

ECUADOR

MEET A CHILD

Erique, 14-year-old, is working on banana plantations in Las Fincas since he was eleven. "We often use sharp knives and machetes to cut yellow leaves off banana plants, and curvos-short, thick, crescent-shaped blades with wooden handles-to cut bananas off their stalks, to cut plastic bags used to cover banana stalks, and for other tasks". Asking about the work conditions, he described that dragging the heavy fruit from fields to plants caused back injuries to children. In addition, stalks of bananas or wheels on the cables sometimes fall off and strike children, causing serious injuries. He adds, "We work long hours, under dangerous conditions, without proper safety equipment, and are exposed to aerial fumigation".

TOTAL POPULATION 13,402,000
CHILD POPULATION 4,824,720

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

In 2001, Ecuador's National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) estimated that 24.9 percent of children 5 to 17 years were working in Ecuador

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

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, the estimated economically active population is 6,483,000. Of them 30,000 are of the age group 10-14 years representing 2% of children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

1000 females for 1000 males

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

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, children of primary school age between 6-11 who were out of school numbered 8,500

UNESCO'S EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

The EDI for Ecuador is 0.918 and the progress towards achieving education for all is medium

UNESCO'S EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

No Confirmed Data

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Ecuador is a source, transit, and destination country for persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

A 2002 International Labor Organization (ILO) report estimated that 5,200 minors were engaged in prostitution.

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

In 2003, the ILO estimated that over 5,000 minors in Ecuador were being exploited in prostitution.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No Confirmed Data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There were reports of Colombian armed political groups recruiting under-18s in border areas of neighbouring countries, including Ecuador.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

In rural areas, young children are often found performing unpaid agricultural labor for their families.

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

In urban areas, children work in manufacturing, commerce and services, such as automobile repair and domestic service.

Many urban children under 12 years of age work in family-owned businesses in the informal sector, including shining shoes, collecting and recycling garbage, selling, and begging on the streets.