

EL SALVADOR

MEET A CHILD

Alejandra, Twelve-year-old girl, wakes up at four in the morning not to go to school, but goes to collect curiles, small molluscs in the mangrove swamps on the island of Espiritu Santo in Usulután, El Salvador. "For me, more important than the breakfast is to make sure that I have those things required throughout 14 hours when I am in the mud. These items include about a dozen cigars and at least four Pills to keep me from falling asleep. In the mangrove swamp without shoes, I have to face bad weather; mosquito bites, cuts, and scrapes from having to pull the curiles out from deep in the mud. The cigars help to repel the mosquitoes, but when I run out of them I have to put up with the insects as I move from branch to branch and from one area to another in search of shells." For Alejandra, life seems like a tunnel with no exit.

TOTAL POPULATION **6,706,000**
CHILD POPULATION **2,414,160**

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

According to the Multiple Purpose Household Survey conducted in 2001, 11.5 percent of children aged 5 to 17 were working.

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

In 2001, ILO-IPEC reported that about two-thirds of working children are located in rural areas and are involved in agricultural and related activities.

According to ILO/IPEC research, more than 220,000 children between the ages of 5 and 13 worked, with 30,000 children employed in hazardous activities.

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

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, the estimated economically active population is 3,283,000. Of them 20,000 are from the age group 10-14 years representing 2.5% of children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

1052 females for 1000 males

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

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, there were 96,000 children in primary school age group of 6-10 who were out of school

UNESCO'S EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

El Salvador has an EDI of 0.830 suggesting that the progress towards education for all by 2015 is medium

UNESCO'S EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data

CHILD TRAFFICKING

El Salvador is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION

According to a 2000 UNICEF report, between 10 and 25 percent of visible prostitutes were minors, and an estimated 40 percent of the hidden prostitutes who cater to upper class clients were believed to be minors.

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

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No Confirmed Data

CHILD SOLDIERS

Seventeen year olds must register for military service, for which all men and women are liable from the age of 18. And under-18s can volunteer for military service from the age of 16.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Approximately 60 percent of children worked in the informal sector in micro-agricultural and nonagricultural family enterprises, and they did not receive a salary.

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

In January, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that thousands of girls, some as young as age 9, worked as domestics, making them vulnerable to physical or sexual abuse.

And according to a June Human Rights Watch (HRW) report, up to one-third of sugarcane workers were children under the age of 18.