



Save the Children
Italia ONLUS

MED CRISIS IN ITALY

BACKGROUND

In 2015 the total number of migrants arrived by sea in Italy is more than **153.800** including over 21.300 woman and 16.300 children and the 75% of them are unaccompanied children.

To date, the total number of migrants arrived by sea in Italy since 1st January 2016 is 19.600, including at least 2.050 women and 3.160 children, of which 300 accompanied and 2.862 unaccompanied children. Migrants mainly come from Nigeria, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Mali. Unaccompanied children mainly come from Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

Regarding the same period in 2015, it has been registered an increase of arrivals in 2016.

THE LEADING ROLE OF SAVE THE CHILDREN ITALY FOR A COMBINED EUROPEAN INTERVENTION

As the crisis unfolds, Save the Children is stepping up its programming in Europe. Most notably, Save the Children Italy has been running programs at the southern borders of Italy since 2008 and in areas of transit such as Catania, Rome and Milan.

Save the Children Italy has been leading on the political, advocacy and programmatic issues of EU migration and refugees on behalf of European members through the Med Core Group.

OPERATIONS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN ITALY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDERS

Since the beginning of the project our teams have reached almost all children arrived at the Southern Borders and have been present in almost all disembarkation areas.

What we do:

- **Lampedusa**

We work in the First Reception Centre (CPSA) placed on the Island, to support local Authorities addressing the immediate needs of children and strength capabilities through social workers and legal advisor. Our job is to explain to them the legal process and their rights with child friendly methodology, along with assessing any specific needs they may have referring them to the relevant social services.

- **Sicily, Calabria and Apulia**

We work in disembarkation areas as well as in first reception facilities. Also in these case our job is to explain to families with children and to unaccompanied children the legal process and their rights and assessing them for any specific needs, referring them to the relevant social services. Moreover, we contribute to acknowledge condition of reception standards and provide capacity building activities. We support the authorities in the identification of long-term solutions in the children's best interest.

OPERATIONS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN ITALY AT THE TRANSIT LANDING CITIES

The majority of Eritrean and Somali unaccompanied children who reach the Italian coasts (Lampedusa, Sicily, Calabria and Apulia) disappear immediately. Most of them escape towards the larger cities, in Italy and abroad. Rome and Milan are cities of transit of migrants who mainly come from Eritrea and declared their goal to reach northern EU countries (Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany).

For these reasons Rome and Milan are called **secondary landing cities**. But is in this second phase of their journey where, mainly unaccompanied children, often end up victims of trafficking and exploitation.

In Rome (since 2009), Milan (since 2014) and Turin (since 2015), Save the Children has been working on the **«CivicoZero» Project** aimed to provide support and protect unaccompanied children in transit. Moreover the **«CivicoZero» Project** have been expanded its activities and the field staff provides legal information to children, inform them of the risks of irregular migration and child protection opportunities available, conducts outreach work, identifies child protection needs.

In particular the project is divided into:

- ✓ **Mobile units on the streets** to trace and contact the most vulnerable migrant children in the most strategic points for exploitation.
- ✓ **Day centres** which offer migrant children basic services; legal consultation to help children know their rights and how to ask for asylum, permits of stay; the regularization of their presence; expressive laboratories to allow children to re-elaborate the trauma and abuse suffered; health care; training and assistance in looking for work
- ✓ **Nighttime centre** (in Rome) which offers safety, food, clothes, a shower and warm rooms to sleep in.