

# Tuvalu

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

The Government of Tuvalu began a review of national education policy in 2002 in order to address concerns regarding the quality of education in the country.<sup>3666</sup> The government currently receives assistance from UNDP and UNICEF for a variety of national and regional programs that benefit children.<sup>3667</sup> UNDP provides technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of local governments in Tuvalu and implements regional basic education, non-formal education, and poverty strategy initiatives in the Pacific.<sup>3668</sup> UNICEF's programs specifically address children's health, youth development, and education.<sup>3669</sup> The Governments of Australia and New Zealand provide funds for education-related projects and activities.<sup>3670</sup> The Government of Australia supported a five-year project to improve the management and administration of the education system at the primary and secondary levels.<sup>3671</sup>

## Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Tuvalu are unavailable. Reportedly, children are rarely employed in non-traditional sectors of the economy.<sup>3672</sup>

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<sup>3666</sup> Dr. Alesana K. Seluka, Minister of Education and Sports and Minister of Health, statement at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, New York: May 10, 2002, [cited August 15, 2002]; available from <http://www.un.org/ga/children/tuvaluE.htm>. See also Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: United Nations Development Assistance Framework*, United Nations, Suva, Fiji, May 2002, 9 [cited August 25, 2002]; available from [http://www.undp.org.fj/documents/UNDAF\\_TUVALU%20May%202002.doc](http://www.undp.org.fj/documents/UNDAF_TUVALU%20May%202002.doc).

<sup>3667</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Program Info: Tuvalu*, [online] [cited November 8, 2002]; available from <http://www.undp.org.fj/tuv/tuvaluprog.htm>. See also UNICEF, *UNICEF's Programme of Assistance to Pacific Island Countries*, [online] [cited August 30, 2002]; available from [http://www.undp.org.fj/un/UNICEF/UNICEF\\_PIC.htm](http://www.undp.org.fj/un/UNICEF/UNICEF_PIC.htm).

<sup>3668</sup> Youth at the United Nations, *Country Profiles on the Situation of Youth: Tuvalu*, [online] [cited August 30, 2002]; available from <http://esa.un.org/socdev/unyin/countrya.asp?countrycode=tv>. See also United Nations Development Programme, *Program Info: Tuvalu*.

<sup>3669</sup> UNICEF, *UNICEF's Program of Assistance*.

<sup>3670</sup> Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: UN Development Assistance Framework*, Annex 3.

<sup>3671</sup> Australian Agency for International Development, *Country Brief Tuvalu*, AusAID.gov, [online] [cited September 5, 2002]; available from [http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/cbrief.cfm?DCon=5241\\_4447\\_7119\\_7336\\_4068&CountryId=22](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/cbrief.cfm?DCon=5241_4447_7119_7336_4068&CountryId=22).

<sup>3672</sup> According to U.S. Department of State Pacific Desk Officer, "traditional economy" refers to informal work that takes place in the home or on a family farm. See U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2001: Tuvalu*, Washington, D.C., March 4, 2002, 1206, Section 6d [cited August 2, 2002]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/eap/8381.htm>.

Under Tuvalu's Education for Life Program,<sup>3673</sup> education is free and compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years.<sup>3674</sup> In 1998, the gross and net primary enrollment rates were both 100 percent.<sup>3675</sup> Primary school attendance rates are unavailable for Tuvalu. While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school.<sup>3676</sup>

## Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Tuvaluese law sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years, and a child must be 18 years old to sign a formal work contract.<sup>3677</sup> The law prohibits industrial labor or work on ships by children less than 15 years of age.<sup>3678</sup> In addition, the Constitution and the Penal Code prohibit forced labor.<sup>3679</sup> The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of a child less than 18 years of age for prostitution. While the law does not specifically address trafficking in children, the kidnapping or abducting of children is prohibited under the Penal Code.<sup>3680</sup>

The Government of Tuvalu is not a member of the ILO, and as such has not ratified ILO Convention 138 or ILO Convention 182.<sup>3681</sup>

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<sup>3673</sup> Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: UN Development Assistance Framework*, 9.

<sup>3674</sup> UNESCO, *Pacific Subregion Statistical Indicators*, [cited August 29, 2002]; available from <http://www.unesco.org/focus/statpacedu.html>. See also UNESCO, *Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Tuvalu*, prepared by Department of Education, pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 52/84, 2000, Section 6.2 [cited November 6, 2002]; available from <http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/tuvalu/contents.html>.

<sup>3675</sup> UNESCO, *Education for All: Year 2000 Assessment* [CD-ROM], Paris, 2000.

<sup>3676</sup> For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.

<sup>3677</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Tuvalu*, 1206, Section 6d.

<sup>3678</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3679</sup> *Constitution of Tuvalu*, Article 17, (1978), [cited August 15, 2002]; available from [http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Tuvalu\\_legislation/Tuvalu\\_Constitution.html](http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Tuvalu_legislation/Tuvalu_Constitution.html). See also Government of Tuvalu, *Penal Code*, (1978), Article 249 [cited August 15, 2002]; available from [http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/Paclawmat/Tuvalu\\_legislation/Consolidation\\_1978/Tuvalu\\_Penal\\_Code.html](http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/Paclawmat/Tuvalu_legislation/Consolidation_1978/Tuvalu_Penal_Code.html).

<sup>3680</sup> *Penal Code*, Articles 136, 241, 42, 46, and 47.

<sup>3681</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, in ILOLEX, [database online] [cited August 29, 2002]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.