

Chad

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

UNICEF and the Government of Chad are collaborating on a campaign against the worst forms of child labor, particularly the use of children as herders in southern Chad.⁵⁰⁰ In 2000, the government sponsored a number of workshops, seminars, and radio broadcasts to raise awareness on child labor.⁵⁰¹ In an effort to combat child trafficking, the government also sponsored media campaigns to advise parents on how to instruct children about the danger of trusting strangers.⁵⁰²

In December 1993, the government established a Department of Children and Disabled Persons under the Ministry for Women and Social Affairs. Among other duties, it is responsible for combating the use of children by the military and assisting with the reintegration of child soldiers into society.⁵⁰³

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000, UNICEF estimated that 65.5 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 14 in Chad were working.⁵⁰⁴ Child labor is rare in the formal sector, but it is common in agriculture and herding.⁵⁰⁵ In southern Chad, children are contracted to Arab nomadic herders to tend animals. These children are often abused and offered little monetary compensation for their labor.⁵⁰⁶ Children also work for little compensation as domestic servants in the households of relatives.⁵⁰⁷ Some families arrange marriages for daughters who are as young as 11 or 12 years. Once married, many of these girls are obligated to work long hours in the fields or in the home for their hus-

⁵⁰⁰ U.S. Embassy—N'djamena, unclassified telegram no. 1795, November 2001 [hereinafter unclassified telegram 1795].

⁵⁰¹ *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2000—Chad* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of State, 2001) [hereinafter *Country Reports 2000*], Section 6d, at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2000/af/index.cfm?docid=742>.

⁵⁰² *Ibid.* at Section 6f.

⁵⁰³ 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 1992, Addendum, Chad, CRC/C/3/Add.50* (Geneva, 1997) [hereinafter *Initial Reports of States Parties*], 12.

⁵⁰⁴ UNICEF, *Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples, Rapport complet, 2001*, at http://www.childinfo.org/MICS2/natlMICSrepz/Chad/Chad_MICS_Report.pdf. In 1999, the ILO estimated that approximately 37 percent of children between ages 10 and 14 in Chad were working. See *World Development Indicators 2001* (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2001) [hereinafter *World Development Indicators 2001*] [CD-ROM].

⁵⁰⁵ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy—N'Djamena, unclassified telegram no. 1982, May 1997 [hereinafter unclassified telegram 1982].

⁵⁰⁶ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6d.

⁵⁰⁷ *Ibid.* See also unclassified telegram 1982.

bands.⁵⁰⁸ There are allegations that, in isolated instances, local authorities force children to work in the rural sector.⁵⁰⁹

Children work as child soldiers, particularly in military installations in the north.⁵¹⁰ Government forces and armed opposition groups have both recruited youths less than 18 years of age to fight in the internal conflict.⁵¹¹ Children of the Zagava ethnic group as young as 13 have been forcibly recruited and sent to the frontlines to detect landmines, and children in the Zaghawa ethnic group have also been forced into the armed forces.⁵¹² In 2001, families were forced to participate in the war either by providing one of their children to the armed forces as a recruit, or by giving money or crops as a substitute.⁵¹³

The Constitution guarantees free and compulsory education for nine years, beginning at the age of six.⁵¹⁴ However, parents still make considerable contributions toward school costs.⁵¹⁵ In 1996, the gross primary enrollment rate was 57.5 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 45.8 percent.⁵¹⁶ In 1996, the gross primary enrollment rate for girls was 39.3 percent compared with 75.7 percent for boys.⁵¹⁷ Primary school attendance rates are unavailable for Chad. While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school.⁵¹⁸ Educational opportunities for girls are limited, mainly because of tradition, and girls tend not to attend as many years of school as boys.⁵¹⁹

Child Labor Law and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years old, but children may engage in several types of light and non-hazardous work at the age of 12.⁵²⁰ According to the law, certain jobs are deemed hazardous by the government and are therefore prohibited by children

⁵⁰⁸ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6c. See also unclassified telegram 1982.

⁵⁰⁹ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6c

⁵¹⁰ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Global Report 2001: Chad* (London, May 2001) [hereinafter *Global Report 2001*].

⁵¹¹ *Ibid.*

⁵¹² *Ibid.* See also *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6c.

⁵¹³ *Global Report 2001*.

⁵¹⁴ *Initial Reports of States Parties* at 12. See also unclassified telegram 1795.

⁵¹⁵ In 1995, it was estimated that parents gave approximately 800 million CFA (USD 1,088,500) to schools. See *Initial Reports of States Parties* at 12. Currency conversion at <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm> on 1/29/02.

⁵¹⁶ *World Development Indicators 2001*.

⁵¹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵¹⁸ For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see *Introduction* to this report.

⁵¹⁹ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 5.

⁵²⁰ "Décret no 55/PR-MTJS-DTMOPS du 8 février 1969 relatif au travail des enfants," *Textes*

under 18 years of age.⁵²¹ The Constitution and the Labor Code prohibit slavery and forced labor. The trafficking of persons is also prohibited.⁵²² The Armed Forces Reorganization Ordinance establishes 18 years as the minimum age of recruitment into the army,⁵²³ but the General Statute of the Army Ordinance allows a minor to voluntarily join the military with the consent of a parent or legal guardian.⁵²⁴

Labor inspectors are required to examine work environments to ensure that youth are not subject to difficult working conditions.⁵²⁵ Offenders of minimum age laws are subject to penalties laid out in the Labour and Social Security Code.⁵²⁶ The Government of Chad has not ratified ILO Convention 138, but ratified ILO Convention 182 on November 6, 2000.⁵²⁷

d'application du Code du travail [hereinafter *Textes d'application du Code du travail*]. See also *Initial Reports of States Parties* at 12

⁵²¹ *Initial Reports of States Parties* at 12.

⁵²² *Country Reports 2000* at Sections 6c, 6f.

⁵²³ Ordinance No. 001 of 16 January 1991, as cited in *Global Report 2001*. See also *Initial Reports of States Parties* at 35.

⁵²⁴ Article 52 of the General Statute of the Army, Ordinance No. 006/PR/92, as cited in *Global Report 2001*.

⁵²⁵ *Textes d'application du Code du travail*.

⁵²⁶ *Initial Reports of States Parties* at 12.

⁵²⁷ ILO, Ratification Information, at <http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/scripts/ratifce.pl?C182>.

NOTE: Hard copies of all Web citations are on file.