

# Zambia

## *Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor<sup>3704</sup>*

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	33.4
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	34.4
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	32.4
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	
- Agriculture	95.5
- Manufacturing	0.5
- Services	3.9
- Other	0
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	115
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	92
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2005:	63.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2001:	94
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses.	

### **Incidence and Nature of Child Labor**

Children in Zambia work in agriculture, domestic service, street vending, transportation, and fishing.<sup>3705</sup> Children also work in manufacturing, carpentry, and food production.<sup>3706</sup> Boys work in brick-laying while girls work in knitting and tailoring. Within the service industry children work in restaurants, bars, and as barbers and hairdressers.<sup>3707</sup> Children also work in hazardous industries, including quarrying, mining, and construction.<sup>3708</sup>

It is estimated that there are approximately 20,000 to 30,000 street children throughout the country, some of who are involved in begging and prostitution. Commercial sexual exploitation of children is widespread in Zambia.<sup>3709</sup> Zambian children are reportedly trafficked to Malawi, and some of them possibly continue to Europe, for

commercial sexual exploitation, agricultural labor, fishing, and domestic servitude.<sup>3710</sup>

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

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.<sup>3711</sup> However, children between 13 and 15 years are permitted to perform light work under certain conditions.<sup>3712</sup> The law defines a child as a person less than 15 years; a “young person” is defined as a person between 15 and 18 years.<sup>3713</sup>

The law prohibits the worst forms of child labor, including child prostitution, slavery in all of its forms, military conscription, and work harmful to the safety, health, or morals of children and young people.<sup>3714</sup> A person violating these laws is subject to a fine and imprisonment for up to 3 years.<sup>3715</sup> The law prohibits children who are “under the apparent age of 18” from being recruited into the military without the consent of a parent, guardian, or local District Secretary.<sup>3716</sup> The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has voiced concern that the law is stated in terms of “apparent age,” which could indirectly contribute to exploitive child labor in the form of underage recruitment.<sup>3717</sup> Zambian law prohibits forced labor and trafficking of children.<sup>3718</sup> The law prescribes a penalty of 20 years to life in prison for trafficking but does not provide a definition of trafficking.<sup>3719</sup> In addition, the law makes it a felony for any person to sexually harass a child in the workplace or in a learning institution, with a minimum sentence of 3 years in prison for violators.<sup>3720</sup>

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) is responsible for enforcing labor laws, and has established a Child Labor Unit.<sup>3721</sup> The MLSS conducts inspections of workplaces and investigates child labor complaints through its labor inspectors located in 22 field offices throughout the country.<sup>3722</sup> In 2007, the Government increased the number of labor inspectors by 34 percent, totaling 67. The law gives labor inspectors the authority to enter households and farms in order to investigate potential child labor violations. The law also allows the MLSS to bring child labor charges, which can result in a fine

or imprisonment.<sup>3723</sup> However, USDOS reports that resources are still insufficient, which hinders the Government's enforcement capacity.<sup>3724</sup> In January 2007, the High Court found a man guilty of trafficking for attempting to sell his son; this conviction was the first under Zambia's trafficking law since being enacted in 2005.<sup>3725</sup>

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

The Government continues its efforts to eliminate and monitor exploitive child labor through the National Development Plan.<sup>3726</sup> The Government of Zambia has also developed a strategy to counter child trafficking through awareness raising, legal reform, and research.<sup>3727</sup>

Zambian Government operates two camps for withdrawn and rehabilitated street children, and removed approximately 200 children from the streets as of the end of 2006, the latest date such information is available.<sup>3728</sup> The Government is also implementing a program that provides education and skills training for children who have been removed from the streets, including prostitutes and older youth, and works with NGOs to provide similar services.<sup>3729</sup> The Government continues to work with NGOs to relocate children, predominantly urban orphans, and place them in appropriate educational or vocational training settings.<sup>3730</sup>

In 2007, the Government continued to provide awareness and training activities for officials tasked with enforcing child labor laws. Additionally, the Government, with help from the ILO, established seven District Child Labor Committees to conduct child labor awareness-raising activities and begin community mobilization.<sup>3731</sup> The Government of Zambia continues to implement its universal primary education program, which specifically targets working children, with the support of USAID, the World Bank, and other donors.<sup>3732</sup>

