

EL SALVADOR

Total Population: 6,154,000

CRC

138

182

Child Population: 2,606,000

✓

✓

✓



TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

For the year 2000, the ILO projected 95,000 economically active children, 19,000 girls and 76,000 boys between the ages of 10-14, representing 13.7% of this age group.

The Office of the Ombudsman for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH) estimated that 270,000 minors work, mostly as street vendors.

In the urban area, of the children between the ages of 10-15 years, 47.8% work in the commercial sector, hotels and restaurants, 11.6% in manufacturing, 13.1% in construction, 13.1% in domestic services, and 4% in the education sector.

According to the preliminary results of the inquiry (La Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples 1997), the population from 10 to 15 years old is divided in these different branches of economic activity: agriculture (67%), hotel and restaurants (11.6%), manufacturing sector (7.6%), domestic services (5.8%) and others (8%). It is necessary to mention that these figures are for the national level.

In November 1998, a joint report of the Salvadoran Institute for the Protection of Children (ISPM) and UNICEF, based on nation-wide data collected in 1996, indicated that of the 1.8 million children between 5 and 17 years of age, roughly 6.6% or 118,800 worked without attending school, and 36,200 of these were under the age of 14. An additional 5.8% or 104,400 worked but also attended schools, of these 55,300 were under the age of 14.

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

El Salvador is a source and transit country for trafficking in persons, primarily women and girls, who are trafficked to Guatemala and other Central American countries. Trafficking also occurs within the country. The majority of trafficked victims transiting to El Salvador are from Nicaragua, Honduras, and South America.

The report on the State of the Nation in Human Development of El Salvador (Estado de la Nación en Desarrollo Humano de El Salvador, 1999) emphasises that hundreds of girls from El Salvador are taken illegally to Guatemala with the promise to be employed as domestics and end up exploited and forced to be prostitutes. The procurer of the girls in Guatemala qualifies their situation as "slavery". According to the NGO Casa Alianza, the number of girls from El Salvador in this situation could be as high as 2,000.

Honduran girls, 13 and 14 year olds, were trafficked by organised crime groups in central America from the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and El Progreso under false pretenses, such as job offerings and scholarships and are sold to brothels in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico.

ILO, International Labour Office - Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population 1950-2010, STAT Working Paper, 1997

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

ILO-IPEC, Taller Latinoamericano para la formación de estadísticos y diseño de encuestas sobre trabajo infantil, Colombia, julio de 1998

ILO-IPEC, Taller Latinoamericano para la formación de estadísticos y diseño de encuestas sobre trabajo infantil, Colombia, julio de 1998

US Dept. of State, Human Rights Report, 1998

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, July 12, 2001

DNI, "La prevención y eliminación de las peores formas de trabajo infantil y adolescente un reto para la democracia y el desarrollo humano." DNI- Costa Rica, 2001

CATW Fact Book citing "More Honduran Girls Prostituted", Reuters, 28 February 1998, citing INTERPOL

CHILD PROSTITUTION

ANGO study in 1998 indicated that at least 44 % of the estimated 1,300 prostitutes in three major red light districts of San Salvador were between the ages of 13 and 18.

Between 10 and 25% of "visible" prostitutes are minors, and an estimated 40% of the "hidden" prostitutes who cater to upper-class clients are believed to be minors, according to a UNICEF study released during the year.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data.

CHILD SOLDIERS

There are indications of under-18s in government armed forces since voluntary recruitment can take place from the age of sixteen. During the civil war, some 80% of government and 20% of opposition forces were estimated to be children.

During the civil war, it has been estimated that 80% of the troops were under 18 years of age. The FMLN also recruited children, and it has been estimated that 20% of the FMLN combatants were under 18.

CHILD SERVANTS

No confirmed data.

OTHER HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

In September, the Government, IPEC, and an NGO began implementing a project that focused on removing children from the cottage production of fireworks.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000, February 2001 citing UNICEF study

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001, 12 June 2001

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999, citing War Resisters' International, The CONCODOC Project, 1998

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000