

Chad

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

UNICEF and the Government of Chad are collaborating on a campaign against the worst forms of child labor in Chad.⁷⁵¹ In 2001, the government and UNICEF sponsored a number of workshops, seminars, and radio broadcasts to raise awareness of child labor issues.⁷⁵² In an effort to combat child trafficking, the government has also sponsored media campaigns designed to advise parents on how to instruct children about the danger of trusting strangers.⁷⁵³ In 1997, a mediation body was created by the office of the Prime Minister to prevent the use of child soldiers by the national government and opposition forces.⁷⁵⁴ The government has undertaken measures to demobilize child soldiers and reintegrate them in civilian life.⁷⁵⁵

The World Bank, African Development Bank, and European Development Fund have provided financial support to build schools in Chad.⁷⁵⁶ UNICEF has launched a set of programs intended to increase access to education, especially for girls. Measures taken to improve girls' attendance rates include providing grants that reduce the domestic workloads for girls, and providing grants that offset schooling costs for families.⁷⁵⁷

⁷⁵¹ As part of this project, a base case study was conducted, and various materials, including pamphlets, were produced to raise awareness of the problem of child herders. U.S. Embassy- N'djamena, *unclassified telegram no. 1795*, November 2001.

⁷⁵² U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2001: Chad*, Washington, D.C., March 4, 2002, 133-35, Section 6d [cited December 16, 2002]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8307.htm>.

⁷⁵³ *Ibid.*, 133-35, Section 6f.

⁷⁵⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Chad," in *Global Report 2001*, London, 2001, [cited December 16, 2002]; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/report2001/countries/chad.html>. The Committee on the Rights of the Child found that the government has demonstrated awareness and political will regarding the problems of children in armed conflict. However, the committee reported that the government lacks the resources to support the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children withdrawn from labor and from armed conflict. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Chad*, CRC/C/15/Add.107, United Nations, Geneva, August 1999, para. 8-10 and 35 [cited December 26, 2002]; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.15.Add.107.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.15.Add.107.En?OpenDocument).

⁷⁵⁵ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Chad," 2.

⁷⁵⁶ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State Parties due in 1992: Chad*, CRC/C/3/Add.50, prepared by Government of the Republic of Chad, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, July 1997, para. 158 [cited December 26, 2002]; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.3.Add.50.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.3.Add.50.En?OpenDocument).

⁷⁵⁷ UNICEF, *Girls' Education in Chad*, [online] [cited July 26, 2002]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/programme/girlseducation/action/cases/chad.htm>.

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000, UNICEF estimated that 65.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years in Chad were working.⁷⁵⁸ Child labor is rare in the formal sector, but it is common in the informal sector, particularly in agriculture and herding.⁷⁵⁹ In southern Chad, children are contracted to nomadic herders to tend animals. These children are often abused and provided little monetary compensation for their work.⁷⁶⁰ Children also work for little compensation as domestic servants in the households of relatives.⁷⁶¹ Some families arrange marriages for daughters who are as young as 11 or 12 years. Once married, many of these girls are obligated to work long hours in the fields or in the home for their husbands.⁷⁶² There are allegations that, in isolated instances, local authorities force children to work in the rural sector.⁷⁶³

Despite periodic demobilizations of underage soldiers, there are reports that children continue to work in military installations in the north.⁷⁶⁴ Children as young as 13 from the Zagava ethnic group have been forcibly recruited into the army. Their responsibilities include detecting landmines on the frontlines.⁷⁶⁵ In 2001, families in conflict zones reported that they were forced to either provide one of their children to the armed forces as a recruit, or give money or crops as a substitute.⁷⁶⁶ The Ministry of Justice has also reported that the opposition recruits child soldiers by force.⁷⁶⁷

Articles 35-38 of the Constitution of March 31, 1996 declare that all citizens are entitled to free non-religious education and training.⁷⁶⁸ However, parents still make considerable contributions

⁷⁵⁸ Children who are working in some capacity include children who have performed any paid or unpaid work for someone who is not a member of the household, who have performed more than four hours of housekeeping chores in the household, or who have performed other family work. See Government of the Republic of Chad, *Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) Report: Chad*, UNICEF, Ouagadougou, 2001, 6 and 66 [cited December 16, 2002]; available from http://www.childinfo.org/MICS2/natlMICSrepz/Chad/Chad_MICS_Report.pdf. In 2000, the ILO estimated that approximately 37 percent of children ages 10 to 14 in Chad were working. World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2002* [CD-ROM], Washington, D.C., 2002.

