

Papua New Guinea

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³⁰²³

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:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	55.2
Net primary enrollment rate (%):	-
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2002:	68.0
ILO Convention 138:	6/2/2000
ILO Convention 182:	6/2/2000
CRC:	3/2/1993
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In rural areas of Papua New Guinea, children work in agriculture, including tea and coffee farms, as well as in grocery stores near isolated mine and logging camps.³⁰²⁴ In urban areas, children sell food, cigarettes, betel nut, CDs, and DVDs on the streets and in public places.³⁰²⁵ A large number of children are engaged in domestic service, including children held in indentured servitude to pay off familial debts.³⁰²⁶ Children are involved in prostitution in Papua New Guinea, typically working in bars or nightclubs. Children are also exploited through the production of pornography.³⁰²⁷ Children are trafficked internally for domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation.³⁰²⁸

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 years.³⁰²⁹ Children 11 to 18 years, however, may work in family businesses by obtaining medical clearance, parental permission, and a work permit from the labor office.³⁰³⁰ Children under 16 years may not work in conditions that are harmful to their health, or their physical, mental, or spiritual development.³⁰³¹ Work performed by children 11 to 16 years must not interfere with school attendance.³⁰³² Work by children under 11 years is prohibited.³⁰³³ Children 16 to 17 years may work between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. if a family member is also employed there. Penalties for child labor violations range from a fine to 10 years of imprisonment.³⁰³⁴

The law prohibits forced labor.³⁰³⁵ The law also prohibits indecent treatment of boys younger than 14 years, indecent treatment and defilement of girls younger than 16 years, and the abduction, kidnapping, or procurement of girls below 18 years for sexual exploitation. Under the law, children below 18 years cannot be charged with prostitution.³⁰³⁶ Penalties for obtaining or procuring a child for commercial sexual exploitation are up to 15 years' imprisonment or life imprisonment if the child is under 12 years.³⁰³⁷ There is no compulsory military service in Papua New Guinea; the minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years, or 16 years with parental approval.³⁰³⁸

The Department of Police and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations are responsible for implementing and enforcing child labor laws. However, USDOS reports that enforcement by those departments has been poor due to a lack of resources and cultural acceptance of child labor.³⁰³⁹

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government's National Plan of Action for Decent Work mandates the elimination of child

labor.³⁰⁴⁰ Beginning in March 2008, the Government began participating in a 4-year USD 19.5 million project supported by the European Commission and the ILO to combat child labor in 11 countries, including Papua New Guinea. The project aims to withdraw children engaged in child labor, improve the capacity of authorities to formulate and enforce child labor policy, and work with social partners and civil society to combat child labor.³⁰⁴¹ The Government is also working with NGOs such as the Papua New Guinea Children's Foundation and People Against Child Exploitation to implement the National Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children 2006-2011.³⁰⁴²

³⁰²³ 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 Papua New Guinea, *Report to ILO Committee of Experts on Convention 182*, September 2005. See also The Law Library of Congress, *Child Labor Papua New Guinea*, February 2008. See also U.S. Department of State, "Papua New 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/index.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," section 5.

³⁰²⁴ Department of Community Development official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 20, 2006. See also Department of Labor and Industrial Relations official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009. See also Child Labor Information Bank, *Child Labor by Industry or Occupation: Papua New Guinea*, accessed January 14, 2009; available from http://www.endchildlabor.org/db_infoBank.cfm.

³⁰²⁵ Department of Community Development official, Interview, June 20, 2006. See also U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, July 14, 2008.

³⁰²⁶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted By States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Papua New Guinea*, CRC/C/15/Add.229, February 26, 2004, para 57. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Papua New Guinea (Tier 3)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/#>.

³⁰²⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations: Papua New Guinea*, para 59. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," sections 5 and 6d. See also Child Labor Information Bank, *Child Labor by Industry or Occupation: Papua New Guinea*. See also U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Papua New Guinea (ratification: 2000)*, June 11, 2008. See also UNICEF, UNESCAP, and ECPAT, *Child Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Pacific: A Regional Report*, 2006, 34 and 38.

