

Togo

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2000:	64.5% ⁴¹³¹
Minimum age for admission to work:	15 ⁴¹³²
Age to which education is compulsory:	15 ⁴¹³³
Free public education:	Yes ⁴¹³⁴
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	101% ⁴¹³⁵
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	79% ⁴¹³⁶
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2000:	61.8% ⁴¹³⁷
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	76% ⁴¹³⁸
Ratified Convention 138:	3/16/1984 ⁴¹³⁹
Ratified Convention 182:	9/19/2000 ⁴¹⁴⁰
ILO-IPEC Participating Country:	Yes, associated ⁴¹⁴¹

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000, approximately 65.8 percent of boys and 63.3 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Togo.⁴¹⁴² Children, including those as young as 5, were working in both urban and rural areas, particularly in family-based farming, small-scale trading, domestic work, and factories. Working children typically did not attend school for at least two-thirds of the year.⁴¹⁴³ Children were also employed as prostitutes in bars, restaurants, and hotels.⁴¹⁴⁴

Togo is a country of origin, destination, and transit for children trafficked for forced labor, especially domestic service and sexual exploitation. Four primary routes for child trafficking in

⁴¹³¹ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

⁴¹³² U.S. Department of State, "Togo," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78762.htm>.

⁴¹³³ *Ibid.*, Section 5.

⁴¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴¹³⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁴¹³⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

⁴¹³⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

⁴¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴¹³⁹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed September 25, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

⁴¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁴¹ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

⁴¹⁴² UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁴¹⁴³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo," Section 6d.

⁴¹⁴⁴ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "TOGO: Child prostitution goes unchecked in Togo", IRINnews.org, [online], April 23, 2004 [cited May 19, 2004]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=40715>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Togo*; accessed October 13, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

Togo have been documented: (1) trafficking of Togolese girls for domestic and market labor in Gabon, Benin, Niger and Nigeria as well as for prostitution in Nigeria; (2) trafficking of girls within the country, particularly to the capital city, Lomé, often for domestic or market labor; (3) trafficking of girls from Benin, Nigeria and Ghana to Lomé; and (4) trafficking of boys for labor exploitation, usually in agriculture, in Nigeria, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.⁴¹⁴⁵ There are also reports of children trafficked to Cote d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and to European countries.⁴¹⁴⁶ Some parents, misled by false information, send their children abroad with traffickers. Other parents sell children to traffickers in exchange for bicycles, radios, or clothing.⁴¹⁴⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

On December 5, 2006, the Government of Togo adopted a new labor code raising the minimum employment age in any enterprise to 15 years.⁴¹⁴⁸ The law prohibits children under 18 from working at night and requires a daily rest period of at least 12 consecutive hours for all working children.⁴¹⁴⁹ It also establishes fines as a punishment for non-compliance.⁴¹⁵⁰ The Ministry of Social Affairs and Promotion of Women is the agency responsible for enforcing the new labor code. For certain industrial and technical employment, 18 years is the minimum age for entry. Ministry of Labor inspectors are responsible for enforcing this; but only enforced age restrictions in formal sectors in urban areas.⁴¹⁵¹

The law defines and prohibits the worst forms of child labor under penalty of imprisonment including slavery or similar practices, indebted servitude, forced or bonded labor, and the use of children in hostilities.⁴¹⁵² The minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory recruitment into the military is 18.⁴¹⁵³ The procurement of children for prostitution or the use of children for the

⁴¹⁴⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Borderline Slavery: Child Trafficking in Togo*, Vol. 15, No. 8 (A), New York, April, 2003; available from <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/togo0403/>.

⁴¹⁴⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo," Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Togo (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/2006/65990.htm>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Togo*; accessed October 13, 2006.

⁴¹⁴⁷ Plan International, *For the Price of a Bike: Child Trafficking in Togo*, [online] n.d. 2005 [cited April 1, 2006]; available from <http://www.plan-international.org/pdfs/togoreport.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo." See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "West Africa: Impoverished Families Trade Their Children", IRINnews.org, [Online], 2005 [cited July 1, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=47680&SelectRegion=West_Africa.

⁴¹⁴⁸ Embassy of Togo official, E-mail communication USDOL official, December 13, 2006. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo," Section 6d.

⁴¹⁴⁹ Government of Togo, *Code du Travail*, Ordonnance No. 16, (May 8, 1974), Chapter 2, Article 145; Chapter 6, Article 154.

⁴¹⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 20, 2007.

⁴¹⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo."

⁴¹⁵² *Code du travail*, (December 5, 2006), Chapter 1, Article 4; Chapter 4, Article 151. Government of Togo, *Penal Code*, Articles 93 and 94; available from <http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/Togo.pdf>.

⁴¹⁵³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Togo," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=800.

production of pornographic materials is also prohibited.⁴¹⁵⁴ The law also makes it illegal to use children to engage in illicit activities, such as the production and trafficking of drugs. Any work whose nature is detrimental to the health, security, or morals of a child is also forbidden.⁴¹⁵⁵ The law punishes child traffickers and their accomplices with a prison sentence of up to 10 years and fines.⁴¹⁵⁶ A number of government ministries are involved in anti-trafficking efforts, including the Ministries of Justice, Labor, and Health. The Government of Togo has cooperated with the Governments of Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria to allow for accelerated extradition of traffickers among those countries.⁴¹⁵⁷

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

In July 2006, Togo was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in the West and Central African Regions. As part of the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement, the governments agreed to put into place the child trafficking monitoring system developed by the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC LUTRENA project; to ensure that birth certificates and travel identity documents cannot easily be falsified or altered; to provide assistance to each other in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of trafficking offenders; to protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficking victims; and to improve educational systems, vocational training and apprenticeships.⁴¹⁵⁸

The government has a National Plan of Action on child abuse, child labor, and child trafficking that includes activities such as awareness-raising campaigns, training workshops, and establishing community structures for prevention and reintegration of child trafficking victims.⁴¹⁵⁹

The Government of Togo participates in a USD 9.5 million regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitive labor in West and Central Africa. The project targets 9,000 children for withdrawal and prevention from trafficking in 6 countries,

⁴¹⁵⁴ Government of Togo, *Code du Travail*, Chapter 1, Article 4; Chapter 4, Article 151. Government of Togo, *Penal Code*, accessed 2004, previously online from the Protection Project, Articles 93 and 94. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo," Section 6c.

⁴¹⁵⁵ Government of Togo, *Code du Travail*, Chapter 1, Article 4; Chapter 4, Article 151, Government of Togo, *Penal Code*, Articles 93 and 94.

⁴¹⁵⁶ U.S. Embassy- Lome, *reporting*, September 26, 2005. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Togo: Law passed to crack down on child traffickers," IRINnews.org, [online], 2005 [cited December 14, 2006]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=48460&SelectRegion=West_Africa.

⁴¹⁵⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo," Section 5.

⁴¹⁵⁸ ECOWAS and ECASS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 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.

⁴¹⁵⁹ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Togo*; accessed October 13, 2006. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Togo," Section 5.

including Togo.⁴¹⁶⁰ The government also takes part in a regional ILO-IPEC project funded by France to combat child labor in Francophone Africa.⁴¹⁶¹

⁴¹⁶⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*.

⁴¹⁶¹ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication USDOL official, November 16, 2006.