

# Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

## *Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*<sup>3281</sup>

Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	102.5
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	91.0

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

No changes have been recorded since the last reporting period regarding the incidence and nature of child labor in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.\*

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

No changes have been recorded since the last reporting period regarding child labor laws and enforcement in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.\*

### **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 Saint Vincent

and the Grenadines to address exploitive child labor.

\* Because of extremely limited information, a determination was made that USDOL would publish full reports on 9 countries and 18 territories, including the country or territory covered here, once every 5 years. For this reason, this report includes shortened profiles for these countries and territories, containing only new information published during the reporting period. For extended profiles on these countries and territories, please see *The Department of Labor's 2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*. The next extended profiles on these countries and territories should appear in *The Department of Labor's 2010 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

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<sup>3281</sup> For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section.

## Samoa

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

Children in rural areas of Samoa work on village farms, where village chiefs may compel children to work against their will.<sup>3282</sup> Children also work as street vendors in Apia, Samoa's capital, and increasingly in outlying areas.<sup>3283</sup> Children who work in domestic service may be unable to attend school due to their employment.<sup>3284</sup>

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

The law sets the minimum age of employment at 15 years except for safe and light work suited to the capacity of the child, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor. Children under 15 years may not work with dangerous machinery, in any

occupation or place where working conditions are likely to harm their physical or moral health, or on any vessel not under the personal charge of a parent or guardian.<sup>3285</sup> Since Samoan labor laws cover only employees with a fixed place of employment, the Government has not determined whether street vending and other informal work by children is illegal.<sup>3286</sup> Violations of child labor laws are punishable by fines.<sup>3287</sup>

Samoa law prohibits forced or compulsory labor, but this provision does not cover work or service required by Samoan custom.<sup>3288</sup> Complaints of illegal child labor are investigated by Employment Investigators of the Ministry of Labor and referred to the Ministry of Police and Attorney General for enforcement.<sup>3289</sup>

The crime of inducing a female of any age into sexual relations through fraudulent means is punishable by up to 5 years of imprisonment.<sup>3290</sup> Soliciting or procuring a female of any age for prostitution, or benefiting from the earnings thereof, is a crime punishable by 3 years of imprisonment.<sup>3291</sup> The abduction or detaining of any female child less than 16 years, with the intent to have sexual relations, is punishable by up to 7 years of imprisonment.<sup>3292</sup>

There is no minimum age of conscription as there are no armed forces maintained by the Government of Samoa.<sup>3296</sup>

### Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2008, the Government of Samoa ratified ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age and ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor.<sup>3297</sup> The Government also passed the Education Bill 2008 which fines guardians who allow children 5 to 14 years to work as street vendors and other jobs.<sup>3298</sup>

<sup>3282</sup> U.S. Embassy- Apia, *reporting*, December 2, 2007, para B.

<sup>3283</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3284</sup> Ibid. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Initial Reports of State Parties due in 1996: Samoa*, Geneva, February 16, 2006, para 197(m); available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/7a53d58f695d3bf1c125715c0037ae04/\\$FILE/G0640507.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/7a53d58f695d3bf1c125715c0037ae04/$FILE/G0640507.pdf). See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Samoa*, Geneva, October 16, 2006, para 54; available from [http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,CRC,CO\\_NCOBSERVATIONS,WSM,45c30bc00,0.html](http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,CRC,CO_NCOBSERVATIONS,WSM,45c30bc00,0.html).

<sup>3285</sup> Government of Samoa, *Labour and Employment Act*, article 32.

<sup>3286</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Samoa," section 6d.

<sup>3287</sup> Government of Samoa, *Labour and Employment Act*, article 41.

<sup>3288</sup> Government of Samoa, *Constitution of the Independent State of Western Samoa 1960*, (January 1, 1962), articles 8(1) and 8(2d); available from [http://www.pacii.org/ws/legis/consol\\_act/cotisows1960535/](http://www.pacii.org/ws/legis/consol_act/cotisows1960535/).

