

MOROCCO

MEET A CHILD

I am Latifa, a 11 year-old girl. For the past 1 year I have been working as a servant. I wash clothes, clean utensils, take care of the baby, cook food etc. I start my day at 4 AM in the morning and go to bed only at 11 PM. I feel very tired. I wish I could sleep a little longer. For any small mistake, the lady hits me. I plan to run away. But where will I go?

TOTAL POPULATION 30,575,000

CHILD POPULATION 9,478,250

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

More than 85 percent of these children were in rural areas where 6.6 percent of boys under the age of 15 and 5.1 percent of girls are engaged in work. The majority of child labor is found in the agricultural sector. Boys and girls work as shepherds and are paid with cash or in kind. Children are also known to work as carpet weavers, metalworkers, mosaicismakers, mechanics, porters, tour guides, and street vendors.

According to the Moroccan Government, more than 538,000 children are working and more than half of them are girls.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

Of an economically active population of 15,084,000 estimated for 2010, there would be no children between 10-14 being economically active

GENDER RATIO

1000 females for 1000 males

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

437,400 children in the primary school going age group of 6-11 were out of school in 2001

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.749, the level of progress towards achieving education for all by 2015 is low

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data

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

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

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Morocco is a country of origin, transit, and destination for women, men, and children trafficked from sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and Asia. Young Moroccan victims are lured into Europe by Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, and Algerian traffickers and then forced into drug trafficking, coerced labor, and sexual exploitation.

Children are trafficked internally for exploitation as child domestics and beggars. Sex tourism involving young Moroccans in and around popular tourist destinations has also been reported.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is an increasing problem in Morocco. It is probably the most affected country in the region. The factors behind this phenomenon are poverty, the low status of women, early and forced marriage and tourism.

Boy prostitution is reported to be a growing phenomenon in Morocco.

Girls and boys working as domestic servants and street vendors are increasingly targets of child sex tourism, particularly in the cities of Marrakech and Casablanca.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

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

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

A 2001 study on street children found that they engage in diverse forms of work including selling cigarettes, begging, shining shoes, and other miscellaneous occupations. Additionally, children work as laborers in small family-run workshops that produce ceramics, jewelry, woodwork, and leather goods. Many children work as apprentices before they reach 12 years of age, particularly in the informal handicraft industry.

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 Labor's 2003 findings on worst forms of child labor

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

US Dept of Labor's 2003 findings on worst forms of child labor

CHILD SERVANTS

The number of children working illegally as domestic servants was high: 45 percent of household employees were between the ages of 10 and 12 and 26 percent were under the age of 10, according to a 2001 joint study by the Moroccan League for the Protection of Children and UNICEF.

The widespread abuse of young girls working as household maids (petites bonnes) is one of the most serious problems confronting Moroccan children. The Planning Ministry, in collaboration with UNICEF, estimate about 13,000 girls under 15 years of age are working as maids in Casablanca alone. They are especially vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.

There are 66,000-80,000 child domestic workers between the ages of 7 and 15 in Morocco. Girls are sent to work in order to top-up the income of a household

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

ECPAT CSEC Database, http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_datab

Helping hands or shackled lives?; Understanding child domestic labour and responses to it, ILO-IPEC, 2004