

PALESTINE

MEET A CHILD

With money being tough to come by, 12 year-old Abed sells plastic wallets and other wares at the Qalandia check point. This area is a dangerous zone with protesting crowds, but he has hardly any choice. Since September 2000-July 31st, 2005, 829 children died in the armed conflict between Palestine and Israel. And many children like Abed have live (d) in the shadows of crossfire....

TOTAL POPULATION 3,828,000

CHILD POPULATION 1,760,880

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

Many children under 15 worked in family farms and shops, or as street vendors, and in small manufacturing enterprises, such as shoe and textile factories. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Labor Force Survey Report, July-September 2003, 1.7 percent of children 10 to 14 years of age worked in 2003.

Survey of the labour force conducted in 2001, showed the number of working children in the (10-17) age group to be 22,525 children accounting for 3.5% of all children in this age group.

In a qualitative survey "the children of Palestine in labour market" conducted by Development studies programme, Birzeit university, it was seen that children are distributed over all work sectors; 50% of them work in the services sector and the other 50% are distributed over construction, industry and agriculture.

One-half of the working children are below 15 years of age, and work for long hours that exceed 6 hours a day and reaches 14 hours for some children.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

No confirmed data

GENDER RATIO

No confirmed data

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, 18,800 children of the primary school going age group 6-9 were out of school.

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

Children of Palestine in the labor market (a qualitative participatory study), Development studies programme, Birzeit University, October 2004

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

The siege by Israelis in March and April of 2001 had partially obstructed schooling for 60% of all Palestinian households, and completely for another 11%.

Children of Palestine in the labor market (a qualitative participatory study), Development studies programme, Birzeit University, October 2004

CHILD SLAVERY

Palestinian law does not prohibit specifically forced or compulsory labor; however, there were no reports that such practices occurred.

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

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Palestinian law does not prohibit trafficking in persons; however, there were no reports that persons were trafficked to, from, or within the occupied territories.

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

CHILD PROSTITUTION

No confirmed data

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There was no evidence of systematic recruitment of children by Palestinian armed groups. However, children are used as messengers and couriers, and in some cases as fighters and suicide bombers in attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. All the main political groups involve children in this way, including Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Girls work in sectors that are traditionally linked with women such as embroidery, tailoring, house chores, begging and agriculture.

Children who are self-employed tend to work in services while a part of the children who work with the household, intermittently work in agriculture and fishing whereas children who work in industry or construction tend to work outside the household.

Children of Palestine in the labor market (a qualitative participatory study), Development studies programme, Birzeit University, October 2004