

Cape Verde

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*⁷¹³

Population, children 10-14 years, 2001-2002:	142,407
Working children, 10-14 years (%), 2001-2002:	3.2
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 2001-2002:	3.8
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 2001-2002:	2.6
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 2001-2002:	
- Agriculture	79.2
- Manufacturing	1.0
- Services	13.7
- Other	6.2
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	11
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	101.5
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	84.5
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2001-2002:	90.1
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	92.2
ILO Convention 138:	No
ILO Convention 182:	10/23/2001
CRC:	6/4/1992*
CRCOPAC:	5/10/2002*
CRCOPSC:	5/10/2002*
Palermo:	7/15/2004
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Cape Verde, children work—mostly in the informal sector—in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing. They also work as street vendors and car washers and assist in family businesses.⁷¹⁴ Reports indicate that some children are exploited in prostitution, including on the island of Sal. There have been reports of child sex tourism in tourist areas.⁷¹⁵ In addition, a 2007 Government-sponsored study found that children in Cape Verde are used by adults in the sale of illicit substances.⁷¹⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years; children that are at least 14 years of age may enter into apprentice contracts.⁷¹⁷ Only businesses that have not been convicted of specific child labor violations may take on an apprentice, unless pardoned by the Director-General for Labor.⁷¹⁸ The law allows children below the minimum age to engage in work in the arts as well as in light domestic, agricultural, and other activities if it contributes to their moral and physical development.⁷¹⁹

The law prohibits children from working in activities that do not conform to their physical or intellectual ability.⁷²⁰ Children under 16 years are prohibited from entering into maritime contracts.⁷²¹ Employment contracts entered into by children under 18 years can be invalidated at the request of the parents or legal representatives.⁷²² Normal working hours for youths under 18 years may not exceed 38 hours per week and 7 hours per day, and minors are entitled to a period of 12 hours of uninterrupted rest daily.⁷²³ Minors between 16 and 18 years may work overtime; however, such overtime may not exceed 2 hours daily and 30 hours annually.⁷²⁴ In addition, youths under 18 years are not permitted to work at night unless it is essential to their professional development and authorized by the Director-General for Labor.⁷²⁵

The law specifies that parents who exploit their children for labor or abuse the dependence of a minor are subject to a fine equivalent to a year's salary of an adult worker.⁷²⁶ The legal remedies for violating child labor laws also include compensation for victims and criminal penalties from 9 to 19 years of imprisonment if the victim is under 14 years and 2 to 8 years if the victim is 14 to 16 years.⁷²⁷

The Ministries of Justice and Labor, specifically the offices of the Inspector General for Labor, are responsible for enforcing child labor laws; however, according to USDOS, such laws are seldom enforced.⁷²⁸

The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor.⁷²⁹ The compulsory recruitment age for military service is 18 years, but volunteers may be 17 years.⁷³⁰ The trafficking of children under 18 years is illegal. Penalties for trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation consist of 12 to 16 years in prison, while penalties for trafficking for forced labor consist of 6 to 12 years in prison.⁷³¹ The Government monitors potential trafficking cases; however, efforts are hindered by inadequate funding for police and responsible government agencies, which include the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs and the Judiciary Police.⁷³² The law prohibits the facilitation and procurement of children under 16 years for the purpose of prostitution, a crime that is punishable by 2 to 8 years of imprisonment for cases involving children under 14 years, and by 1 to 5 years of imprisonment for those involving children 14 to 16 years.⁷³³ However, according to USDOS, laws against prostitution are often not enforced.⁷³⁴ Criminal penalties are generally increased in cases for crimes against minors.⁷³⁵

Cape Verde 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.⁷³⁶ 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.⁷³⁷

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

The Government of Cape Verde continued to participate in a 2-year project, Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Lusophone Countries in Africa, funded by the Government of Brazil and implemented by ILO in Angola, Cape Verde, and Mozambique.⁷³⁸

⁷¹³ 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 Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, 5/2007, (October 16, 2007), article 261. See also U.S. Embassy-Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1a. For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Embassy-Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1d. For free public education, see Government of Cape Verde, *The Constitution of the Republic of Cape Verde*, 1/V/99, (November 23, 1999), article 77; available from www.parlamento.cv/constituicao/const00.htm. See also U.S. Embassy-Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1d.

