

GUATEMALA



Total Population: 11,090,000

CRC

138

182

Child Population: 5,650,000

✓

✓

✓

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

Some 2 million children toil at hard, dangerous and poorly paid jobs in Guatemala, the country with the second-highest rate of child exploitation in Latin America, after Ecuador.

In Guatemala, 2.7 % of children from 7 to 9 years are registered as a part of the economically active population refining their activities in family work. The majority of them are boys and are located in the rural area. In general, for 1998, it is calculated that 1.6 million children and adolescents participated formally, informally or marginally in economic activities forced by poverty - 56 % of them didn't receive any salary, welfare protection or vacation and 46 % worked without sufficient legal protection.

According to the National Statistics Institute, from 1998 to 1999 there were 326,095 children doing paid work, and 495,780 doing chores in the home. An estimated 80% of work accidents involve 15 to 18 year old workers who lack proper safety training.

23% of the country's children between the ages of 10-14 worked in Guatemala.

An ILO/UNICEF study notes there are approximately 900,000 children between 10-17 years employed in Guatemala.

For the year 2000, the ILO projects 219,000 economically active children, 51,000 girls and 168,000 boys between the ages of 10-14, representing 14.18% of this age group.

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

The sale of children is of particular concern in Guatemala. The sale and/or trafficking of children mainly occurs for the purpose of inter-country adoption, but there are also reports of the trafficking of children into Guatemala for the purpose of prostitution.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Approximately 20% of prostitutes are under 15 years and 60% of the prostitutes are between 16 and 18 years of age.

Child prostitution is very visible in Guatemala City. The police estimate that over 2,000 girls and boys are being exploited in over 600 brothels in the capital alone. The NGO Rádda Barnen confirmed this.

The Ministry of Labour, UNICEF, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, who visited the country in July 1999, have noted a marked increase in child prostitution over the past two years in the towns along the borders with Mexico and El Salvador.

"Two Million Children Work In Guatemala", EFE News Service, 16 September 2000 citing the report on childhood issued by the Guatemalan Archbishop's Human Rights Office

DNI, "La prevención y eliminación de las peores formas de trabajo infantil y adolescente un reto para la democracia y el desarrollo humano" citing Guatemala, The Rural Face of Human Development, 1999 DNI- Costa Rica, 2001

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US Dept. of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children: Efforts to Eliminate Child Labour, 1998

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

UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Report on the Mission to Guatemala, 27 January 2000

International Save the Children Alliance, Children's Rights: Reality or Rhetoric?, 1999

UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Report on the mission to Guatemala, 27 January 2000

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

The most common and visible form of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Guatemala is prostitution. The use of children in pornography is also known to exist, but the secrecy that surrounds this kind of exploitation makes it more difficult to establish.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

The main source of income for street children is robbery.

CHILD SOLDIERS

The minimum age for conscription is 18 years.

At the time of demobilisation, of the 2,778 URNG troops who responded to a survey, 99, including 30 females, were between the ages of 10 and 15 years and 737, including 153 females, between the ages of 16 and 20 years.

The Civil Defence Patrol (PAC), which was effectively demobilised in 1996, is believed to have forcibly recruited at least 20,000 children below the age of 15, 2% of their total strength.

It has been claimed that voluntary recruitment is usually sufficient to attract the necessary number of recruits into the armed forces. However, instances of forced recruitment have been reported since 1994, even though these have occurred on a lesser scale than during the civil war.

CHILD SERVANTS

Roughly 100,000 girls between 10 and 14 years of age reportedly work as domestics.

OTHER HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

Manufacturing -Export industries that hire children include subcontracted garment and shoe part production, small-scale mining in remote areas, and, to a lesser extent, the maquiladoras (assembly plants) in Mexico and Guatemala.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Report on the Mission to Guatemala, 27 January 2000

UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Report on the Mission to Guatemala, 27 January 2000

Guy Goodwin-Gill and Ilene Cohn, Child Soldiers, The Role of Children in Armed Conflicts, A Study on Behalf of the Henry Dunant Institute, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1994

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999 citing Rádda Barnen, Childwar Database

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999 citing Guatemalan Historical Clarification Commission, "Guatemala: Memory of Silence", 25 February 1999

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999 citing as reported by Francisco Fernández Segado, Revista de la Defensoría del Pueblo, No. 1, September 1998

IACHR, Country Report - Guatemala, 2001

US Dept. of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children, 1994