

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

MEET A CHILD

Noi is a 15 year-old is from a village in Laos. She landed a job in a karaoke bar in a place on the border of Thailand and Laos thinking she would work as a stewardess. Little did she know that she would be forced to serve clients' physical needs.

BUT, there is hope for the many thousands like Noi. On June 1st, 2005, the country released media awareness campaign- "Be Smart, Be Safe", a tool kit which answers critical questions that many migrating youngsters have regarding place of work, kind of work, who to contact in case of danger etc.

TOTAL POPULATION 5,787,000

CHILD POPULATION 2,488,410

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

24% of children in the age group 5-14 years are involved in child labour

State of World's Children 2005,
UNICEF

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, an expected 3,440,000 people would be economically active. Of this 169,000 were of the age 10-14 years representing 21.6% of children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

1020 females for 1000 males

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

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, there were 128,000 children in the primary school age group of 6-10 who were out of school in Laos

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG*

With an EDI of 0.721, Laos' level of progress towards achieving education for all by 2015 is low

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data

CHILD TRAFFICKING

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in
Persons Report 2005

Laos is a source, and to an extent, transit and destination for trafficking. Many young people in age group 15-30 migrated for economic reasons to Thailand. An unknown number of them were trafficked in some sense. They end up working in sweatshops or construction sites

Trafficking happens mainly to Thailand with which it shares a long border. An estimated 250,000 to 400,000 people per year are trafficked in the East Asia region. A significant proportion of this trafficking affects the Mekong sub-region countries of Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar

Laos also acts as a transit point from where trafficking to other countries like Japan and to countries in the West happens

CHILD PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

Karaoke bars present on both sides of Thai-Laos border act as brothel fronts with most of the girls being in the age group 12-15 years

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

Amongst the Government armed forces too, the minimum conscription age of 18 is not known to be implemented in practice. There are reports of child soldiers being used by the among ethnic minority in hostilities against Government armed forces, though figures are difficult to estimate

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

No confirmed data

Shattered Dreams, Broken Promises, A profile of child trafficking in Lao PDR, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Lao PDR, UNICEF, 2004

Mekong Update and Dialogue, Volume 4 Number 2, April-June 2001 citing The Nation, Bangkok, May 15th 2001

CSUCS, Child Soldiers Global report, 2004