

## Equatorial Guinea

### *Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*

Percent of children ages 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	14 <sup>1543</sup>
Age to which education is compulsory:	11 <sup>1544</sup>
Free public education:	Yes <sup>1545*</sup>
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2002:	127% <sup>1546</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2002:	85% <sup>1547</sup>
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	33% <sup>1548</sup>
Ratified Convention 138:	6/12/1985 <sup>1549</sup>
Ratified Convention 182:	8/13/2001 <sup>1550</sup>
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes, associated <sup>1551</sup>
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Equatorial Guinea, children work on family farms and as market vendors in family businesses; there were also unconfirmed reports of foreign children working as market vendors in non-family businesses.<sup>1552</sup> Children from Benin, Nigeria, and Cameroon are trafficked predominantly into the commercial sector of Malabo and Bata.<sup>1553</sup> West African children were most vulnerable to trafficking by relatives or family acquaintances who required them to work in the agricultural sector in addition to the commercial sector.<sup>1554</sup> Girls are trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Togo, Nigeria, and China for commercial sexual exploitation, while other children work as farmhands, street vendors and household servants.<sup>1555</sup>

<sup>1543</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Equatorial Guinea," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78732.htm>, Section 6d.

<sup>1544</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Ending Age of Compulsory Education. Primary. Total*, accessed June 8, 2007; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>1545</sup> *Constitution of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea*, (January 17, 1995); available from [http://www.ceiba-guinea-ecuatorial.org/guineangl/nvelle\\_const.htm](http://www.ceiba-guinea-ecuatorial.org/guineangl/nvelle_const.htm). See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Equatorial Guinea." Section 5.

<sup>1546</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>1547</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>1548</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>1549</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, [online], accessed October 20, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm>. See also FXConverter, [online] 2005 [cited May 17, 2005]; available from <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm>.

<sup>1550</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*.

<sup>1551</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1552</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Equatorial Guinea." Section 6d.

<sup>1553</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1554</sup> U.S. Embassy- Malabo, *reporting*, March 02, 2007.

<sup>1555</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Equatorial Guinea (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

## Child Labor Law and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment is 14 years.<sup>1556</sup> Children under 16 years are prohibited from work that might harm their health, safety, or morals.<sup>1557</sup>

A government decree bans all children under the age of 16 years from being on the streets after 11 p.m. The decree forbids parents or tutors from exploiting children in labor such as street vending, car washing, or working in bars or restaurants. Under the decree, youth found in the above situations will be automatically arrested, and businesses that employ minors, including family businesses, will be sanctioned.<sup>1558</sup> The U.S. Department of State reports that the Ministry of Labor does not enforce the child labor laws effectively.<sup>1559</sup>

Forced or compulsory child labor is forbidden.<sup>1560</sup> The law prohibits the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons,<sup>1561</sup> but the government did not conduct any arrests or prosecutions. Law enforcement officials have not received training on trafficking issues and have not investigated any trafficking cases.<sup>1562</sup>

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

In February 2006, Equatorial Guinea adopted a 5-year National Plan of Action on Trafficking. The government conducted several activities to raise awareness, including a radio campaign to about the trafficking law.<sup>1563</sup>

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<sup>1556</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Equatorial Guinea." Section 6d.

<sup>1557</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, March 2005; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/document\\_get.php?id=770](http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=770).

<sup>1558</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting*, November 16, 2005.

<sup>1559</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Equatorial Guinea." Section 6d.

<sup>1560</sup> *Ibid.* Section 6c.

<sup>1561</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention*, Initial reports of States parties due in 1994, CRC/C/11/Add.26, United Nations, Geneva, September 12, 2003; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/d53df7529775b260c1256f2000565994/\\$FILE/G0444306.doc](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/d53df7529775b260c1256f2000565994/$FILE/G0444306.doc). See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Equatorial Guinea."

<sup>1562</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Equatorial Guinea." See also U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting*, November 16, 2005.

<sup>1563</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Equatorial Guinea." See also U.S. Embassy- Yaounde official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, May 26, 2006.