |

Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, Eritrea, Morocco

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 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| First instance residence permit | 52% |
| Total residence permit | 82% |

The 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

The four countries from which the largest number of unaccompanied minors was registered each year (by country of birth); the proportion of girls is listed in parentheses

| Year | Largest number | Second largest number | Third largest number | Fourth largest number |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2003 | Iraq (14) | Somalia (58) | Afghanistan (11) | Rest of Africa (56) |
| 2004 | Somalia (53) | Rest of Africa (67) | Afghanistan (0) | Rest of Europe (57) |
| 2005 | Somalia/ Rest of Africa (56)/(39) | Iraq (43) | Afghanistan (33) | Eritrea/Rest of Europe (0)/(50) |
| 2006 | Iraq (25) | Somalia (61) | Afghanistan (5) | Eritrea (54) |
| 2007 | Iraq (11) | Afghanistan (2) | Somalia (41) | Rest of Africa (28) |
| 2008 | Iraq (11) | Somalia (44) | Afghanistan (3) | Rest of Africa (50) |
| 2009 | Somalia (42) | Afghanistan (2) | Iraq (15) | Eritrea (58) |
| 2010 | Afghanistan (1) | Somalia (44) | Iraq (29) | Eritrea (43) |
| 2011 | Afghanistan (5) | Somalia (35) | Iran (17) | Eritrea (53) |
| 2012 | Afghanistan (11) | Somalia (44) | Rest of Asia (46) | Eritrea (56) |

Age composition

- Most of them are 16-17 years
- Those aged 18 or 19 years arrived at an age below 18 but were included in the population register in the year they became 18 or 19
- Boys are on average older than the girls at arrival
- The very young children?

Age distribution among unaccompanied minors who were registered in 2011 and 2012 – number of children

| Age | Girls | | Boys | |
|-----|-------|------|------|------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 19 |
| 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 2 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 11 |
| 3 | 1 | 21 | 0 | 14 |
| 4 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 28 |
| 5 | 2 | 27 | 3 | 29 |
| 6 | 4 | 40 | 1 | 28 |
| 7 | 6 | 48 | 6 | 40 |
| 8 | 0 | 48 | 7 | 43 |
| 9 | 5 | 46 | 7 | 64 |
| 10 | 2 | 67 | 7 | 70 |
| 11 | 8 | 62 | 9 | 60 |
| 12 | 6 | 64 | 15 | 77 |
| 13 | 11 | 77 | 37 | 108 |
| 14 | 12 | 68 | 93 | 177 |
| 15 | 32 | 91 | 233 | 305 |
| 16 | 53 | 142 | 513 | 588 |
| 17 | 80 | 148 | 572 | 558 |
| 18 | 36 | 86 | 165 | 210 |
| 19 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The four counties where the most unaccompanied minors lived the first year after being registered in Sweden; the percentage of all unaccompanied minors registered the same year is listed in parentheses.

| Year | Largest number | Second largest number | Third largest number | Fourth largest number |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 2003 | Stockholm County (27) | Västra Götaland County (18) | Skåne County (9) | Västernorrland County/Örebro County (7) |
| 2004 | Stockholm County (23) | Västerbotten County (13) | Västra Götaland County/Uppsala County (11) | Örebro County (10) |
| 2005 | Kronoberg County (16) | Stockholm County (13) | Östergötland County (11) | Skåne County/ Västra Götaland County/ Örebro County (8) |
| 2006 | Stockholm County (26) | Västerbotten County (16) | Skåne County (13) | Västra Götaland County (11) |
| 2007 | Stockholm County (30) | Västra Götaland County (15) | Västerbotten County (12) | Skåne County (11) |
| 2008 | Stockholm County (22) | Skåne County (9) | Västra Götaland County (8) | Västerbotten County (6) |
| 2009 | Stockholm County (16) | Västerbotten County (9) | Norrbottn County (8) | Västra Götaland County (7) |
| 2010 | Stockholm County (19) | Skåne County (12) | Västra Götaland County (11) | Västerbotten County (7) |
| 2011 | Stockholm County (14) | Skåne County (13) | Västra Götaland County (12) | Västerbotten County (7) |
| 2012 | Stockholm County (20) | Västra Götaland County (18) | Skåne County (6) | Västerbotten County (5) |

Education

- -15 compulsory school
- 16 compulsory school, secondary school
- 17-21 secondary school, municipal school for adults (komvux)
- 22- komvux, folk high school, higher education, 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 |

Employment

- Low employment rates among teenagers; higher for those in their twenties
- Higher employment rates among men than among women (larger differences than among Swedish born)
- Concentrated to some mainly unqualified occupations (different for men and women)
- Wage income increasing by age
- NEET rates are high among women

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

| Age | Women | Men |
|-----|-------|-----|
| 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 |

Note: Proportion with employment during a reference week in November each year, according to register-based employment statistics from Statistics Sweden.

