

Guinea

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*¹⁶⁵¹

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:	16
Compulsory education age:	12
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	90.8
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	73.6
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	82.8
ILO Convention 138:	6/6/2003
ILO Convention 182:	6/6/2003
CRC:	7/13/1990**
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	11/9/2004**
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The majority of working children in Guinea are engaged in agriculture and domestic service.¹⁶⁵² Children work in subsistence farming, including herding and fishing, and in the production of cashews, cocoa, and coffee.¹⁶⁵³ In urban areas, children work in the informal sector in vending and transportation.¹⁶⁵⁴ Girls as young as 5 years perform domestic labor, carry heavy loads, and are not paid for their work. Children are reportedly beaten and sexually exploited.¹⁶⁵⁵

Children work in gold and diamond mines in Upper and Lower Guinea. They also work in sand and gravel mines and quarries, breaking rocks,

extracting gravel, transporting materials, and selling water and other items near work sites.¹⁶⁵⁶ More boys than girls work in the mines, especially boys 15 to 17 years, though younger children and girls sort through and wash rubble, and push water through sieves in search of diamonds. Children in the mines work 12 to 18 hours per day, do not wear protective gear, and are prone to accidents, broken bones, and respiratory, skin, and other diseases.¹⁶⁵⁷

Children from rural areas are sent to Conakry to attend school. If those they are staying with cannot or choose not to pay their school fees, these children work in domestic service, sell water, or shine shoes to pay their room and board.¹⁶⁵⁸ The practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include a vocational or apprenticeship component, is a tradition in various countries, including Guinea.¹⁶⁵⁹ While some boys receive lessons, many are forced by their teachers to beg or work in fields.¹⁶⁶⁰

Guinea is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in children.¹⁶⁶¹ Most children are trafficked internally: boys for forced labor as street vendors, shoe shiners, beggars, miners, and agricultural workers; and girls for forced domestic labor and sexual exploitation. Girls are trafficked to Guinea from Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau for forced domestic service and sexual exploitation.¹⁶⁶² Guinean children are trafficked to Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone for mining and domestic work.¹⁶⁶³ Children from Guinea are trafficked to Europe for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.¹⁶⁶⁴

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for admission to work is 16 years.¹⁶⁶⁵ Children under 16 years, however, can work with consent from the authorities.¹⁶⁶⁶ The law sets the minimum age for apprenticeship at 14 years, though the age for apprenticeship can be reduced to 12 years for certain activities such as agriculture, with approval by a labor inspector.

Workers younger than 18 years are not permitted to work at night or for more than 12 consecutive hours per day.¹⁶⁶⁷ The law prohibits children under 16 years from working in mines or quarries, other than as an assistant.¹⁶⁶⁸ Violations of these laws are punishable by fines and sentences of 8 days to 2 months in prison.¹⁶⁶⁹ According to USDOS, the Government of Guinea lacks the resources to enforce and prosecute child labor violations.¹⁶⁷⁰

The official age for voluntary and compulsory recruitment into the armed forces is 18 years.¹⁶⁷¹ The law prohibits work in unhealthy or dangerous establishments and hazardous work for children younger than 18 years.¹⁶⁷² Forced labor is prohibited by law.¹⁶⁷³ The law also prohibits child prostitution, sex tourism involving a child, and child pornography. Violation of the law can result in 1 to 5 years of imprisonment.¹⁶⁷⁴ Trafficking in persons is prohibited by law. The penalty for labor trafficking of children includes the maximum imprisonment of 10 years and the confiscation of money or property received through trafficking activities.¹⁶⁷⁵

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.¹⁶⁷⁶ As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government of Guinea agreed to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders; to rehabilitate and reintegrate trafficking victims; and to assist fellow signatory countries to implement these measures under the Agreement.¹⁶⁷⁷

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2008, the Child Code into law, which includes numerous provisions related to child labor, child trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor.¹⁶⁷⁸

The Government of Guinea continues to work with NGOs to place trafficked children in foster homes, supports a 24-hour victim's hotline, and provides awareness-raising activities, including a national media campaign to combat trafficking.¹⁶⁷⁹

The Government also participates in a 3-year, USD 279,000, USAID-funded project implemented by Save the Children to help reintegrate young trafficking victims in Guinea and Mali and provide them with vocational training. The project ends in September 2009.¹⁶⁸⁰ Through August 2010, the Government will collaborate with World Education on a USD 345,000 USDOS-funded project to collect data to establish a national database on trafficking and anti-trafficking efforts. The project also provides recovery efforts for 160 child victims; prevention, situational improvement and protection efforts for 650 vulnerable and at-risk children; and tests models of delivering services through government-sponsored Local Child Family Protection Councils and parents' associations.¹⁶⁸¹

