

## Mozambique

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	15 <sup>2950</sup>
Age to which education is compulsory:	12 <sup>2951</sup>
Free public education:	Yes* <sup>2952</sup>
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	95% <sup>2953</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	71% <sup>2954</sup>
Percent of children 7-14 attending school in 1996:	51.7% <sup>2955</sup>
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	49% <sup>2956</sup>
Ratified Convention 138:	6/16/2003 <sup>2957</sup>
Ratified Convention 182:	6/16/2003 <sup>2958</sup>
ILO-IPEC Participating Country:	Yes, associated <sup>2959</sup>
*Must pay fees and for school supplies and related items.	

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Mozambique, some children are forced to work in commercial agriculture, in prostitution and as domestics.<sup>2960</sup> In rural areas, children work on family or commercial farms, often picking cotton or tea.<sup>2961</sup> Children also work in the urban informal sector guarding cars, collecting scrap metal, and selling food and trinkets in the streets.<sup>2962</sup>

Children are trafficked internally and to South Africa, often with the complicity of family members, for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Women and girls are trafficked

<sup>2950</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Mozambique," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78748.htm>.

<sup>2951</sup> Ibid., Section 5.

<sup>2952</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2953</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>2954</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

<sup>2955</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

<sup>2956</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

<sup>2957</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed December 29, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm>.

<sup>2958</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed December 29, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm>.

<sup>2959</sup> ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour- Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October, 2006; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20070228\\_Implementationreport\\_en\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf).

<sup>2960</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Mozambique," Section 6d.

<sup>2961</sup> Ibid., Section 6d.

<sup>2962</sup> Ibid., Section 6d., See also Ministry of Labor Government of Mozambique, and UNICEF, *Child Labor Rapid Assessment: Mozambique (Part 1)*, Geneva, 1999/2000.

both in country and to South Africa for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Also, young men and boys are trafficked in country and to South Africa for farm work and domestic service.<sup>2963</sup>

### **Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The minimum age for employment of minors is 15 years. In exceptional cases, the law allows children between 12 and 15 to work with the joint approval of the Ministries of Labor, Health, and Education. The law restricts the conditions under which minors between 15 and 18 may work, and commits employers to provide for their education and professional training.

Children between 15 and 18 are prohibited from working more than 38 hours per week and more than 7 hours per day.

Minors under 18 are not permitted to work in unhealthy or dangerous or physically taxing occupations, must undergo a medical examination, and must be paid at least minimum wage or 2/3 of the adult salary, whichever is more.<sup>2964</sup> Violators of child labor laws are subject to fines, the Ministry of Labor has the authority to enforce and regulate child labor laws in both the formal and informal sectors. Labor inspectors may obtain court orders and use the police to enforce compliance with child labor legislation. According to the U.S. Department of State, however, both the Labor Inspectorate and police lack adequate staff, funds, and training to investigate child labor cases, especially outside the capital. The U.S. Department of State claims that the law is enforced in the formal sector but enforcement is inadequate in the informal sector.<sup>2965</sup>

The law prohibits the practice of prostitution of any form, including that of children. Procuring a minor is punishable by imprisonment for 6 months to 2 years.<sup>2966</sup> Although the law contains provisions that can be applied to the trafficking of children, it does not contain a provision specific to that crime.<sup>2967</sup> However, enforcement initiatives dramatically improved.<sup>2968</sup> The first trafficking case was tried in March 2006, when two men were convicted of selling a minor. In February 2006, six men were arrested by police for intent to traffic 43 people across the South African border. Several trafficking schemes were broken in 2006, resulting in more than a dozen arrests and the liberation of more than 90 victims.<sup>2969</sup> The age for conscription and voluntary recruitment into the military is 18 years. In times of war, however, the minimum age for military conscription may be lowered.<sup>2970</sup>

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<sup>2963</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Mozambique (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65989.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Mozambique," Section 5.

<sup>2964</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Mozambique," Section 6d.

<sup>2965</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2966</sup> The Protection Project, *Mozambique*, [online] 2006 [cited August 27, 2006]; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org/pub.htm>.

<sup>2967</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182), Mozambique (ratification: 2003)*, [online] 2006 [cited September 1, 2006]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/iloex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=18>.

<sup>2968</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Mozambique."

<sup>2969</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2970</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Mozambique," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/document\\_get.php?id=787](http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=787).

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

The government disseminated information and provided education about the dangers of child labor. The public outreach effort includes the provision of training for the police on child prostitution and abuse (including pornography).<sup>2971</sup>

The Government of Mozambique is participating in a USD 3 million USDOL-funded 4-year program implemented by the American Institutes for Research. The project aims to reduce the number of child laborers in agriculture, domestic work, street work, and commercial sexual exploitation. Through this program, 2,600 children will be withdrawn or prevented from engaging in such activities.<sup>2972</sup>

In March 2006, the Civic Education Forum, a civil society organization, opened the first shelter for victims of trafficking. The shelter was built on land donated by the Moamba District Government to house and grow food for the residents.<sup>2973</sup>

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<sup>2971</sup> U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 1, 2007.

<sup>2972</sup> American Institutes for Research, *RECLAIM: Reducing Exploitive Child Labor in Mozambique*, technical progress report, September 2006.

<sup>2973</sup> U.S. Embassy- Maputo, *reporting*, February 27, 2007.