

Cape Verde

Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Cape Verde has launched several initiatives aimed at improving basic education and providing universal education to all children. The government's current education reform plan contains strategies for improving the curriculum, training teachers and extending compulsory basic education.⁴⁶⁵ In July 2001, Cape Verde signed a MOU with the sponsors of Education for All in Cape Verde, which include FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, and WHO, under which the sponsors will collaborate in the preparing the National Plan of Action of Education for All, work to include more stakeholders in the system, and better share information.⁴⁶⁶

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 1999, the ILO estimated that 13.7 percent of children between the ages of 10 and 14 in Cape Verde were working.⁴⁶⁷ There is no information available on the incidence of child labor in Cape Verde. There are no reports specific to children, but Cape Verde is believed to be a transit point for the trafficking of persons to Europe.⁴⁶⁸

Primary school education is mandatory between the ages of 6 and 14 years and free for children ages 6 to 12.⁴⁶⁹ In 1997, the gross primary enrollment rate was 148.8 percent.⁴⁷⁰ Primary school attendance rates are unavailable for Cape Verde. While enrollment rates indicate a level of

⁴⁶⁵ Oxfam International, *Aid and Education: The Squandered Opportunity*, policy paper, March 2000 [hereinafter *Aid and Education*], at <http://www.caa.org.au/oxfam/advocacy/education/aid/index.html> on 10/30/01.

⁴⁶⁶ Memorandum of Understanding between the sponsors of Education for All and the Government of Cape Verde at http://www.dakar.unesco.org/countries/news_docs_comnat/010816_en_capvert.shtml on 12/21/01.

⁴⁶⁷ *World Development Indicators 2001* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2001) [hereinafter *World Development Indicators 2001*] [CD-ROM].

⁴⁶⁸ *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2000—Cape Verde* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State, 2001) [hereinafter *Country Reports 2000*], Section 6f, at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2000/af/index.cfm?docid=725>.

⁴⁶⁹ Secondary education is free only for children whose families have an annual income below approximately 160,000 escudos (USD 1,390). See Embassy of the Republic of Cape Verde to the United States of America, and Canada, letter to USDOL official, October 26, 2001 [hereinafter Embassy of the Republic of Cape Verde letter]. See also *Country Reports* at Section 5. Currency conversion at <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm> on 2/7/02.

⁴⁷⁰ *World Development Indicators 2001*.

⁴⁷¹ For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see *Introduction* to this report.

commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school.⁴⁷¹ Textbooks have been made available to 90 percent of school children, and 83 percent of the teachers have attended in-service teacher training.⁴⁷² Although most children have access to education, some problems remain. For example, many students and some teachers speak Creole at home and have a poor command of Portuguese (the language of instruction); there is insufficient spending on school materials, lunches, and books; and there is a high repetition rate for certain grades.⁴⁷³

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years and prohibits children under the age of 16 from working at night or in enterprises that produce toxic products.⁴⁷⁴ Children between the ages of 14 and 18 may not work more than 38 hours per week or more than seven hours per day, except where special permission is granted, and can only work with the consent of their parents.⁴⁷⁵ Cape Verde's Constitution protects children from exploitation in the form of child labor.⁴⁷⁶ The Ministries of Justice and Labor enforce child labor laws, but only in the urban, formal sector of the economy.⁴⁷⁷ Forced and compulsory labor by children is prohibited by law.⁴⁷⁸ The Criminal Code prohibits trafficking of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and establishes a penalty of 12 to 16 years imprisonment as the penalty for infractions.⁴⁷⁹ The government has cooperated with European authorities and neighboring governments to address the issue of trafficking.⁴⁸⁰ Cape Verde has not ratified ILO Convention 138, but ratified ILO Convention 182 on October 23, 2001.⁴⁸¹

⁴⁷² The World Bank, *Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Credit in the Amount of Sdr 4.5 Million (US\$6.0 Million Equivalent) to the Republic of Cape Verde for an Education and Training Consolidation and Modernization Project*, Report No.18581-CV, April 30, 1999 [hereinafter *Project Appraisal Document*], 6, at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/pdf_content/00009494699052608145863/multi_page.pdf on 10/30/01.

⁴⁷³ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁴ Embassy of the Republic of Cape Verde letter. See also *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6d.

⁴⁷⁵ Embassy of the Republic of Cape Verde letter.

⁴⁷⁶ Constitution of the Republic of Cape Verde (1992), Article 87 (2) at <http://www.richmond.edu/~jbjones/confinder/CapeVerde.htm> on 10/12/01.

⁴⁷⁷ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6d.

⁴⁷⁸ Ibid at 6c.

⁴⁷⁹ Law No. 91/V/98, Article 406-D, as cited in *Human Rights Reports—Cape Verde*, Protection Project Database, at www.protectionproject.org.

⁴⁸⁰ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6f.

⁴⁸¹ ILO-IPEC, Ratification Map, at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/ratification/map/index.htm> on 10/30/01.

NOTE: Hard copies of all Web citations are on file.