³⁰²⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Papua New Guinea." See also UNICEF, UNESCAP, and ECPAT, *Child Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Pacific*, 40. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," section 5.

³⁰²⁹ Government of Papua New Guinea, *Report to ILO Committee of Experts, September 2005, Article 3(d)*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," section 6d. See also The Law Library of Congress, *Child Labor Papua New Guinea*.

³⁰³⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," section 6d. See also The Law Library of Congress, *Child Labor Papua New Guinea*.

³⁰³¹ U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009.

³⁰³² *Ibid.* See also The Law Library of Congress, *Child Labor Papua New Guinea*.

³⁰³³ Department of Labor and Industrial Relations official, Interview, June 26, 2006.

³⁰³⁴ U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009.

³⁰³⁵ Government of Papua New Guinea, *Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea*, (1975), 43. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Papua New Guinea," section 6c.

³⁰³⁶ The Protection Project, *Papua New Guinea*; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org/papua.doc>. See also U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009.

³⁰³⁷ U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009.

³⁰³⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Papua New Guinea," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/library/global-reports>. See also The Law Library of Congress, *Child Labor Papua New Guinea*, 3.

³⁰³⁹ U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, February 23, 2009.

³⁰⁴⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Combating Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific: Progress and Challenges*, 2005, 27.

³⁰⁴¹ EuropeAid, *EC and ILO launch project to tackle child labour in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries*, Press

Release, June 10, 2008; available from http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/documents/ec_tackle_pressrelease_en.pdf. See also ILO, *Tackling child labour through education - Fiji and Papua New Guinea*, [online] October 21, 2008 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/lang--en/WCMS_099948/index.htm.

³⁰⁴² PNG Children's Foundation Inc., PACE, and UNICEF, *The National Action Plan Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Papua New Guinea (July 2006-June 2011)*, 2006, 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Papua New Guinea." See also U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting, February 23, 2009*.

Paraguay

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³⁰⁴³

Population, children, 10-14 years, 2005:	739,776
Working children, 10-14 years (%), 2005:	15.3
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 2005:	22.6
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 2005:	7.7
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 2005:	
- Agriculture	60.8
- Manufacturing	6.2
- Services	32.1
- Other	0.9
Minimum age for work:	12
Compulsory education age:	14
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	111.3
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	94.3
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2005:	90.3
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	87.7
ILO Convention 138:	3/3/2004
ILO Convention 182:	3/7/2001
CRC:	9/25/1990
CRCOPAC:	9/27/2002
CRCOPSC:	8/18/2003
Palermo:	9/22/2004
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Paraguay, many children, primarily boys, work in agriculture in the production of goods such as cotton, soy, sesame, wheat, peanuts, beans, and stevia (a plant-based sweetener).³⁰⁴⁴ Children, primarily boys, also work in the manufacturing sector, construction, hotels, restaurants, and

transportation. Children also work in markets and in stores.³⁰⁴⁵ Children, primarily girls, work as *criadas*, or child domestic servants, and do not receive salaries but are promised room, board, and financial support for schooling. However, these child domestic workers are sometimes subject to sexual exploitation and often lack access to education.³⁰⁴⁶

Trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation and forced domestic service from rural to urban areas occurs in Paraguay. Some children were reported to be sold by their parents or guardians for forced labor or sexual exploitation.³⁰⁴⁷ Sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls, and increasingly boys, occur frequently in the tri-border region of Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil. Children are also found working as drug smugglers along the border with Brazil.³⁰⁴⁸ Boys working in prostitution are trafficked internationally, especially to Italy.³⁰⁴⁹ Children are trafficked to Argentina, Spain, Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia.³⁰⁵⁰

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Children between 12 and 15 years may engage in light labor with parental authorization in nonhazardous and nonindustrial working conditions.³⁰⁵¹ The minimum age for employment in industrial work is 15 years, with exceptions for children over 12 years working in authorized professional schools and family businesses where the work is not dangerous.³⁰⁵² The CEACR, however, has noted that the Government of Paraguay has not described the nature of the work that is permitted for children under the minimum age.³⁰⁵³ The laws on legal work hours