

LESOTHO

MEET A CHILD

I am Lerato. My parents died of HIV/AIDS. I used to live with my grandmother and 3 siblings. At 14, I provide for all of us. Now I stay with the people I work with. I don't want to work here. Besides a lot of work, I dread the days when my master is at home. He abuses me whenever he gets a chance. He says he would pay more if I served him. Now I fear I shall die of HIV/AIDS like my parents....

TOTAL POPULATION 1,808,000

CHILD POPULATION 777,440

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

17% of children in the age group 5-14 are child labourers

The legal minimum age for employment in commercial or industrial enterprises is 15 years, and the legal minimum age for hazardous employment is 18 years; however, children under 14 years of age reportedly were employed in family-owned businesses.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, an expected 909,000 people would be economically active. 48,000 children between 10-14 constituting 18% of children in that age group are expected to be economically active

GENDER RATIO

1041 females for 1000 males

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

52,1000 primary school going children in the age group 6-12 were out of school in 2001

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.797, Lesotho's growth towards achieving education for all is low

CHILD SLAVERY

The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor, including by children, and there were no reports that such practices occurred.

State of World's Children 2005,
UNICEF

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

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population

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

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

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

CHILD TRAFFICKING

The law does not prohibit trafficking in persons; however, there were no reports by NGOs, the media, or the Government that persons were trafficked to, from, or within the country.

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

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Young girls, many of whom were orphans, reportedly moved to urban areas to work as prostitutes. Child prostitution in the country was a poverty-driven phenomenon rather than a commercial enterprise. Trend toward commercial prostitution by children under age 18 was a growing problem in the country.

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

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There were no reports of under-18s in the armed forces, although there was a risk of underage recruitment owing to low levels of birth registration.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Many urban street children worked in the informal sector. Boys, as young as ages 4 and 5 were livestock herders, carried packages for shoppers, washed cars, and collected fares for minibus taxis; girls were domestic servants; teenage girls (and a few boys) were involved in prostitution; and both boys and girls worked as street vendors.

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

Boys as young as four or five are employed in hazardous conditions as livestock herders in the highlands. Children also work as domestics, car washers, taxi fare collectors, and vendors.

HIV/AIDS facilities still to be set up; IRIN News, Mar 9th 2004

Vulnerable Children: There is an increase in number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Lesotho. An estimated 30,000 Basotho are suspected to be infected with the HIV/AIDS.

This condition leaves the children orphaned and usually they have to look after their siblings