<sup>3289</sup> U.S. Embassy- Apia official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 16, 2009. See also U.S. Embassy- Apia, *reporting*, December 2, 2007.

<sup>3290</sup> Government of Samoa, *Crimes Ordinance 1961*, (December 16, 1961), article 55; available from [http://www.pacii.org/ws/legis/consol\\_act/co1961135/](http://www.pacii.org/ws/legis/consol_act/co1961135/).

<sup>3291</sup> Ibid., article 58L-M.

<sup>3292</sup> Ibid., article 83B.

<sup>3293</sup> For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and

### Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor<sup>3293</sup>

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:	15
Compulsory education age:	14
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	95.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	87.0
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2000:	93.8
ILO Convention 138:	10/29/2008
ILO Convention 182:	6/30/2008
CRC:	11/29/1994
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Kidnapping any person with the intent to transport the individual out of the country, or hold the individual for service, is a crime punishable by up to 10 years of imprisonment.<sup>3294</sup> Although there are no laws against trafficking per se, trafficking related investigations are conducted by the Transnational Crimes Unit of the Ministry of Police.<sup>3295</sup>

ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Samoa, *Labour and Employment Act*, (1972), article 32; available from [http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol\\_act/laea1972228/](http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol_act/laea1972228/). For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Samoa," 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/eap/119055.htm>.

<sup>3294</sup> Ibid., article 83A.

<sup>3295</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports: Samoa*, para 197(c).

<sup>3296</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Pacific Islands: Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008, 263; available from

[www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country\\_pdfs/FINAL\\_2008\\_Global\\_Report.pdf](http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf).

<sup>3297</sup> ILO, *List of Ratifications of International Labor Conventions, C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973*, [online] [cited December 29, 2008]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-byConvYear.cfm?hdroff=1&:ang=EN&conv=C138>. See also ILO, *List of Ratifications of International Labor Conventions, C182 Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999*, [online] December 29, 2008 [cited December 29, 2008]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-byConvYear.cfm?hdroff=1&:ang=EN&conv=C182>.

<sup>3298</sup> Tupuola Tavita, *House Passes Compulsory Education Bill*, [online] 2008 [cited December 24, 2008]; available from [http://www.govt.ws/sv\\_article.cfm?sv\\_id=424](http://www.govt.ws/sv_article.cfm?sv_id=424).

## São Tomé and Príncipe

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in São Tomé and Príncipe work on plantations and in subsistence agriculture, informal commerce, and domestic service.<sup>3299</sup> The Government has indicated that commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs in the country.<sup>3300</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for work in São Tomé and Príncipe is 14 years. The law prohibits children under 18 years from working in unhealthy or dangerous conditions, as well as from working underground.<sup>3301</sup> Children may not work more than 7 hours a day and 35 hours per week. The law also prohibits minors from working at night, but government authorities may grant permission for those 16 and above to work at night in exceptional cases.<sup>3302</sup> Minors are likewise generally prohibited from engaging in "extraordinary" work beyond normal working hours, except in cases such as *force majeure*. The law calls for the imposition of fines for violations of provisions regarding the minimum age for both work and hazardous work.<sup>3303</sup>

The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor.<sup>3304</sup>  
The law also prohibits trafficking in persons.<sup>3305</sup>

The law prohibits the incitement of minors under 16 to debauchery, including prostitution, and provides for imprisonment for violations.<sup>3306</sup> The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has noted, however, that under the country's laws, children involved in prostitution are considered to be criminals, rather than victims.<sup>3307</sup>

Military service is compulsory at 18 years; voluntary service may begin at 17 years with parental consent.<sup>3308</sup>

São Tomé and Príncipe 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.<sup>3309</sup> As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government 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.<sup>3310</sup>

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws. As of March 2009, the Ministry employed five labor inspectors.<sup>3311</sup> No cases of