

CONGO

MEET A CHILD

Sylvestre joined the militia because he thought he could get paid after the war. "I knew I was risking my life but I had no other choice. My mother had nothing to feed me and my brothers with."

TOTAL POPULATION 3,818,000
CHILD POPULATION 1,794,460

Population Reference Bureau - 2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

In 2001, the ILO estimated that 25.3 percent of children ages 10 to 14 years in the Republic of the Congo were working.

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

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, 529,000 economically active people are estimated in Congo. Of them, 128,000 are estimated to be children in the age group 10-14. They constitute 24.1% of the children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

1020 females for 1000 males

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

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

No confirmed data

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

No confirmed data

CHILD SLAVERY

The Constitution prohibits forced or compulsory labor, including by children; however such practices occurred.

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

CHILD TRAFFICKING

The law does not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons, and there were unconfirmed reports of trafficking of children by West African immigrants living in the country.

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

There were unconfirmed reports that the Republic of Congo was a country of destination; however, it was not a country of transit or origin.

There have been reports of trafficking of children among the Congo and other countries in West and Central Africa, including Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.

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

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Some children are also involved in prostitution

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

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

Many of the street children begged or sold cheap or stolen goods to support themselves; some may have turned to prostitution or petty theft.

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

Street children were not known to suffer from targeted abuse by government authorities or vigilante groups; however, they were vulnerable to sexual exploitation and often fell prey to criminal elements including drug smugglers.

CHILD SOLDIERS

Child soldiers were incorporated into the wider disarmament and reintegration process for combatants who fought in the conflict of 1998-9 and subsequent outbreaks of violence. They included children in the Ninja militia, which signed a final ceasefire agreement in March 2003. However, the process had apparently not begun by March 2004 because of continuing tensions between the Ninjas and government. And there were no reports of new recruitment of child soldiers by government forces.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

The 2003 ILO-IPEC study showed that children have performed a variety of tasks for armed groups, including front line combat, patrolling, and spying.

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

CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Children work for their families on farms or in informal business activities.

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

Children from West Africa worked as fishermen, shop workers, street sellers, or domestic servants.

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

Children worked with their families on farms or in small businesses in the informal sector without government monitoring or supervision.