

São Tomé and Príncipe

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	15.4
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	17.2
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	13.5
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	13
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	128
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	96
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	68.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	76
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in São Tomé and Príncipe work on plantations and in subsistence agriculture, informal commerce, and domestic service.²⁹⁹⁸ Children also work in auto mechanic shops.²⁹⁹⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for work in São Tomé and Príncipe is 14 years, and the law calls for the imposition of fines on persons employing underage workers.³⁰⁰⁰ The law prohibits children under the age of 18 years from working in unhealthy or dangerous conditions, as well as from working underground.³⁰⁰¹ Children under 18 years may not work more than 7 hours a day and 35 hours per week.³⁰⁰² The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor.³⁰⁰³ Military service is compulsory at 18 years; 17-year-olds may volunteer with parental consent.³⁰⁰⁴ The law also prohibits trafficking in persons.³⁰⁰⁵ Despite the Government's increasing

inspections at work sites, during the reporting period no cases of child labor law violations were prosecuted.³⁰⁰⁶

São Tomé and Príncipe was one of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central African Regions.³⁰⁰⁷ As part of the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement, the governments agreed to use the child trafficking monitoring system developed by the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC LUTRENA project; to assist each other in the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of trafficking offenders; and to protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficking victims.³⁰⁰⁸

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 São Tomé and Príncipe to address exploitive child labor.

²⁹⁹⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6d. See also Ambrósio Quaresma, *UNICEF quer conhecer a realidade de mão de obra infantil em S. Tomé e Príncipe*, [online] [cited December 7, 2007]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/saotome/trabalho.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, October 4, 2007, para 4b.

²⁹⁹⁹ Ambrósio Quaresma, *Unicef quer conhecer a realidade de mão de obra infantil*.

³⁰⁰⁰ Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Regime Jurídico das Condições*, articles 128 and 147. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6d.

³⁰⁰¹ Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Regime Jurídico das Condições*, article 129. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Initial Reports Sao Tome and Principe*, section 84.

³⁰⁰² Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Regime Jurídico das Condições*, article 136. See also U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, October 4, 2007, para 4a.

³⁰⁰³ U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, October 4, 2007, para 4a. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6c.

³⁰⁰⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from

http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=792. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Initial Reports Sao Tome and Principe*, sections 97-98.

³⁰⁰⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Sao Tome and Principe," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting, October 4, 2007*, para 4a.

³⁰⁰⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6d.

³⁰⁰⁷ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially*

Women and Children, in West and Central Africa, Abuja, July 7, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 16, 2006.

³⁰⁰⁸ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons in West and Central Africa*. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, technical progress report, Washington, DC, September 1, 2007. See also Emmanuel Goujon, "African States Sign up to Fight Human Trafficking," *Agence France-Presse*, July 7, 2006.

Senegal

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³⁰⁰⁹

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	30
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	33.4
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	26.7
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	80
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	70
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2005:	47.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	73
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Senegal work in agriculture, hunting, fishing, domestic service, transportation, construction, manufacturing, as well as in automobile repair shops, restaurants, and hotels.³⁰¹⁰ Children engage in rock quarrying and mining, which involves hazardous conditions and health-

damaging works.³⁰¹¹ They are likewise exposed to hazardous conditions in workshops, garbage dumps, and slaughter-houses, through such things as the use of dangerous chemical products, long hours, and work which is too physically demanding for the age of the child.³⁰¹² UNICEF estimates that there are 10,000 street children, some of whom are displaced children from the conflict in Casamance.³⁰¹³ Children are exploited in such activities as begging, prostitution, drug trafficking and other illicit activities.³⁰¹⁴ Child prostitution occurs on beaches, in bars, at hotels and other tourist areas.³⁰¹⁵

Senegal is a source, transit, and destination country for child trafficking.³⁰¹⁶ There are reports of young girls trafficked from rural villages in Fatick, Louga, Kaolack, Kolda, Ziguichor, Saint Louis, and Djourbel to urban centers for domestic service.³⁰¹⁷ Senegalese girls are also trafficked to Gambia and Mauritania for domestic service.³⁰¹⁸ An NGO in Gambia reported that some of these children were forced into commercial sexual exploitation by their employers.³⁰¹⁹

Boys are trafficked from rural areas to major cities within the country and to Senegal from Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Guinea for forced begging for Koranic teachers.³⁰²⁰ The practice of sending boys, known as *talibé*, to Koranic teachers to receive education is a tradition in various countries, including Senegal.³⁰²¹ While some *talibé* receive lessons, many are forced by their teachers