

Tuvalu

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Tuvalu are unavailable.⁴⁰⁵⁵ Children are mainly involved in traditional subsistence farming and fishing and are rarely employed outside of these sectors.⁴⁰⁵⁶

Under Tuvalu's Education for Life program,⁴⁰⁵⁷ education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years, and free until the age of 13.⁴⁰⁵⁸ In 1998, the gross and net primary enrollment rates were both 100 percent.⁴⁰⁵⁹ Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Tuvalu. Although Tuvalu has achieved almost universal primary education, secondary enrollment rates are much lower.⁴⁰⁶⁰

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Tuvaluan law sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years, and a child must be 18 years old to sign a formal work contract.⁴⁰⁶¹ The law prohibits industrial labor or work on ships by children less than 15 years of age.⁴⁰⁶² In addition, the Constitution and the Penal Code prohibit forced labor.⁴⁰⁶³ The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of a child less than 18 years of age for prostitution.⁴⁰⁶⁴ While the Penal Code does not specifically address trafficking in children, the kidnapping or abducting of children is prohibited.⁴⁰⁶⁵ There is no information available on the enforcement of labor laws.

⁴⁰⁵⁵ LABORSTAT, *1A-Total and economically active population, by age group (Thousands)*, [Database] [cited August 30, 2004]; available from www.laborsta.ilo.org.

⁴⁰⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2003: Tuvalu*, February 25, 2004, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27792.htm>.

⁴⁰⁵⁷ Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: United Nations Development Assistance Framework*, United Nations, Suva, Fiji, May 2002, 9; available from http://www.undp.org.fj/documents/UNDAF_TUVALU%20May%202002.doc.

⁴⁰⁵⁸ See UNESCO, *Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Tuvalu*, [Online] 2000 [cited May 19, 2004]; available from <http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/tuvalu/contents.html>.

⁴⁰⁵⁹ More recent data on enrollment rates are not available. See UNESCO, *Education for All: Year 2000 Assessment* [CD-ROM], Paris, 2000. For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are equal to or greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.

⁴⁰⁶⁰ ADB, *Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific: Relevance and Progress*, Manila, March 2003, 50-51; available from http://www.adb.org/documents/books/MDG_Pacific/mdg.pdf#page=48.

⁴⁰⁶¹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Tuvalu*.

⁴⁰⁶² *Ibid.*

⁴⁰⁶³ *Constitution of Tuvalu*, Article 18, (1978); available from 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.

⁴⁰⁶⁴ *Penal Code*, Articles 136, 38-39.

⁴⁰⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, Articles 131-32, 241-42, 46-47.

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

UNICEF works with the Ministry of Health, other government agencies, and NGOs to address children’s health and youth development.⁴⁰⁶⁷ The EU provides funds for education-related projects,⁴⁰⁶⁸ and AusAID is funding an 8-year project to improve the management and administration of the education system at the primary and secondary levels.⁴⁰⁶⁹ NZAID started an early childhood education project and education sector planning in 2004.⁴⁰⁷⁰

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments	
Ratified Convention 138	N/A ⁴⁰⁶⁶
Ratified Convention 182	N/A
ILO-IPEC Member	
National Plan for Children	
National Child Labor Action Plan	
Sector Action Plan	

⁴⁰⁶⁶ The Government of Tuvalu is not a member of the ILO, and is thus unable to ratify ILO conventions.

⁴⁰⁶⁷ UNICEF, *UNICEF’s Programme of Assistance to Pacific Island Countries*, [online] [cited May 19, 2004]; available from http://www.undp.org.fj/un/UNICEF/UNICEF_PIC.htm.

⁴⁰⁶⁸ Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: UN Development Assistance Framework*, A 8.

⁴⁰⁶⁹ Australian Agency for International Development, *Country Brief Tuvalu*, AusAID.gov, [online] 2004 [cited May 20, 2004]; available from http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/cbrief.cfm?DCon=5241_4447_7119_7336_4068&CountryId=22. See also Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: UN Development Assistance Framework*, A 11.

⁴⁰⁷⁰ New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency, *Tuvalu Overview*, NZAID.govt.nz, [online] 2004 [cited May 11, 2004]; available from <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-tuvalu.html>.