



Out-of-school children and Child Labour: facts & figures (Draft)

Out-of-school children

What does “out-of-school children” mean?

Previously, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics considered a child to be out of school if he or she was of primary school age (usually between the ages of 6 and 11 years) and not enrolled in primary school. The standard definition changed in 2005 to include all children in the official primary school age range who are not enrolled in either primary or secondary school.

How many “out-of-school children” are there?

Some facts from the Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2008:

- The total number of primary-school-age children not in primary or secondary school in 2005 worldwide was around **72 million**.
- South and West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa account for 24% (17 million) and 45% (33 million), respectively, of all out-of-school children.
- The share of girls among out-of-school children was 57% (41 million) in 2005. In sub-Saharan Africa girls accounted for 54% of out-of-school children in 2005, compared with South and West Asia at 66%, and the Arab States at 60%.

The table below shows the estimated number of out-of-school children by region in 1999 and 2005:

| | 1999 | | | 2005 | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Total (000) | % by region | % female | Total (000) | % by region | % female |
| World | 96 459 | 100.0 | 58.7 | 72 124 | 100.0 | 56.8 |
| Developing countries | 92 534 | 95.9 | 59.1 | 68 825 | 95.4 | 57.3 |
| Developed countries | 1 886 | 2.0 | 49.0 | 2 270 | 3.1 | 44.7 |
| Countries in transition | 2 039 | 2.1 | 51.0 | 1 029 | 1.4 | 49.4 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 42 423 | 44.0 | 53.2 | 32 774 | 45.4 | 54.3 |
| Arab States | 7 720 | 8.0 | 59.4 | 6 122 | 8.5 | 59.7 |
| Central Asia | 490 | 0.5 | 52.0 | 381 | 0.5 | 51.7 |
| East Asia and the Pacific | 6 824 | 7.1 | 50.5 | 9 524 | 13.2 | 52.0 |
| East Asia | 6 377 | 6.6 | 50.5 | 9 189 | 12.7 | 51.9 |
| Pacific | 447 | 0.5 | 49.9 | 335 | 0.5 | 55.5 |
| South and West Asia | 31 434 | 32.6 | 69.0 | 17 092 | 23.7 | 66.3 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 3 595 | 3.7 | 54.3 | 2 433 | 3.4 | 49.0 |
| Caribbean | 435 | 0.5 | 51.5 | 449 | 0.6 | 52.8 |
| Latin America | 3 160 | 3.3 | 54.7 | 1 983 | 2.7 | 48.1 |
| North America and Western Europe | 1 465 | 1.5 | 49.1 | 1 898 | 2.6 | 44.6 |
| Central and Eastern Europe | 2 508 | 2.6 | 56.7 | 1 901 | 2.6 | 53.1 |

The following map presents a global picture of the status of Primary Education Net Enrolment Rate (NER) and out-of-school children in 2005:



Child Labour

What is child labour?

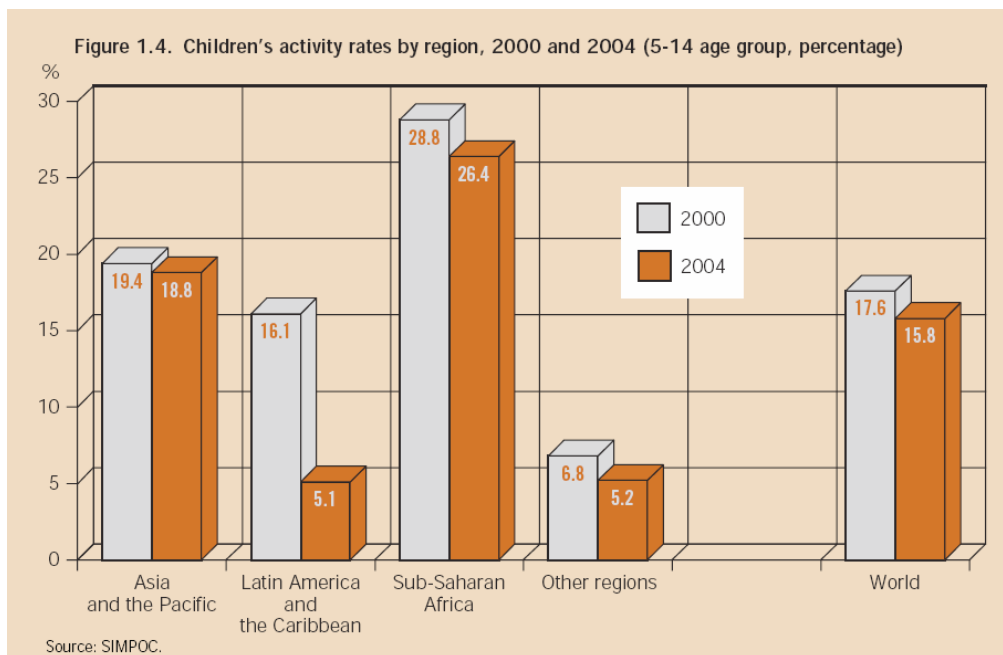
Child Labour is work performed by a child that is likely to interfere with his or her education, or to be harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This is also agreed upon in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 32.1.

How many child labourers are there?

According to a study by the International Labour Organisation in 2006:

- The number of child labourers in 2004 was **218 million**.
- In recent years, there was a steep decline in hazardous work for the age group of 5-14 years– by 33%.
- Latin America and the Caribbean are making the greatest progress – the number of children at work has fallen by two-thirds over the last four years, with just 5 per cent of children now engaged in work.
- The least progress has been made in sub-Saharan Africa, where the rates of population growth, HIV/AIDS infection and child labour remain alarmingly high.

The graph below shows child labour by region (source: *The end of child labour- Within reach, ILO, 2006*):



Why the difference between the number of out-of-school children and working children?

The figures for the number of out-of-school children and the number of working children show indeed a huge discrepancy (72 vs 218 million) . The main reason behind this is the fact that organisations compile data by taking into account only the sector they represent.

The Stop Child Labour Campaign looks at the twin problems of elimination of child labour and universalisation of education as two sides of a coin. The campaign believes that the figure given by UNESCO is based on the enrollment figures submitted by the governments. This figure invariably does not include the children who are on the rolls of schools but do not attend schools and are involved in child labour.