

GHANA

MEET A CHILD

Hibuc, a 15-year-old girl & Mesha, her 10-year-old brother were smuggled into Gambia without official papers to work as slaves for their Ghanaian masters. The boy was forced to work seven days a week, as a fisherman in Lake Volta, Ghana. Most of the fish caught was smoked and sent back to Ghana where it fetches a higher price. Buchi said, "We, girls were forced to "satisfy the sexual desires of older men" and some were working full-time as prostitutes. We were also made to work long hours smoking fish and selling gari, a popular Ghanaian staple made from cassava. Meanwhile, the masters' children went to school, we did usual domestic chores, like washing their school uniforms and even cleaning their shoes". The human rights watch rescued & sent the children back to Ghana.

TOTAL POPULATION **21,377,000**
CHILD POPULATION **8,550,800**

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

During the year 1999-2003, UNICEF projected a total child labour of 11925540 in the age group 5-14 yrs.

State of World's Children 2005,
UNICEF

In 2001, the Ghana Statistical Service estimated that approximately 27.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years in Ghana were working.

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

The fishing industry in Lake Volta has a high number of child laborers who work casting and drawing nets in deep waters.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

An estimated 12,434,000 would be economically active in 2010. 255,000 children between 10-14 representing 9.4% of children of that age group would also be economically active

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, there were 1,264,900 children in the primary school age group of 6-11 who were out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005.

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.712, the country's level of progress towards achieving education for all by 2015 is low

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005.

CHILD SLAVERY

Ghanaian children are trafficked internally for forced labor in fishing villages and cocoa plantations, and to urban areas in the south to work in exploitative conditions as domestic servants, street vendors, and porters. Ghanaian children are also trafficked to Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, and The Gambia for exploitation as laborers or domestic servants.

Families repent for sins by giving daughters as slaves to fetish priests

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Ghana is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced domestic and commercial labor.

CHILD PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

Ghanaian women and girls are trafficked to Western Europe — principally Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands — for sexual exploitation.

According to one report, there are approximately 125 brothels in Accra alone where young girls are forced into prostitution

Some children were connected to Trokosi shrines, although the practice has declined in recent years. Trokosi is a custom that involves the pledging of young girls for training and service to priests by their families who either seek atonement for sins committed by family members or who fear retribution if they fail to surrender a daughter to priestly service. Young girls typically perform domestic work for the priest for a period ranging from three months, or, in some cases, for three years. In the vast majority of cases, after the service is completed, the girls return to their families with no particular stigma attached to their prior service. While instances of sexual or physical abuse have occurred, there is no evidence of sexual or physical abuse as an engrained or systematic part of the practice

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There were no reports of under-18s in the armed forces.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

I Abolish, The Anti-Slavery Portal

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

ECPAT CSEC Database, http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp

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

CSUCS Global Report on Child Soldiers 2004

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

In 2003, the Ghana Statistical Service and ILO/IPEC surveyed 2,314 street children throughout the country, most of whom lived in the urban areas of the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions and had migrated from northern rural areas.

Street children in urban centers work as cleaners, waste disposal workers, vendors, beggars, and shoe shiners. Children as young as 7 years old work as porters, domestic servants, hawkers, farmers, miners, quarry workers, and fare collectors. And girl children migrate from rural areas to urban centers to serve as kayayeis, porters who trade goods carried on head loads.

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

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