The average income for those with a salary in 2012 (in SEK thousand),
divided by age

| Age | Men | | | Women | | |
|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|--|-------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | All | Those who combine work with studies | Those who do not combine work with studies | All | Those who combine work with studies | Those who do not combine work with studies |
| 18 | 61.7 | 52.7 | 108.2 | 43.2 | 43.3 | 42.5 |
| 19 | 81.6 | 70.3 | 112.6 | 73.2 | 70.5 | 79.7 |
| 20 | 128.5 | 114.3 | 141.6 | 112.6 | 99.3 | 134.6 |
| 21 | 152.6 | 129.6 | 164.6 | 125.8 | 115.2 | 139.9 |
| 22 | 174.7 | 144.0 | 186.3 | 133.1 | 118.8 | 140.4 |
| 23 | 181.7 | 141.7 | 194.7 | 136.5 | 127.7 | 141.5 |
| 24 | 198.8 | 161.2 | 209.8 | 156.7 | 131.5 | 171.9 |
| 25 | 234.0 | 221.0 | 237.3 | 172.5 | 185.3 | 166.3 |
| 26 | 234.1 | 190.1 | 246.5 | 168.7 | * | 166.2 |
| 27 | 243.4 | * | 249.3 | 206.4 | * | 198.2 |

* Too few observations

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

| Age | Women | Men |
|-----|-------|-----|
| 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 |

Factors influencing employment I

Estimations with only unaccompanied children (probit); all, men,
women

- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- Parents joining (-)
- First year (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)
- Moving (-)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan +)

Factors influencing employment II

Estimations with unaccompanied children and comparison group;
(probit); all, men, women

- Unaccompanied child (+ for men)
- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- First year (-)
- Moving (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan + for all groups except Europe)

Wage income equations (log wage)

Estimations with only unaccompanied children (ols); all, men, women

- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- Parents joining (0)
- First year (0)
- Moving (0)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +++) (for men)
- Country of origin (0)

Wage income equations (log wage)

Estimations with unaccompanied children and comparison group; (probit); all, men, women

- Unaccompanied child (+)
- Gender, age, education, taking part in education, civil status
- Days registered in Sweden (+)
- First year (-)
- Moving (-)
- Region in Sweden (Stockholm +++)
- Country of origin (Afghanistan + for all except Europe)

Employment for unaccompanied minors and other youth who arrived as children from the same countries. Age 16-30.

| Variabler | Alla (1) | Alla (2) | Alla (3) | Män | Kvinnor |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ensamkommande | -0.277 (0.002)** | -0.025 (0.004)** | 0.057 (0.005)** | 0.039 (0.006)** | 0.007 (0.010) |
| Kvinna | | -0.023 (0.001)** | -0.042 (0.001)** | | |
| Ålder 16-18 | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | |
| Ålder 19-21 | | 0.315 (0.002)** | 0.212 (0.002)** | 0.232 (0.003)** | 0.194 (0.003)** |
| Ålder 22-24 | | 0.438 (0.002)** | 0.307 (0.002)** | 0.351 (0.003)** | 0.262 (0.004)** |
| Ålder 25-26 | | 0.464 (0.002)** | 0.331 (0.003)** | 0.373 (0.004)** | 0.286 (0.004)** |
| Ålder 27-30 | | 0.493 (0.002)** | 0.359 (0.003)** | 0.396 (0.004)** | 0.314 (0.004)** |
| Antal dagar registrerad som folkbokförd i Sverige/100 | | 0.003 (0.000)** | 0.002 (0.000)** | 0.001 (0.000)** | 0.003 (0.000)** |
| Första året | | -0.039 (0.002)** | -0.028 (0.002)** | -0.039 (0.002)** | -0.017 (0.002)** |
| Under utbildning | | -0.211 (0.001)** | -0.231 (0.001)** | -0.253 (0.002)** | -0.207 (0.002)** |
| Grundskola kortare än 9 år | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | |
| Grundskola (9 år) | | | 0.070 (0.003)** | 0.056 (0.004)** | 0.095 (0.004)** |
| Gymnasieskola | | | 0.242 (0.003)** | 0.230 (0.004)** | 0.269 (0.004)** |
| Kort högre utbildning | | | 0.174 (0.004)** | 0.169 (0.005)** | 0.195 (0.005)** |
| Lång högre utbildning | | | 0.312 (0.003)** | 0.282 (0.005)** | 0.351 (0.005)** |
| Information om utbildning saknas | | | -0.101 (0.003)** | -0.077 (0.004)** | -0.114 (0.004)** |
| Ensamstående | | | -0.041 (0.001)** | -0.132 (0.002)** | -0.008 (0.002)** |
| Län byt | | | -0.012 (0.001)** | -0.022 (0.002)** | -0.006 (0.002)** |
| Stockholms län | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | |
| Skåne | | | -0.130 (0.001)** | -0.130 (0.002)** | -0.130 (0.002)** |
| Västra Götaland | | | -0.062 (0.001)** | -0.058 (0.002)** | -0.066 (0.002)** |
| Övriga län | | | -0.083 (0.001)** | -0.089 (0.002)** | -0.078 (0.002)** |
| Afghanistan | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | |
| Irak | | | -0.041 (0.003)** | -0.033 (0.004)** | -0.038 (0.005)** |
| Somalia | | | -0.144 (0.003)** | -0.199 (0.003)** | -0.064 (0.005)** |
| Övriga länder i Mellanöstern | | | -0.062 (0.003)** | -0.068 (0.004)** | -0.031 (0.005)** |
| Övriga länder i Afrika | | | -0.055 (0.003)** | -0.106 (0.004)** | 0.021 (0.006)** |
| Europa | | | 0.054 (0.003)** | 0.027 (0.004)** | 0.102 (0.006)** |
| Övriga Asien | | | -0.005 (0.003) | -0.016 (0.004)** | 0.024 (0.005)** |
| Antal observationer | 1,072,348 | 1,072,348 | 1,072,348 | 542,826 | 529,522 |

