

Papua New Guinea

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age of work:	16 ³³⁶⁰
Age to which education is compulsory:	Not compulsory ³³⁶¹
Free public education:	No ³³⁶²
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2003:	75% ³³⁶³
Net primary enrollment rate:	Unavailable
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	69% ³³⁶⁴
Ratified Convention 138:	6/02/2000 ³³⁶⁵
Ratified Convention 182:	6/02/2000 ³³⁶⁶
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children work in the commercial agriculture sector, including on tea and coffee farms.³³⁶⁷ Children are also seen selling food items on the streets of urban areas³³⁶⁸ and working as domestic servants³³⁶⁹. Children are involved in commercial sexual exploitation, typically working in bars or nightclubs.³³⁷⁰

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Papua New Guinean law sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, and protects children under 18 years from working in hazardous conditions.³³⁷¹ Children 11 to 18 may work

³³⁶⁰ Government of Papua New Guinea, *Report to ILO Committee of Experts on Convention 182*, September 2005.

³³⁶¹ U.S. Department of State, "Papua New Guinea." In *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2006*, Washington, DC, March 7, 2007.

³³⁶² U.S. Department of State, "Papua New Guinea," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007.

³³⁶³ UCW analysis of, *ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1 2007.

³³⁶⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *School Life Expectancy, % of Repeaters, Survival Rates*; accessed December 2005; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=55>.

³³⁶⁵ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, [accessed November 7, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/iloex/cgilex/ratifce.pl?PapuaNewGuinea>.

³³⁶⁶ Ibid.

³³⁶⁷ Department of Community Development official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 20, 2006. See also Department of Labor and Industrial Relations officials, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26 2006.

³³⁶⁸ Department of Community Development official, Interview, June 20, 2006.

³³⁶⁹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations of Reports Submitted By States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding Observations: Papua New Guinea*, CRC/C/15/Add.229, February 26, 2004, para. 57. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Papua New Guinea.", U.S. Department of State, "Papua New Guinea," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2005*, Washington, DC, March 8, 2006, Section 5.

³³⁷⁰ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations, February 26, 2004*, para. 59. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Papua New Guinea."

³³⁷¹ Government of Papua New Guinea, *Report to ILO Committee of Experts, September 2005, Article 3(d)*. Article 3(d).

in family businesses with parental permission, medical clearance, and a work permit from the labor office.³³⁷² Work performed by children between 11 and 16 years must not interfere with school attendance.³³⁷³ Work by children under 11 years is prohibited.³³⁷⁴ Penalties for child labor violations range from a fine to 2 years of imprisonment.³³⁷⁵

The law prohibits forced labor, including by children.³³⁷⁶ Procuring girls under 18 years for sexual relations or obtaining financial gain from the prostitution of minors is also prohibited by law.³³⁷⁷ There is no compulsory military service in Papua New Guinea, and the minimum age for voluntary military service is 16.³³⁷⁸

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Department of Police are responsible for implementing and enforcing child labor laws; however, the U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement by those departments has been poor and that no inspectors specifically address child labor.³³⁷⁹

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Papua New Guinea is working with the Papua New Guinea Children's Foundation and People Against Child Exploitation to implement the National Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children 2006-2011.³³⁸⁰

UNICEF, with the support of the government, is also implementing a child protection program that includes advocacy for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.³³⁸¹

³³⁷² U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2006: Papua New Guinea*.

³³⁷³ U. S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, September 14, 2005.

³³⁷⁴ Department of Labor and Industrial Relations officials, *interview*, June 26, 2006.

³³⁷⁵ U. S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting December 15, 2006*.

³³⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2006: Papua New Guinea*.

³³⁷⁷ HELP Resources Inc. with UNICEF, *A Situational Analysis of Child Sexual Abuse and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Papua New Guinea*, January 2005, 98.

³³⁷⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Papua New Guinea," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*. London, 2004; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/cs/childsoldiers.nsf/Report/Global%20Report%202001%20GLOBAL%20REPORT%20CONTENTS?OpenDocument>.

³³⁷⁹ U. S. Embassy- Port Moresby, *reporting*, September 14, 2005.

³³⁸⁰ PACE PNG Children's Foundation Inc., and UNICEF, *The National Action Plan Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Papua New Guinea (July 2006-June 2011)*, 2006, 5.

³³⁸¹ UNICEF, *Master Plan of Operations: Programme of Cooperation Between Government of Papua New Guinea and UNICEF*, Attachment A, 1-2.