⁷¹⁴ U.S. Embassy-Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1e. See also Gabriel Fernandes, Jose P. Delgado, Liriam T. Delgado, and Orlando Borja, *Criança e Trabalho em Cabo Verde: Um Estudo Jurídico e Sociológico*, Government of Cape Verde- Ministry of Labor, Family and Solidarity, Cape Verdian Institute of Child and the Adolescent, Praia, July 2007, 28-29.

⁷¹⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Cape Verde (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 23, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also Fernandes, Delgado, Delgado, and Borja, *Criança e Trabalho em Cabo Verde*, 52. See also International Regional Information Networks, "Cape Verde: Sex tourism on the rise?", IRINnews.org [online] August 8, 2007 [cited January 14, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/printreport.aspx?reportId=73637>. See also U.S. Embassy-Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009.

⁷¹⁶ Fernandes, Delgado, Delgado, and Borja, *Criança e Trabalho em Cabo Verde*, 53.

⁷¹⁷ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, articles 261 and 249. See also U.S. Embassy-Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1a.

⁷¹⁸ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 252. See also Library of Congress official, Letter to USDOL official, March 13, 2008, section II.

⁷¹⁹ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, articles 261 and 262.

⁷²⁰ *Ibid.*, article 264.

⁷²¹ *Ibid.*, article 328.

⁷²² *Ibid.*, article 27. See also Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008, section II.

⁷²³ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 266.

⁷²⁴ *Ibid.*, article 268.

⁷²⁵ *Ibid.*, article 267. See also Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008, section II.

⁷²⁶ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 408.

⁷²⁷ U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1b.

⁷²⁸ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 394. See also U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1b. See also U.S. Department of State, "Cape Verde," 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/118991.htm>.

⁷²⁹ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 14. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cape Verde," section 6c.

⁷³⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request C182: Cape Verde*. See also U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1a.

⁷³¹ U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, February 23, 2009*.

⁷³² *Ibid.*

⁷³³ Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008, section III. See also International Regional Information Networks, "Cape Verde: Sex tourism".

⁷³⁴ U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 28e.

⁷³⁵ Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008, section IV.

⁷³⁶ 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.

⁷³⁷ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 7-13.

⁷³⁸ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

Central African Republic

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Working children in the Central African Republic may be found particularly in rural areas, where they are involved in agriculture, including on coffee plantations.⁷³⁹ Children also work in domestic service, fishing, hunting, and mining.⁷⁴⁰ Children work in the diamond industry, transporting and washing gravel, and in gold mining, digging holes and carrying heavy loads.⁷⁴¹ It has been reported that children are also employed in public works projects.⁷⁴²

Children from some indigenous groups are forced into agricultural, domestic, and other forms of labor by other ethnic groups.⁷⁴³ Street children, particularly in the capital Bangui, are engaged in various economic activities, including vending and begging.⁷⁴⁴ Some children, including street children, abandoned children, and those dwelling in urban areas, are involved in prostitution.⁷⁴⁵

Displaced children work in fields for long hours in conditions of extreme heat, harvesting peanuts and cassava, and helping gather items that are sold at markets, such as mushrooms, hay, firewood, and caterpillars.⁷⁴⁶ Displaced children

have also been forced to work as porters, carrying stolen goods for bandit groups.⁷⁴⁷ Children, including displaced children, have been recruited as child soldiers into armed forces by rebel groups, self-defense militias, and government forces.⁷⁴⁸ Children have also been reportedly trafficked to Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for purposes of child soldiering by the Lord's Resistance Army.⁷⁴⁹ Most trafficking of children in the Central African Republic is internal, with children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation; domestic service; and work in agriculture, restaurants or markets, and mining, including diamond mines.⁷⁵⁰ Children are also trafficked to and from Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁷⁵¹ Children from Rwanda are also reportedly trafficked to the Central African Republic.⁷⁵²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years,⁷⁵³ including for apprenticeships.⁷⁵⁴ However, children who are at least 12 years may engage in light work, such as traditional agriculture or domestic services.⁷⁵⁵ Children of