

Equatorial Guinea

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹³²¹

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
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:	14
Compulsory education age:	13
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	122.0
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2003:	87.0
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2001:	33.0
ILO Convention 138:	6/12/1985
ILO Convention 182:	8/13/2001
CRC:	6/15/1992**
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	2/7/2003**
Palermo:	2/7/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

**In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Equatorial Guinea, children work in subsistence agriculture and auto mechanic workshops, and sometimes as street or market vendors and car washers.¹³²² In the past, children from Nigeria, Benin, Cameroon, and Gabon were trafficked to the cities of Malabo and Bata for forced labor, sometimes for commercial sexual exploitation; it is unclear whether such trafficking continues in significant numbers.¹³²³

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years but allows children 13 years to perform light work.¹³²⁴ Children under 16

years are specifically prohibited from work that might harm their health, safety, or morals.¹³²⁵ A Government decree on child trafficking establishes that minors are specifically protected from child labor in street vending and other jobs in the informal and formal sectors during school and night hours.¹³²⁶ The criminal penalty for employing children under this decree is 1 year in prison and a fine.¹³²⁷

Another Government decree bans all children under 17 years of age from being on the streets after 11 p.m.¹³²⁸ The decree forbids parents or tutors from exploiting children for labor, such as street vending, car washing, or working in bars or restaurants. Under the decree, youth found in the above situations will be automatically arrested, and businesses that employ minors, including family businesses, are subject to a fine or may be closed.¹³²⁹ From April 2007 through March 2008, the most recent period such information is available, USDOS reported that the Government of Equatorial Guinea regularly enforced these laws through street-level police patrols, who fined individuals employing child workers, especially in markets.¹³³⁰

Forced or compulsory child labor is forbidden.¹³³¹ The law prohibits trafficking in persons and stipulates a penalty of 10 to 15 years' imprisonment and a fine for trafficking offenses.¹³³² The Government also began distributing procedural manuals for police and military outposts that include measures for processing suspected traffickers and provides wallet cards to help identify and care for trafficking victims.¹³³³ During the reporting period the Government of Equatorial Guinea increased the monitoring of trans-border movement of minors and has regularly patrolled open-air markets to deter child labor and identify potential child trafficking victims.¹³³⁴

Equatorial Guinea was 1 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.¹³³⁵ 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.¹³³⁶

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

The Government of Equatorial Guinea continues to train military and police officials on human trafficking issues through MPRI, a U.S. security training contractor. The Government also distributes wallet cards to security officials to help them identify and care for trafficking victims. The Government continues to collaborate with UNICEF to raise public awareness about human trafficking.¹³³⁷

¹³²¹ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Constitution of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea*, (1991), article 23; available from www.guinea-ecuatorial.gq/Government/index.cfm?PageID=26. See also Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Ley Num. 14/1.995: Reformado el Decreto- Ley sobre Educación General en Guinea Ecuatorial* (January 9, 1995), article 3. See also U.S. Embassy-Malabo, *reporting*, September 15, 2008, para IV. See also UNESCO, *2009 EFA Global Monitoring Report- Overcoming inequality: why governance matters*, UNESCO, Oxford, 2008; available from <http://www.unesco.org/en/education/efareport/>.

¹³²² European Union Fund for Development official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 22, 2007. See also Constitutional Court official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 24, 2007. See also Ministry of Justice and Culture official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 30, 2007. See also U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 14, 2008. See also U.S. Department of State, "Equatorial Guinea," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/118999.htm>.

¹³²³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Equatorial Guinea," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy-Malabo, *reporting*, March 3, 2009, para 23b. See also Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Plan de Acción de Lucha Contra el Tráfico y la Trata de Niños 2005-2009*, 2005, 10 and 11. See also U.S. Department of State, "Equatorial Guinea (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105387.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State official, E-mail, July 14, 2008.