In 2008, USDOL awarded a 4-year USD 3.5 million project to World Education to implement the Combating Exploitive Child Labor in Guinea project. The project aims to contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labor in agriculture, mining, domestic service, and the informal sector and targets 3,930 children for withdrawal and 3,930 for prevention from exploitative labor.¹⁶⁸² The Government of Guinea and Save the Children collaborated in a USDOL-funded 4-year USD 4.4 million child labor education initiative that ended in September 2008 and withdrew 3,594 and prevented 1,206 children from exploitive labor in agriculture, domestic service, small-scale mining, and commerce by providing formal and non-formal education.¹⁶⁸³

Through April 30, 2008, the Government of Guinea also participated in an ILO-IPEC regional project combating trafficking in children for labor exploitation in West Africa funded by the Government of Denmark at USD 6.19 million.¹⁶⁸⁴

¹⁶⁵¹ 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, see Government of Guinea, *Code du travail de la République de Guinée*, (1988), article 5. For age to which education is compulsory, see UNESCO, *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009 - Overcoming inequality: Why governance matters*, France, 2009, 16; available from <http://www.unesco.org/en/efareport/reports/2009->

governance. For free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Guinea," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119005.htm>.

¹⁶⁵² International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), *Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards in Guinea: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Guinea*, Geneva, October 12 and 14, 2005, 5; available from <http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/clsguinea2005.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 6d.

¹⁶⁵³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 6d. See also International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), *Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards in Guinea*, 5. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Guinea (ratification: 2003)*, [online] 2007 [cited February 26, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=20442&chapter=9&query=Guinea%5F%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also ILO, *Etude de Base sur le Travail de Enfants en Guinée, Rapport d'analyse des résultats* Conakry, October 2006, 41. See also ILO-IPEC, *Rooting Out Child Labour from Cocoa Farms: Sharing Experiences*, Paper No. 3, Geneva, 2007, 17; available from http://www.ilo.org/ipeginfo/product/download.doj?sessionId=0a038009ceb894400a9b81d4f9e93c38d63c1e604c7.hkzFngTDP6WImQuUaNaKbND3IN4K-xaIah8S-xyIn3uKmAiN-AnwbQbxaNvzaAmI-huKa30xgx95fjWta3eIpkzFngTDP6WImQuxahySbxaTbn8TbMb48OX3b4DtGj15eMbynknvrkLOIQzNp65In0__?type=document&id=6446. See also République de Guinée Bureau d'Etudes et Services, *Enquête de Base sur le Travail des Enfants dans l'Agriculture Commerciale Cacao/Acajou en Guinée*, December 2004, 36.

¹⁶⁵⁴ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "West Africa: Children in danger: Working on the street", IRINnews.org, [online], June 15, 2006 [cited January 23, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=59327>. See also Action Against the Exploitation of Children and Women, *Etude sur le trafic et travail domestique des enfant en Guinée (rapport provisoire)*, Anti Slavery International, Conakry, November 2005, 16 and 26; available from http://www.crin.org/docs/ACEEF_Trafic_Enfants_Guinée.doc.

¹⁶⁵⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Bottom of the Ladder: Exploitation and Abuse of Girl Domestic Workers*, New York, June 2007, 27-28; available from

<http://hrw.org/reports/2007/guinea0607/>. See also Human Rights Watch, *Legal, Policy and Programmatic Responses to Protect Child Domestic Workers*, [online] 2006 [cited January 29, 2009]; available from <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/guinea0607/10.htm>.

See also Action Against the Exploitation of Children and Women, *Etude sur le trafic et travail domestique (rapport provisoire)*, 4. See also ILO, *Rapport d'analyse des résultats*, 40-42. See also Action Against the Exploitation of Children and Women, *Etude sur le trafic et travail domestique (rapport provisoire)*, 26.

¹⁶⁵⁶ Republic of Guinea and UNICEF, *Etude sur les "Enfants Travaillant dans les Mines et Carrières"*, Ministère des Affaires Sociales and Ministère de l'Emploi, Conakry, 2006, 2, 14, 16, 21, 33, 41. See also Association Guinéenne de Recherche - Action Et d'Alphabétisation pour le Développement, *Etude Dans les Zones Minières (Diamantifère & de l'Or) de Bonodou & Dandano: Lutte Contre la Traite des Personnes à des fins d'exploitation de leur Travail*, 2007, 3-5. See also International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), *Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards in Guinea*, 5.

¹⁶⁵⁷ Republic of Guinea and UNICEF, *Etude sur les "Enfants Travaillant dans les Mines et Carrières"*, 17, 19, 23, 26, 27, 31

¹⁶⁵⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 6d.

