

LIBERIA

MEET A CHILD

"I am Togar, 15 year-old. My parents and brother died in the civil war. I used to wander aimlessly on the streets of Monrovia not knowing what to do or how to live. One day, a gentleman took me to Wild Lion Football club. That day my luck changed for the good. Today, thanks to football I have a high school scholarship. I hope to complete my studies and play professional football someday. AND, I will never support any war. It only makes children like me, lonely and sad".

TOTAL POPULATION 3,487,000
CHILD POPULATION 1,638,890

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

No confirmed data on the total number of child labourers but economically active population would give a rough estimate

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

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, an expected 1,686,000 people would be economically active. 48,000 children between 10-14 constituting 9% of children in that age group are expected to be economically active

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

141,700 primary school going children in the age group of 6-11 were out of school in 2001

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.562, Liberia's growth towards achieving education for all is low

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

There were reports of forced labor, including by children, and the recruitment of child soldiers

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

Armed groups compelled people to mine gold and diamonds. During the year, however, the overall situation dramatically improved as factions disbanded.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Liberia was formerly a significant source and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Former government and rebel forces trafficked men, women, and children to serve as porters, laborers, combatants, and sex slaves during the civil war.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION

A women's rights NGO in Guinea reported that there are a lot of Liberian refugees in Guinea who are being sexually exploited. These refugees have very little protection and means of survival which leads most of the young girls into prostitution

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

Former rebel combatants continued to forcibly conscript persons, including children, to serve as porters, laborers, and sex slaves; however, there were no reports that government forces or former government militias conducted such conscriptions.

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

Over 15,000 young people were associated with fighting forces from 2000 to 2003, according to estimates, but far fewer youth than expected are going through the nationwide disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation (DDRR) process

Nothing left to lose: Legacy of Armed conflict and Liberia's children, A report by Watch list on Children and Armed conflict,

Approximately 300,000 Liberians are internally displaced and another 320,000 are refugees in neighboring countries; estimated 80% are women and children. Refugee and Internally Displaced People (IDP) girls are regularly exposed to rape, sexual abuse and commercial sex work in camps

Reports indicated that some 21,000 child soldiers needed demobilization, including an unknown number of girls abducted into sexual servitude.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

There were thousands of children living on the streets of Monrovia; however, it was difficult to tell who were street children, former combatants, or IDPs.

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