¹³²⁴ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Ordenamiento General del Trabajo*, 2/1990, (January 4, 1990), article 11. See also U.S. Department of State official, E-mail, July 14, 2008.

¹³²⁵ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Ordenamiento General del Trabajo*, article 11.

¹³²⁶ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Sobre el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de Personas*, 1/2004, (September 14, 2004), articles 1b, 4, 5. See also Alicia Campos Serrano and Plácido Micó Abogo, *Labor and Trade Union Freedom in Equatorial Guinea*, Fundación Paz y Solidaridad Serafín Aliaga de Comisiones Obreras, Madrid, 2006, 48.

¹³²⁷ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de Personas*, article 5.

¹³²⁸ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Regulación Sobre la Circulación de Menores de Edad Durante Determinadas Horas Nocturnas, así como su Explotación para Actividades con Fines Lucrativos*, Orden Ministerial 4/2005, (June 20, 2005), article 1. See also Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Ordenamiento General del Trabajo*, articles 6, 4, 11.

¹³²⁹ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Curfew for Minors Ordinance*, articles 1-3.

¹³³⁰ U.S. Embassy- Malabo, *reporting*, March 5, 2008, paras 2a and 2e.

¹³³¹ Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Ordenamiento General del Trabajo*, article 3.

¹³³² Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de Personas*, article 3. See also U.S. Embassy- Malabo, *reporting*, March 3, 2009, para 25b.

¹³³³ U.S. Embassy- Malabo, *reporting*, September 15, 2008, para 3d.

¹³³⁴ *Ibid.*, para 2a.

¹³³⁵ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006. 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, 2006, 2.

¹³³⁶ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 5-7. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and*

Eritrea

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹³³⁸

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
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:	14
Compulsory education age:	13 or 14
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	62.2
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	46.5
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	73.7
ILO Convention 138:	2/22/2000
ILO Convention 182:	No
CRC:	8/3/1994
CRCOPAC:	2/16/2005**
CRCOPSC:	2/16/2005**
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Eritrea work in agriculture, on the streets, and as domestic servants.¹³³⁹ Children in rural areas of Eritrea work on farms and in fields gathering firewood, hauling water, and herding livestock.¹³⁴⁰ In urban areas, they work as vendors selling items such as cigarettes, newspapers, and chewing gum.¹³⁴¹ Children under the legal age work in towns as apprentices in shops,

workshops, and garages.¹³⁴² Children are also involved in commercial sexual exploitation.¹³⁴³

In order to graduate, all secondary school students are required to complete their final, 12th year of schooling at a facility adjacent to the Sawa Military Training Camp (Sawa) in remote western Eritrea. Students who do not attend Sawa are not eligible to take their final examinations or to graduate.¹³⁴⁴ According to USDOS, students receive initial military training at Sawa. There is no specific age required to complete the final year of school and thus children as young as 14 may be trained.¹³⁴⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Eritrean law sets the minimum age of employment and apprenticeship at 14 years.¹³⁴⁶ Young persons between 14 and 18 years may not work between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. or more than 7 hours per day.¹³⁴⁷ Children under 18 years cannot engage in hazardous work, including transporting goods/passengers; heavy lifting; working with toxic chemicals, and dangerous machines; and working underground such as in mines, quarries, sewers, and tunnel digging.¹³⁴⁸ The First Instance Labor Court hears and determines violations of the law.¹³⁴⁹

Forced labor is prohibited by the Constitution.¹³⁵⁰

The recruitment of children under 18 years into the armed forces is prohibited; however, at age 17 the law requires them to register for mandatory military or civilian service.¹³⁵¹ Child prostitution is prohibited and punishable by a fine and up to 5 years imprisonment.¹³⁵² Trafficking in persons is prohibited with penalties of fines and up to 10 years in prison. Information on trafficking, including child trafficking is limited, and there were no reports of trafficking in 2008.¹³⁵³ The Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare (MLHW) is responsible for enforcing child labor and