¹⁶⁵⁹ Peter Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," *IK Notes*, no. 11 (August 1999), 1, 3; available from <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt11.pdf>. See also Peter Easton, Mark Peach, Ibrahima Lalya Bah, ElHadj Bella Doumboula, and Mohammed Lamine Barry, *Research Studies Series no. 8*, International Working Group on Nonformal Education of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, May 1997; available from <http://www.adeanet.org/wgnfe/publications/abel/abel2.html> [hard copy on file]. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 6d.

¹⁶⁶⁰ IOM, *Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa, Warns IOM*, [online] 2006 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleAF/cache/offonce?entryId=12007>. See also U.S. Embassy-Bamako, *reporting*, April 1, 2008, paras 1 and 3. See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, *reporting*, June 26, 2008, paras 1, 5, 8. See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, *reporting*, May 15, 2008, paras 1 and 8.

¹⁶⁶¹ U.S. Department of State, "Guinea (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105659.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 5.

¹⁶⁶² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, June 26, 2008, paras 5 and 12. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Guinea." See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, May 15, 2008, para 8.

¹⁶⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Cote d'Ivoire (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>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Sierra Leone (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008>. See also U.S. Embassy- Bamako, reporting, April 1, 2008, paras 1 and 3. See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, June 26, 2008, para 1.

¹⁶⁶⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Guinea." See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Guinea," section 6d.

¹⁶⁶⁵ Government of Guinea, *Conditions de travail des salariés âgés de moins de 18 ans*, (April 22, 1996), articles 1-5, 7, 10-11; available from <http://www.droit-afrique.com/images/textes/Guinee/Guinee%20-%20Travail%20des%20mineurs.pdf>. See also Government of Guinea, *Code du travail*, 1988, article 5. See also Government of Guinea, *Loi Portant Code de l'Enfant*, (August 2008), articles 411-416.

¹⁶⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, January 21, 2009, para 3.

¹⁶⁶⁷ Government of Guinea, *Code de travail des mineurs*, 1996, articles 5, 31, 148. See also Government of Guinea, *Code de l'enfant*, 2008, articles 411-413.

¹⁶⁶⁸ Government of Guinea, *Code Minier*, (1995), title X, article 135; available from <http://www.droit-afrique.com/images/textes/Guinee/Guinee%20-%20Travail%20des%20miniers.pdf>. See also Government of Guinea, *Code du travail*, 1988, article 2.

¹⁶⁶⁹ Government of Guinea, *Code du travail*, 1988, articles 2, 186, 187, 205.

¹⁶⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, January 21, 2009, paras 5 and 6.

¹⁶⁷¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Guinea," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf.

¹⁶⁷² Government of Guinea, *Code de l'enfant*, 2008, article 411.

¹⁶⁷³ Government of Guinea, *Code du travail*, 1988, article 2. See also International Confederation of Free Trade

Unions (ICFTU), *Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards in Guinea*, 5.

¹⁶⁷⁴ Interpol, *National Laws: Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children*, [online] 2006 [cited January 26, 2009], sections 4 and 5; available from

<http://www.interpol.int/public/children/sexualabuse/nationallaws/default.asp>. See also Government of Guinea, *Code de l'enfant*, 2008, articles 357-359.

¹⁶⁷⁵ Government of Guinea, *Code de l'enfant*, 2008, articles 385, 387. See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, January 21, 2009, para 5.

¹⁶⁷⁶ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006.

¹⁶⁷⁷ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 5-13; available from http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/img/pdf/Multilateral_Agreement_Trafficking-1184251953.doc.

¹⁶⁷⁸ Government of Guinea, *Code de l'enfant*, 2008, articles 357-386, 397-399, 411-443. See also U.S. Embassy- Conakry, reporting, January 21, 2009, para 1.

¹⁶⁷⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Guinea."

¹⁶⁸⁰ Francesca Munzi, "Guinea Feels the Effects of Trafficking in Persons", [online], April 2, 2008 [cited February 26, 2009]; available from <http://www.usaid.gov/gn/news/2008/trafficking/trafficking.htm>. See also, USAID official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 27, 2009.

¹⁶⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, *Fiscal Year 2008 Anti-Trafficking Programs*, [online] 2008 [cited February 26, 2009]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008>. See also USDOS official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 22, 2009.

¹⁶⁸² World Education, *SELECT - Stop Exploitive Labor and Educate Children for Tomorrow*, Cooperative Agreement, September 30, 2008, cover page, 4. See also World Education, *SELECT - Stop Exploitive Labor and Educate Children for Tomorrow*, Project Document (draft), January 2009, 1 and 9.

¹⁶⁸³ Save the Children- U.S., *Combating Child Labor and Exploitation in Guinea (CCLEE)*, Project Document, Westport, November 6, 2006, 1. See also Save the Children- U.S., *Combating Child Labor and Exploitation in Guinea (CCLEE)*, Final Report, Westport, January 6, 2009, cover page, G-18.

¹⁶⁸⁴ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008. See also ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 16, 2009.