

Comoros

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2000:	35.6% ¹⁰⁶⁶
Minimum age for admission to work:	15 ¹⁰⁶⁷
Age to which education is compulsory:	14 ¹⁰⁶⁸
Free public education:	No ¹⁰⁶⁹
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	85% ¹⁰⁷⁰
Net primary enrollment rate in 2000:	55% ¹⁰⁷¹
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2000:	44.2% ¹⁰⁷²
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	63% ¹⁰⁷³
Ratified Convention 138:	3/17/2004 ¹⁰⁷⁴
Ratified Convention 182:	3/17/2004 ¹⁰⁷⁵
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No ¹⁰⁷⁶

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000, approximately 35 percent of boys and 36.2 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Comoros.¹⁰⁷⁷ Work performed by children includes subsistence farming and fishing.¹⁰⁷⁸ Some children as young as 7 work as domestic servants in exchange for food, shelter, or educational assistance; these children are often subject to abuse.¹⁰⁷⁹ Children also work on the streets,¹⁰⁸⁰ and some children are not paid for work that they perform.¹⁰⁸¹

¹⁰⁶⁶ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007, Articles 322, 323, and 324.

¹⁰⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Comoros," 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/>.

¹⁰⁶⁸ UNESCO, *EFA Global Monitoring Report: Early Childhood Care and Education*, France, 2007; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794E.pdf>. See also Angela Melchiorre, *At What Age?... Are School-Children Employed, Married, and Taken to Court?*, Right to Education, 2004; available from <http://www.right-to-education.org/>.

¹⁰⁶⁹ UNESCO, *EFA Global Monitoring Report: Early Childhood Care and Education*, France, 2007; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794E.pdf>.

¹⁰⁷⁰ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹⁰⁷¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹⁰⁷² UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹⁰⁷³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

¹⁰⁷⁴ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 20, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷⁶ 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.

¹⁰⁷⁷ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹⁰⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Comoros," Section 6d.

¹⁰⁷⁹ Ibid., Sections 5 and 6d. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record of the 666th Meeting: Comoros*, CDC/C/SR.666, Geneva, June 2001, Para. 3. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct*

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15.¹⁰⁸² Hazardous work, such as that involving explosives or dangerous building sites, is prohibited to children. Inspectors must notify a judge of child labor law violations.¹⁰⁸³

Unmarried children under 18 are considered minors; the law protects them from sexual exploitation. Child prostitution and pornography are illegal.¹⁰⁸⁴ Punishments for involvement with the prostitution of a minor range from 2 to 5 years of imprisonment and fines; penalties are doubled in cases of reoccurrence within 10 years. These penalties also apply if the crime was committed in a different country.¹⁰⁸⁵ A juvenile court can impose protective measures for persons under 21 years who engage in prostitution.¹⁰⁸⁶ The law prohibits forced and bonded labor except in instances of obligatory military service, work that is considered a civic duty to the community, and work that is required in times of accidents, fires, and calamities.¹⁰⁸⁷ The law does not contain penalties specific to forced labor by children.¹⁰⁸⁸ According to the U.S. Department of State, the government does not actively enforce child labor laws or consistently enforce minimum age requirements for employment.¹⁰⁸⁹

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

Research has not identified any policies or programs by the Government of Comoros to address exploitive child labor.

Request, Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment), 1932 (No. 33) Comoros (ratification: 1978), [online] [cited October 19, 2006]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

¹⁰⁸⁰ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Comoros*, CRC/C/15/Add.141, October 2000, Para. 39. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record*, para. 3 and 39.

¹⁰⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Comoros," Section 6d.

¹⁰⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸³ Melchiorre, *At What Age?*, 53.

¹⁰⁸⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Comoros," Section 5.

¹⁰⁸⁵ The Protection Project, *Criminal Code of Comoros*, [previously online] [cited May 19, 2004], Articles 322, 323, and 324; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org> [hard copy on file].

¹⁰⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, Article 327.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Government of Comoros, *Code du Travail*, Loi No. 84 -018/PR portant Code du Travail, (1984); available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/1515/64795/F84COM01.htm>.

¹⁰⁸⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Comoros," Section 6c.

¹⁰⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, Section 6d.