Anm. * = signifikant på 5-% nivån; ** = signifikant på 1-% nivån

Employment for unaccompanied minors and other youth compared to those born in Sweden. Age 16-30.

| Variabler | Alla (1) | Alla (2) | Män (1) | Män (2) | Kvinnor (1) | Kvinnor (2) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Barn+föräldrar födda i Sverige | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | | |
| Ensamkommande | -0.359 | -0.102 | -0.410 | -0.091 | -0.412 | -0.180 |
| | (0.002)** | (0.009)** | (0.004)** | (0.010)** | (0.006)** | (0.017)** |
| Andra | -0.308 | -0.153 | -0.164 | -0.153 | -0.188 | -0.154 |
| | (0.002)** | (0.002)** | (0.003)** | (0.003)** | (0.003)** | (0.004)** |
| Kvinna | | -0.013 | | | | |
| | | (0.002)** | | | | |
| Ålder 16-18 | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | | |
| Ålder 19-21 | | 0.178 | | 0.191 | | 0.158 |
| | | (0.005)** | | (0.007)** | | (0.007)** |
| Ålder 22-24 | | 0.276 | | 0.310 | | 0.229 |
| | | (0.005)** | | (0.007)** | | (0.007)** |
| Ålder 25-26 | | 0.318 | | 0.349 | | 0.275 |
| | | (0.005)** | | (0.007)** | | (0.008)** |
| Ålder 27-30 | | 0.383 | | 0.412 | | 0.337 |
| | | (0.005)** | | (0.006)** | | (0.007)** |
| Under utbildning | | -0.323 | | -0.350 | | -0.295 |
| | | (0.002)** | | (0.003)** | | (0.004)** |
| Grundskola kortare än 9 år | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | | |
| Grundskola (9 år) | | 0.091 | | 0.055 | | 0.147 |
| | | (0.008)** | | (0.011)** | | (0.013)** |
| Gymnasieskola | | 0.336 | | 0.294 | | 0.406 |
| | | (0.007)** | | (0.010)** | | (0.011)** |
| Kort högre utbildning | | 0.250 | | 0.195 | | 0.326 |
| | | (0.008)** | | (0.011)** | | (0.011)** |
| Lång högre utbildning | | 0.372 | | 0.300 | | 0.460 |
| | | (0.006)** | | (0.010)** | | (0.009)** |
| Information om utbildning saknas | | -0.161 | | -0.142 | | -0.165 |
| | | (0.009)** | | (0.012)** | | (0.014)** |
| Ensamstående | | -0.013 | | -0.120 | | 0.030 |
| | | (0.004)** | | (0.006)** | | (0.005)** |
| Stockholms län | Jämförelsegrupp | | | | | |
| Skåne | | -0.122 | | -0.122 | | -0.122 |
| | | (0.004)** | | (0.005)** | | (0.005)** |
| Västra Götaland | | -0.062 | | -0.062 | | -0.064 |
| | | (0.004)** | | (0.005)** | | (0.005)** |
| Övriga län | | -0.070 | | -0.072 | | -0.072 |
| | | (0.003)** | | (0.004)** | | (0.004)** |
| Antal observationer | 311,341 | 250,913 | 130,113 | 130,113 | 120,800 | 120,800 |

Anm. * = signifikant på 5-% nivån; ** = signifikant på 1-% nivån

Some conclusions

- Increasing numbers are coming to Sweden
- Important phenomenon in the world
- Specific patterns for this group regarding age and gender
- Enter to education
- Later to employment
- Time since registration, education, being under education, country of residence, country of origin, having family in Sweden, age, moving, first year, etc. are the main predictors
- Difference between unaccompanied minors and the comparison group
- Better outcomes in Stockholm than elsewhere
- Gender gap
- Residential characteristics
- Health
- Arrival / asylum procedures

Thank you!

Aycan Celikaksoy
Stockholm University
aycan.celikaksoy@sofi.su.se