

Chad

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2004:	53% ⁹²¹
Minimum age for admission to work:	14 ⁹²²
Age to which education is compulsory:	12 ⁹²³
Free public education:	Yes ^{924*}
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	82% ⁹²⁵
Net primary enrollment rate in 2003:	57% ⁹²⁶
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2004:	39.6% ⁹²⁷
As of 2002, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	35% ⁹²⁸
Ratified Convention 138:	3/21/2005 ⁹²⁹
Ratified Convention 182:	11/6/2000 ⁹³⁰
ILO-IPEC Participating Country:	No ⁹³¹
* In certain instances, parents have been required to pay teachers' salaries.	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2004, approximately 56.1 percent of boys and 49.7 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Chad.⁹³² Children work in agriculture and herding throughout the country, and as street vendors, manual laborers, helpers in small shops, and domestic servants in the capital.⁹³³

There have been reports of children being contracted out by their parents to nomadic herders to tend their animals; some such children are subjected to forced labor.⁹³⁴ There have also been reports of child soldiering. It was reported by U.N. officials that more than 4,700 men and boys

⁹²¹ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

⁹²² Government of Chad, *Code du travail tchadien*, Loi No. 038/PR/96, (December 11, 1996); available from <http://www.cefod.org/Fichiers%20web/Code%20du%20travail%20tchadien.htm>.

⁹²³ U.S. Department of State, "Chad," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78726.htm>.

⁹²⁴ Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- N'djamena, *reporting, January 30, 2007*, para 26.

⁹²⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

⁹²⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁹²⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

⁹²⁸ Ibid.

⁹²⁹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 13, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

⁹³⁰ Ibid.

⁹³¹ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labor - Highlights 2006*, Geneva, 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

⁹³² UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁹³³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Chad," Section 6d.

⁹³⁴ Ibid. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Chad: Children sold into slavery for the price of a calf", IRINnews.org, [online], December 21, 2004 [cited October 11, 2006]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=44768>.

were forcibly taken away from their families in Chad by Sudanese fighters to work as porters and gun cleaners for the Sudanese fighting forces.⁹³⁵ A 2003 study by ECPAT estimated that more than 11,000 Chadian children live and work on the streets and often fall victim to violence, including sexual exploitation.⁹³⁶

Chad is a country of origin, transit, and destination for children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The majority of children are trafficked within Chad for work in domestic service, begging, and herding.⁹³⁷ Children are trafficked from the Central African Republic and Cameroon for commercial sexual exploitation to Chad's oil-producing regions, and Chadian children are trafficked to the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Cameroon, and possibly Saudi Arabia.⁹³⁸ There are reports that *mahadjir* children, who attend Islamic schools, are forced by their teachers to beg for food and money.⁹³⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment in Chad at 14 years, except for apprenticeships (13 years) or for certain tasks that require the permission of the legal representative of the child, as well as permission from the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Labor and Social Security.⁹⁴⁰ Night work by children under age 18 is prohibited.⁹⁴¹ Children under age 18 are also prohibited from doing work likely to harm their health, safety, or morals.⁹⁴²

The judicial system is loosely linked to child labor prosecutions because of the absence of child labor provisions in the penal code.⁹⁴³ The labor code prohibits forced and bonded labor.⁹⁴⁴ Children must be at least 18 to volunteer for the armed forces and 20 to be conscripted.⁹⁴⁵

⁹³⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Chad," Sections 1g, 5, and 6d. Human Rights Watch, *Early to War: Child Soldiers in the Chad Conflict*, Vol. 19, No. 9 (A), New York, July, 2007; available from <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/chad0707/>. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Some 80,000 Children at Risk in Lawless East", IRINnews.org, [online], May 17, 2006 [cited June 5, 2006]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=59052>.

⁹³⁶ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Chad*, accessed October 13, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

⁹³⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Chad (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

⁹³⁸ Ibid.

⁹³⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Chad."

⁹⁴⁰ Government of Chad, *Code du travail tchadien*, Article 18 and 52. See also, U.S. Department of State, "Chad," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2005*, Washington, DC, March 8, 2006, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61561.htm>.

⁹⁴¹ Government of Chad, *Code du travail tchadien*, Article 206.

⁹⁴² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Chad," Section 6d. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State Parties due in 1992: Chad*, CRC/C/3/Add.50, prepared by Government of the Republic of Chad, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, July 1997, para. 197; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.3.Add.50.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.3.Add.50.En?OpenDocument).

⁹⁴³ U.S. Embassy- N'djamena, *reporting, January 30, 2007*.

⁹⁴⁴ Government of Chad, *Code du travail tchadien*, Article 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Chad."

⁹⁴⁵ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Chad," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=765.

According to the U.S. State Department, child labor laws are not enforced for lack of resources.⁹⁴⁶

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

In July 2006, Chad 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.⁹⁴⁷ The government focused its efforts on preventing trafficking through raising awareness. The government also took measures to train police, customs, and other government officials on trafficking, and it continued to revise the legal code. The government sponsored educational media campaigns to inform parents and children about the dangers of trafficking.⁹⁴⁸

The Ministries of Labor and Justice conducted awareness campaigns and training seminars on the worst forms of child labor for religious leaders, traditional chiefs, and parliamentarians. Some children involved in exploitive child labor were rescued by military, police, and NGOs.⁹⁴⁹ In March 2006 the government supported workshops to establish a system of rescuing and reintegrating child herders. According to UNICEF, 360 child herders were identified, rescued, and reintegrated into their communities in 2006.⁹⁵⁰

The problem of child soldiers is being addressed by the government along with UNICEF, who are both supporting a comprehensive survey on child soldiers to be conducted in 2007.⁹⁵¹

⁹⁴⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Chad," Section 6d.

⁹⁴⁷ 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.

⁹⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Chad," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- Washington, DC, June 5, 2006*; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

⁹⁴⁹ U.S. Embassy- N'djamena, *reporting, January 30, 2007*. U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Chad."

⁹⁵⁰ U.S. Embassy- N'djamena, *reporting, January 30, 2007*, para 20.

⁹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, para 9.