

## 16.2 The facts about slavery today

- It is believed there are nearly nine million children around the world today who are enslaved.  
[http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/child\\_slavery\\_briefing.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/child_slavery_briefing.pdf)
- It is estimated that over a million children are trafficked each year around the world, ending up as domestic servants, menial labourers and as child prostitutes for the sex industry.  
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- Across the world, 218 million children aged 5–17 are working as child labourers; of those children, 126 million are involved in hazardous work. Around 8.4 million of them 1 – more than the population of London – are trapped in the very worst forms of illegal, degrading and dangerous work. These children are working in conditions of slave labour.  
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- Across the Sahel region of Africa, in countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso, around 200,000 children are working in small-scale gold and mineral mines and quarries, over one-third of the total industry workforce.
- In Democratic Republic of Congo, an estimated 40,000 children are working deep underground, mining for minerals including diamonds, gold, copper and cobalt. Over a million children's lives are endangered by mining.  
[http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/41\\_544.htm](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/41_544.htm)