

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

child labor law violations were prosecuted during 2008.<sup>3312</sup>

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> <sup>3313</sup>	
Population, children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	40,435
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	15.4
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	17.2
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	13.5
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 (%), 2008:	130.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2008:	97.1
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	68.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2007:	78.9
ILO Convention 138:	5/4/2005
ILO Convention 182:	5/4/2005
CRC:	5/14/1991**
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	8/23/2006**
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

\*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

\*\*Accession

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

The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe operates shelters for street children where they are provided with education and training.<sup>3314</sup>

<sup>3299</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Sao Tome and Principe," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119020.htm>.

<sup>3300</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties due in 1993: São Tomé and*

*Príncipe*, prepared by Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, December 1, 2003, para 405; available from <http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx?country=st>.

<sup>3301</sup> Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Regime Jurídico das Condições*, articles 128 and 129.

<sup>3302</sup> *Ibid.*, articles 134 and 136.

<sup>3303</sup> *Ibid.*, articles 135 and 147.

<sup>3304</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6c.

<sup>3305</sup> *Ibid.*, section 5. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State Parties: São Tomé and Príncipe*, para 35.

<sup>3306</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State Parties: São Tomé and Príncipe*, para 400. See also U.S. Embassy- Libreville official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 31, 2009.

<sup>3307</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: São Tomé and Príncipe*, CRC/C/15/Add.235, Geneva, July 1, 2004, para 53; available from <http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx?country=st>.

<sup>3308</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "São Tomé and Príncipe," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from [http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country\\_pdfs/FINAL\\_2008\\_Global\\_Report.pdf](http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf). See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State Parties: São Tomé and Príncipe*, sections 97-98.

<sup>3309</sup> 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.

<sup>3310</sup> ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006.

<sup>3311</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Libreville official, E-mail communication, March 31, 2009.

<sup>3312</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sao Tome and Principe," section 6d.

<sup>3313</sup> 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 São Tomé and Príncipe, *Regime Jurídico das Condições Individuais de Trabalho*, (June 11, 1992), article 128; available from [http://www.legis-palop.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=62&It](http://www.legis-palop.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=62&It)

emid=76&limitstart=10. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Constituição Política da República Democrática de São Tomé e Príncipe*, (January 25, 2003), article 55; available from <http://www.gov.st/data/filestorage/docs/constistp.pdf>. See also Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Ensino Básico*, [online] February 14, 2009 [cited February 14, 2009]; available from

<http://www.gov.st/content.php?intMenuID=45>. See also São Tomé and Príncipe Embassy official, Interview with USDOL official, June 7, 2007.

<sup>3314</sup> National Assembly of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Programa do XIII Governo*, July 2008, 44; available from <http://www.parlamento.st/>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sao Tome and Principe," section 5.

## Senegal

### *Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*<sup>3315</sup>

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2005:	2,983,310
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	30.0
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	33.4
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	26.7
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	83.5
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	71.9
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2005:	47.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	65.0
ILO Convention 138:	12/15/1999
ILO Convention 182:	6/1/2000
CRC:	7/31/1990
CRCOPAC:	3/3/2004
CRCOPSC:	11/5/2003
Palermo:	10/27/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

\*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

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

In Senegal, children work in agriculture, hunting, fishing, domestic service, transportation, construction, manufacturing, vending, tailoring,

and weaving, as well as in automobile repair shops, restaurants, and hotels.<sup>3316</sup> Children work in the production of gold, salt, and fish.<sup>3317</sup> They also work in mines and rock quarries, often in hazardous and unhealthy working conditions.<sup>3318</sup> Children in mines sift through dirt using mercury to attract precious metals. Exposure to mercury can lead to serious health problems.<sup>3319</sup> Children, many of whom live in the streets, are exploited in illicit activities, including begging, commercial sexual exploitation, and drug trafficking; and work in dumpsites, slaughterhouses, and other poor conditions.<sup>3320</sup> Child prostitution occurs on beaches, in bars, at hotels, and other tourist areas.<sup>3321</sup>

Senegal is a source and destination country for child trafficking.<sup>3322</sup> Young girls are trafficked from villages in Fatick, Louga, Kaolack, Kolda, Ziguichor, Thies, Saint Louis, and Djourbel to urban centers for domestic service.<sup>3323</sup> Senegalese girls are also trafficked to The Gambia and Mauritania to work as domestic servants.<sup>3324</sup> Girls from The Gambia, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria have reportedly been trafficked to Senegal for sexual exploitation.<sup>3325</sup>

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 Senegal.<sup>3326</sup> While some boys receive lessons, others are forced by their teachers to beg for food or money and surrender the money that they have earned. Such children have been underfed and physically abused.<sup>3327</sup> These boys, or *talibes*,