

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MEET A CHILD

Dysan, aged 13, works in the vegetable fields everyday from dawn to the middle of the afternoon, on a hillside in the Dominican Republic. "Every dawn, I had to rush to get a place in the landowner's truck as there are other children of my age who work with me in the same fields. We pick potatoes, extract onions, dig up lettuce, behead beets, cut, and gather garlic bulbs. Generally, it is very cold and foggy out there. The icy wind cuts my unprotected face, hands & legs. We are not provided with enough clothes, gloves & shoes. Hence, there is always a risk of being injured by sharp knives & tools; & getting sick when exposed to the excessive chemicals, or herbicides and pesticides, applied in fields. I work to contribute to the low family income and to buy a pair of shoes. I also want to go to school but I am paid very little".

TOTAL POPULATION **8,820,000**
CHILD POPULATION **2,998,800**

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

As per UNICEF 9% of children aged 5-14 are involved in child labour

The State of World's Children
2005, UNICEF

The ILO estimates that 48,000 children are engaged in child labor nationwide.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in
Persons Report 2005

In 2001, the Ministry of Labor and the National Statistics Office reported that 17.7 percent of children ages 5 to 17 years in the Dominican Republic were working.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For 2010, ILO estimates that the economically active population would be 4,500,000 of which 67,000 would be children in the age group 10-14 representing 7.3% of children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

970 females for 1000 males

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

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, 32,000 primary school age children of 6-11 were out of school

UNESCO'S EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

An EDI of 0.869 suggests that the progress towards a achieving education for all is medium

UNESCO'S EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

Children from poor families are sometimes “adopted” into the homes of other families, often serving under a kind of indentured servitude, while other poor and homeless Haitian and Dominican children are sometimes forced to beg and sell goods on the streets.

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

CHILD TRAFFICKING

The Dominican Republic is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Within the country, the prostitution of minors, primarily in the tourist areas, was a serious problem. An official 2003 study estimated that 50 to 60 Haitian children were trafficked into the country each week and that many Haitian girls age 12 and older were brought into the country to work as prostitutes.

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

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No Confirmed Data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There was no compulsory recruitment into the armed forces and voluntary recruitment was usually sufficient to meet personnel requirements. And the minimum age for voluntary recruitment was 16.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Children work as agricultural workers, street vendors, shoe shiners, and domestic servants.

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