⁷⁵⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 132-33, Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- N'djamena, *unclassified telegram no. 1795*.

⁷⁶⁰ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 132-33, Section 6d.

⁷⁶¹ Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- N'Djamena, *unclassified telegram no. 1982*, May 1997.

⁷⁶² U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 132-33, Section 6c. See also U.S. Embassy- N'Djamena, *unclassified telegram no. 1982*.

⁷⁶³ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 132-33, Section 6c.

⁷⁶⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Chad."

⁷⁶⁵ Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 132-33, Section 6c.

⁷⁶⁶ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Chad."

⁷⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁶⁸ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties: Chad*, para. 42, 155.

toward school costs.⁷⁶⁹ In 1998, the gross primary enrollment rate was 67.2 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 54.8 percent.⁷⁷⁰ Educational opportunities for girls are limited, mainly because of tradition, and girls tend not to attend as many years of school as boys.⁷⁷¹ In 1996-1997, the gross primary school attendance rate was 54.9 percent, and the net primary attendance rate was 30.2 percent.⁷⁷²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Chad is 14 years, but children may enter into certain non-hazardous forms of labor from the age of 12.⁷⁷³ According to a government decree of 1969, individuals must be 18 or older to perform hazardous work. The government aims to protect children from all forms of exploitation that may impair their moral and physical integrity.⁷⁷⁴ Articles 271-273 and 276-279 of the Penal Code protect children from sexual exploitation⁷⁷⁵ while Articles 279-282 protect children from procurement for prostitution.⁷⁷⁶ The trafficking and prostitution of children can result in a fine and imprisonment from 2 to 5 years.⁷⁷⁷ The voluntary recruitment age for children is 18 years, however younger children may be recruited with parental consent. The conscription age into the military is 20 years without consent of the child's guardian.⁷⁷⁸ Forced and compulsory labor are prohibited by the Constitution and the Labor Code.⁷⁷⁹

⁷⁶⁹ In 1995, it was estimated that parents associations gave approximately 800 million CFA (USD 1,274,048) to schools. *Ibid.*, para 42. For currency conversion, see FX Converter, [online] [cited November 14, 2002]; available from <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm>.

⁷⁷⁰ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2002*.

⁷⁷¹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 132-33, Section 5.

⁷⁷² In 1996-1997, the gross primary school attendance rate remained much higher for boys than for girls_79.5 percent for boys and 38.1 percent for girls. The net attendance rate was 55.4 percent for boys and 43.4 percent for girls. Measure DHS+, *Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)*, [online] [cited September 11, 2002]; available from <http://www.measuredhs.com/>.

⁷⁷³ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties: Chad*, para. 197. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 133-35, Section 6d.

⁷⁷⁴ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties: Chad*, para. 201.

⁷⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 200. Ordinance No. 27/PR/68 prohibits sexual exploitation of children in films and videos. Protection Project, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children: A Human Rights Report*, Washington, D.C., January 2001, [cited December 26, 2002]; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org/vt/2.htm>.

⁷⁷⁶ Protection Project, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women*. See also ECPAT International, *Chad*, in ECPAT International, [database online] 2002 [cited July 31, 2002]; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp.

⁷⁷⁷ *Criminal Code*, Article 279-80 (Procuring) [cited December 16, 2002]; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org/vt/2.htm>.

⁷⁷⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Chad."

⁷⁷⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Chad*, 133-35, Section 6c.

The Labor Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labor and Public Affairs is responsible for enforcing labor laws. Due to a lack of resources, from December 1998 to November 1999, no inspections could be made outside of the capital city of N'Djamena.⁷⁸⁰

The Government of Chad ratified ILO Convention 182 on November 6, 2000, but has not ratified ILO Convention 138.⁷⁸¹

⁷⁸⁰ ILO-Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, *Individual Observation Concerning Convention No. 81, Labour Inspection, 1947 Chad (Ratification: 1965)*, Geneva, 2002, [cited August 22, 2002]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

⁷⁸¹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, in ILOLEX, [database online] [cited August 29, 2002]; available from <http://ilolex.ch:1567/english/newratframeE.htm>.