Between 2005 and 2007, the Zambian Government collaborated with Jesus Cares Ministries on the second phase of a USD 825,000 USDOL-funded Child Labor Education Initiative project.<sup>3733</sup> The project succeeded in withdrawing and preventing a total of 3,518 children from engaging in exploitive

work through the provision of educational services.<sup>3734</sup>

In 2006, USDOL awarded USD 3.92 million to ILO-IPEC to assist the Government with preparing a national Timebound Program against the worst forms of child labor. The 3-year project aims to withdraw 3,000 and prevent 7,000 children from exploitive work through the provision of education and training services.<sup>3735</sup> The Government is collaborating with the project to conduct a rapid assessment on child labor in small scale mining.<sup>3736</sup>

The Government is participating in a USDOL funded, ILO-IPEC USD 3 million program to combat and prevent child labor caused or related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda and Zambia. This 3.5-year project finalized an HIV/AIDS and child labor rapid assessment survey in 2007 and developed a training module on HIV/AIDS and child labor for use throughout Africa.<sup>3737</sup> The project aims to withdraw 1,600 and prevented 2,000 children through community-based social protection schemes.<sup>3738</sup>

ILO-IPEC is also working with several African governments, including Zambia, on a USD 1.15 million, Canadian-funded project to enhance skill training to combat the worst forms of child labor in the urban informal sector as well as a European Economic Community funded, USD 257,069 study to determine the scale and nature of child trafficking in the country.<sup>3739</sup>

---

<sup>3704</sup> For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Zambia, *Constitution of Zambia*, article 24; available from <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/cafrad/unpan004847.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Zambia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007* Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100511.htm>.

<sup>3705</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Zambia," section 6d. See also ILO-IPEC, *Support to the Development and Implementation of Timebound Measures Against the WFCL in Zambia*, project document, ZAM/06/P50/USA, Geneva, September 14, 2006, 9.

<sup>3706</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Educational perspectives related to the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on child labour in Zambia* (Paper 08) ILO-IPEC, Geneva, September 2005, 7; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/viewProduct.do?productId=2080>.

<sup>3707</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3708</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Support to Time Bound Measures in Zambia*, 9. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Zambia," section 6d. See also ILO-IPEC and Republic of Zambia Central Statistics Office, *Zambia 1999 Child Labor Survey: Country Report*, ILO-IPEC, Lusaka, 2001, Tables 4.7 and 4.15. See also U.S. Embassy-Lusaka, *reporting*, August 19, 2003.

<sup>3709</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Zambia," section 5. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zambia: Street Kids Open Their Minds to Govt Plan", IRINnews.org, [online], March 27, 2006; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=58564>.

<sup>3710</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Zambia (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82807>. See also U.S. Embassy - Lusaka, *reporting*, February 29, 2008, para 3b.

<sup>3711</sup> Government of Zambia, *Constitution of Zambia, 1991*, article 24.

<sup>3712</sup> Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment), 2004*, para 5a(2).

<sup>3713</sup> Ibid., paras 3a, 3e. See also Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 274 of the Laws of Zambia)*, part I, para 2; available from <http://annualreview.law.harvard.edu/population/countries/zambia/THE%20EMPLOYMENT%20OF%20YOUNG%20PERSONS%20AND%20CHILDREN%20ACT.htm>.

<sup>3714</sup> Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act*, article 17a. See also Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment)*, para 3b.

<sup>3715</sup> Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment)*, para 5a(4).

<sup>3716</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Zambia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=238>.

<sup>3717</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding Observations: Zambia*, CRC/C/15/Add.206, July 2, 2003, 14; available from <http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx?country=zm>. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Child Soldiers Report 2004: Zambia."

<sup>3718</sup> Government of Zambia, *Constitution of Zambia, 1991*, articles 14, 24.

<sup>3719</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Zambia," section 5.

<sup>3720</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, December 7, 2007.

<sup>3721</sup> Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, August 19, 2003.

