



## Children-at-risk: Facts and Figures

- *UNICEF* estimates that 100 million children are growing up on urban streets around the world, but in a recent report conceded: "The exact number of street children is impossible to quantify."
- In **Kenya**, young people often beg, carry luggage, or clean business premises and vehicles to survive. A 15-year-old orphan who had been living on the streets for four years said that collecting garbage, and helping load and unload market goods, earned him up to 80 KSH (US \$1) a day.
- There are an estimated 10–12,000 homeless children in **South Africa**. Children find their way on to the streets because of poverty, overcrowding, abuse, neglect, family disintegration and HIV/AIDS.
- 95% of street children in Akwa Ibom State, **Nigeria**, have been stigmatised as "witches" by pastors and abandoned to live on the streets by their parents.
- *UNICEF's* estimate of 11 million street children in **India** is considered to be a conservative figure.
- A study in 2007 in **India** found that 66% of street children lived with their families on the streets. Of these children, 52% slept on the footpaths, 17% slept in night shelters, and 31% slept in other places including under flyovers and bridges, railway platforms, bus stops, parks, market places.
- Of an estimated 400,000 street children in **Bangladesh**, nearly 10% have been forced into prostitution for survival.
- In **Indonesia** it is estimated that there are 170,000 street children.
- A study in **Peru** found that more than half of the children living on the streets had abandoned schooling several months before leaving home.
- A report in **Bolivia** found that 80% of street children in Bolivia inhale "clefa" (glue).
- In 2008-2009 a child was abandoned in **Guatemala** City every four days. Most were babies.
- In **Brazil**, 4,611 street children were murdered from 1988-1990. From 1993-1996 juvenile court statistics showed over 3,000 11 to 17 year olds met with violent deaths in Rio. The majority were believed to have been murdered by death squads, the police or other types of gangs. Death squads in Brazil can earn up to \$50 for killing a street child.

(Statistics sourced from the Consortium for Street Children, [www.streetchildren.org.uk](http://www.streetchildren.org.uk))