

LEBANON

MEET A CHILD

As a five year-old, I started off with putting the tobacco leaves in threads for drying using special steelheads. Slowly, as I turned 8, I graduated to drying and seedling transplant. In a few years, I will be involved in harvesting the plant also. I have to bear intense sunlight and have a headache everyday. I am very tired at the end of the day. I wish I had some recreational activity. Why can't I play daily or study regularly?

TOTAL POPULATION 4,502,000

CHILD POPULATION 1,260,560

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

6% of the children in the age group of 5-14 are child labourers in Lebanon

Children are employed in metal works, handicraft and artisan establishments, as well as sales, construction work and the operation of machinery. Approximately 11 percent of working children are employed in agriculture.

National reports estimated that 25,000 children aged 7 to 14 were work in tobacco cultivation, an average of 3 children per family. Most of the working children in tobacco cultivation are 12-15 years old, followed by children aged 9-12 years. They are almost all unpaid family labour, entering into the labour market at a very early age, for some as young as age three. Most of the working children found the work involved in tobacco cultivation as "tiring, boring and hard."

Close to 12,000 children aged between 10 and 14 and about 100,000 aged between 15 and 19 are economically active.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, an expected 1,656,000 people would be economically active. No child between 10-14 is expected to be economically active

GENDER RATIO

1063 females for 1000 males

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

45,000 children in the primary school going age group of 6-11 were out of school in 2001

State of World's children, UNICEF report, 2005

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

Lebanon: Child labor on tobacco plantations, a rapid assessment, research by ILO-IPEC, May 2002

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

ILO, Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population

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

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.906, Lebanon's level of progress towards achieving education for all by 2015 is medium

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

Foreign domestic servants often were mistreated, abused, and in some cases, raped or placed in slavery-like conditions

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

There were an estimated 150,000 to 180,000 domestic migrant workers in Lebanon in 2004. They are mainly from a South-East Asian country or from Sri Lanka

AUB Bulletin today, March 2004, Vol.5, No.3

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Lebanon is a destination country for African and Asian women trafficked into involuntary servitude as domestic servants. Many of these women are contracted as household workers; some Eastern European women are contracted as dancers in adult clubs.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Children are involved in prostitution in Lebanon, and sometimes find themselves in situations that amount to forced labor.

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

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is reported to occur, and in 2002, the police identified and disbanded several child prostitution rings in Lebanon.

NGO's throughout the country reported that child prostitution was a problem. The authorities discovered and broke up three child prostitution rings.

In 2003, among 428 testimonies collected by a local NGO, Dar Al Amal, about children who have been sexually exploited, 130 of them were domestic workers. Street prostitution is most apparent in Maameltein, Jounieh, Dora and Corniche al-Manara.

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

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

In southern Lebanon, Hizbollah continued its low intensity conflict with Israel with tacit government support. Hizbollah continued to involve children in political rallies in 2002 and 2003, running a social group for under-15s called the al-Mahdi Brigades.

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

The majority of officially recorded children aged 10-14 years are paid permanent workers in metal works, handicrafts and artisan establishments. Most working children are paid very low salaries, all of them earning rates below the minimum wage rate declared by the Government.

Lebanon: Child labor on tobacco plantations, a rapid assessment, research by ILO-IPEC, May 2002