<sup>3722</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, December 7, 2007. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, August 19, 2003.

<sup>3723</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Zambia," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, December 7, 2007.

<sup>3724</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Zambia," section 6d.

<sup>3725</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Zambia."

<sup>3726</sup> Government of Zambia, *Fifth National Development Plan*, Lusaka, December 2006, 212, 228, 229-232; available from <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2007/cr07276.pdf>.

<sup>3727</sup> U.S. Embassy - Lusaka, *reporting*, February 29, 2008, paras 3e, 4a-c, 5i, 6b.

<sup>3728</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Zambia." See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, December 7, 2007. See also Jesus Cares Ministries, *Combating Child Labour Through Education*, technical progress report, Jesus Cares Ministries, Lusaka, March 30, 2006.

<sup>3729</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Zambia." See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zambia: Street Kids".

<sup>3730</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Zambia," section 6d.

<sup>3731</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3732</sup> USAID, "Zambia: Education", [usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov), [online], 2006; available from <http://www.usaid.gov/zm/education/ed.htm>. See also World Bank, *The World Bank in Zambia; Country Brief 2005-2006*, Washington D.C., 2006; available from [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTZAMBIA/Resources/Zambia\\_2005\\_7.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTZAMBIA/Resources/Zambia_2005_7.pdf). See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 29, 2003.

<sup>3733</sup> USDOL, *Cooperative Agreement: Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Zambia*, Washington D.C., September 29, 2005.

<sup>3734</sup> JCM official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2007.

<sup>3735</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Support to Time Bound Measures in Zambia*, 5, 46.

<sup>3736</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Support to the Development and Implementation of Timebound Measures Against the WFCL in Zambia*, technical progress report, ZAM/06/P50/USA, Geneva, September 2007, 4.

<sup>3737</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Combating and Preventing HIV/AIDS-induced Child Labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: Pilot Action in Uganda and Zambia*, technical progress report, RAF/04/P57/USA, Geneva, September 2007, 9. See also ILO- IPEC, *Combating and Preventing HIV/AIDS-induced Child Labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: Pilot Action in Uganda and Zambia*, project revision form, RAF/04/P57/USA, Geneva, October 2007, 2.

<sup>3738</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Combating and Preventing HIV/AIDS-induced Child Labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: Pilot Action in Uganda and Zambia*, project document, RAF/04/P57/USA, Geneva, July 2004, i, 14. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combat HIV/AIDS-technical progress report, September 2007*, 9.

<sup>3739</sup> ILO- IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

## Zimbabwe

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> <sup>3740</sup>	
Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	Not Compulsory
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2003:	96
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2003:	82
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2002:	70
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

During the reporting period, Zimbabwe continued to suffer from an economic crisis – with high inflation and unemployment rates and severe shortages of food and other basic necessities. The

crisis appears to have affected the rate of children’s work. Since 2000, approximately 25 percent of Zimbabweans have migrated to other countries as a result of the deteriorating economic and social conditions, including some children.<sup>3741</sup> The number of children working in the informal sector continues to increase as more children struggle to fill the income gap left by relatives who are unemployed, ill, or deceased.<sup>3742</sup>

In Zimbabwe, most working children are engaged in agriculture, hunting, and fishing.<sup>3743</sup> Children work in agriculture on tea and sugar estates, as well as in domestic service; the restaurant and hotel industries; mining, including illegal gold mining; quarrying; manufacturing; construction; and other types of work, such as street vending and guarding cars.<sup>3744</sup> Children orphaned by AIDS often performed domestic work for their extended relatives without pay, and children who engaged in domestic work for third-party households were sometimes not paid by their employers.<sup>3745</sup>

Girls are increasingly being exploited in prostitution, including in rural Matabeleland South Province. Girls as young as 13 years are resorting to prostitution due to poverty, high food prices, increasing rates of inflation in the country, and to pay for school fees. The number of girls on the streets in urban areas is growing as a result of poverty and HIV/AIDS.<sup>3746</sup> The belief that sex with virgins can cure sexually transmitted infections contributes to the sexual exploitation of children and the spread of disease.<sup>3747</sup> Some reports indicate