

COLOMBIA

MEET A CHILD

John, ten years old in Mt. Carbon, was employed as a "trap boy" in one of the coalmines. "Work in the coal breakers is exceedingly hard and dangerous. Crouched over the chutes, the boy used to sit hour after hour picking out the pieces of slate and other refuse from the coal as it rushed past to the washers. He used to work in the mines from 4:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. five to six days a week. Payment was often late and less than the legal minimum wage. After working for some time, He began to get round-shouldered. Accidents to the hands, such as cut, broken, or crushed fingers, were common as the coal is hard. But one day, He disappeared in the chute & was picked out later smothered & 'Dead', says a coalmine worker.

TOTAL POPULATION **45,325,000**
CHILD POPULATION **14,504,000**

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

UNICEF estimates that 5% of children aged between 5-14 are involved in child labour

State of World's Children 2005,
UNICEF

In 2001, the National Administrative Department of Statistics estimated that 14.5 percent of children ages 5 to 17 were working.

The US Dept.of Labour 2003
Findings on the Worst Forms of
Child Labour.

According to a recent report released by parastatal company Mineros de Colombia, between 200,000 and 400,000 children worked in illegal gold, clay, coal, emerald, limestone, and other mining operations .And children also worked extensively in agriculture, primarily on subsistence family farms.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports
on Human Rights Practices- 2004,
February 2005

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, 22,957,000 economically active people are estimated in Colombia. Of them, 240,000 are estimated to be children in the age group 10-14.They constitute 5% of the children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

1041 females for 1000 males

CIA, factbook-2005 (Fig is an
estimate for 2005)

CHILDREN OUT SCHOOL

In 2001, there were 621,400 primary school aged children between 6-10 were out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

An estimated 3 million children aged 11 to 17 are not in school.

Watchlist on children and armed
conflict; Watchlist outraged by wide
spectrum of abuses against
children in Colombia, Feb 18th,
2004

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.841, the progress towards achieving education for all is medium

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005.

CHILD SLAVERY

Paramilitaries and guerrillas practiced forced conscription. There were some reports that guerrillas and paramilitaries used forced labor, including child labor, in areas outside full government control.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004, February 2005

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Colombia is a major source and transit country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

Most traffickers are linked to narcotics trafficking or other criminal organizations; trafficking operations include both Colombians and criminals from countries of destination.

Young Colombian women and girls are principally trafficked to Spain, Japan, Hong Kong, Panama, Chile, and Ecuador.

CHILD PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

Colombia is a major source country for girls who are trafficked abroad, primarily for sexual exploitation

The US Dept.of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) estimates that more than 10,000 girls and nearly 1,000 boys in the capital of Bogotá are working as prostitutes.

Estimates range from 20,000 to 35,000 children forced into commercial sexual work;

Watchlist on children and armed conflict; Watchlist outraged by wide spectrum of abuses against children in Colombia, Feb 18th, 2004

In Colombia, most of the pornographic materials produced involving children are destined for international commerce, however, a small portion is marketed nationally

ECPAT International Online Database.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

In 2001, the National Administrative Department of Statistics estimated that there were 20,000 children working in coca picking and other aspects of the drug trade

The US Dept.of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

CHILD SOLDIERS

As many as 14,000 child soldiers had been recruited by paramilitaries and armed opposition groups. Women and girls constituted up to half of all recruits to the armed opposition groups Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, and Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), National Liberation Army.

Girls and boys were subjected to harsh conditions, including being forced to commit serious human rights violations.

The governmental disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) program had only demobilized ten per cent of children involved in the armed conflict. There were fears that continuing disarmament talks between paramilitaries and the government could lead to impunity.

In October, the IOM estimated that between 6,000 and 11,000 children in the country were members of illegal armed groups but UNICEF reported that the number was as high as 14,000.

Insurgent and paramilitary groups have forcibly conscripted and exploited as many as 14,000 children in Colombia and from bordering areas of Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama.

Children are forcibly recruited by guerrilla and paramilitary groups in Colombia to serve as combatants, messengers, spies, and sexual partners, and to carry out such tasks as kidnapping and guarding of hostages and transporting and placing bombs.

Between 11,000 and 14,000 child soldiers; indigenous and Afro-Colombian children are often targeted for recruitment

CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Children were engaged in agriculture, commerce, industry and services. And in rural areas, most working children participate in uncompensated family agricultural and mining activities. Children also work in all aspects of the cut flower industry.

In urban areas, children work in the retail and services sectors, and in activities such as street vending and waiting tables.

There are an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 street children in Colombia

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004, February 2005

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

The US Dept. of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

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