

## ERITREA

### MEET A CHILD

**Zewdi**, 14-year-old-girl, a refugee at the camp in Dighe, Eritrea has taken on work, to try and support her siblings. "When the bombs started to fall in Tokombia, we left our village and borrowed a donkey from our uncle to carry our pregnant mother. It was a hard trip; she had a stillbirth and died two weeks after arriving in the camp. After her death I tried to take care of the siblings; I tried to sell some grain to buy berbere (chili), and when they were short, I started selling water for 2 Nakfa a day. Now, there is no one in Gogne, and three weeks prior to the team's visit to the camp, I started working at the local restaurant". Among other duties and household chores, Zewdi prepares the food for her employer's family and the laundry for about 5 people.

**TOTAL POPULATION** 4,447,000  
**CHILD POPULATION** 2,001,150

Population Reference Bureau - 2004

### TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

In 2001, the ILO estimated that 38.2 percent of children aged 10 to 14 years in Eritrea were working.

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 2,583,000. Of them 228,000 are from the age group 10-14 years representing 36.1% of children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population

### GENDER RATIO

1010 females for 100 males

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

### CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 20001, 313,800 primary school age children in the age group 7-11 were out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005.

### PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.634, Eritrea's progress towards achieving education for all by 2015 is low

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005.

According to Ministry of Education estimates, the net enrollment rate of school-age children in the 2001-02 school year was approximately 38 percent

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

**CHILD SLAVERY**  
No Confirmed Data

**CHILD TRAFFICKING**

The law prohibits trafficking in persons, and there were no reports of trafficking.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

**CHILD PROSTITUTION**

Children as young as 12 years of age are reportedly involved in prostitution on the streets of Massawa and Asmara, as well as in hotels and bars.

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

**CHILDREN USED IN CRIME**

No Confirmed Data

**CHILD SOLDIERS**

There were reports of forcible recruitment of under-18s into the army. And punishments for deserting, evading conscription or infringements of military discipline included torture and arbitrary detention.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

**CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTORS**

Children work as street vendors, traders, in domestic services, in small-scale manufacturing, and on family farms.

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

Children are also reported to be involved in small-scale gold mining.

Some children worked as street vendors of cigarettes, newspapers, or chewing gum.

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