

Rwanda

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³²³⁰

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2000:	2,497,644
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	27.3
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	29.9
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	24.8
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	13
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	147.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	93.6
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	55.3
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2003:	45.8
ILO Convention 138:	4/15/1981
ILO Convention 182:	5/23/2000
CRC:	1/24/1991
CRCOPAC:	4/23/2002**
CRCOPSC:	3/14/2002**
Palermo:	9/26/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Rwanda, children work in subsistence agriculture.³²³¹ Children also work on tea, sugar cane, and rice plantations, and harvest coffee. They engage in vending and microenterprises, and make bricks, crush stones, extract sand, and burn and carry charcoal.³²³² They also work at waste disposal sites.³²³³ Girls engage in domestic service for third-party households.³²³⁴

The 1994 genocide, war and, more recently, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, have left many of Rwanda's children orphaned, resulting in an increase in child-headed households and children living on the streets in urban areas.³²³⁵ Children living on the streets work as porters, car guards, garbage collectors, and vendors, selling items such as cigarettes and candy. Street children are also known to engage in prostitution.³²³⁶

Children, including some who lived in child-headed households, engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, including forced prostitution.³²³⁷ Girls are trafficked within Rwanda for domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation.³²³⁸ Older girls living in child-headed households sometimes provide sexual services in exchange for cash, in-kind goods, protection, and for school fees.³²³⁹ A limited number of girls in Rwanda's Eastern Province may be trafficked to Uganda for commercial sexual exploitation and work on tea plantations.³²⁴⁰

Recruiters for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)-based militia group National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) conscripted a number of Congolese and Rwandan children living in refugee camps and towns in Rwanda, for forced labor and forced soldiering in the DRC.³²⁴¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years, but does not apply to children working in subsistence agriculture.³²⁴² Children under the age of 16 years are prohibited from working between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. or from performing any work deemed hazardous or difficult as determined by the Ministry of Labor, and must have at least 12 hours of rest between work shifts.³²⁴³ Subject to the aforementioned

provisions and restrictions, children may be employed in light work at 14 years with parental consent.³²⁴⁴ The Ministry of Labor can also make exceptions to allow children 14 to 16 years to work in a company or in apprenticeships. By law, however, the Ministry of Labor will only grant exceptions for light work that will not harm children's health or education.³²⁴⁵

The law prohibits forced labor.³²⁴⁶ There is no law specifically addressing trafficking in persons, however, traffickers can be prosecuted under laws prohibiting slavery, rape, child prostitution, forced prostitution, and kidnapping.³²⁴⁷ All sexual relations with children under the age of 18 are considered rape under Rwandan law. If the child is under 14 years, the crime is punishable by life imprisonment; if the child is between 14 and 18 years, it is punishable by 20 to 25 years in prison; and if it is committed by a person in a position of authority over the child, it is punishable by life imprisonment and a fine.³²⁴⁸

The law also prohibits prostitution and compelling a child to engage in prostitution. Violations are punishable by 5 years of imprisonment and a fine. Facilitating prostitution is also illegal, including serving as an intermediary between prostitutes and customers and leasing premises to be used for prostitution.³²⁴⁹ Facilitating the prostitution of children under 18 years is punishable by 6 months to 6 years in prison and a fine. Using or exploiting children in pornographic publications is prohibited and is punishable by a fine and between 5 and 12 years imprisonment.³²⁵⁰ The law also prohibits the use of children in drug trafficking.³²⁵¹

The law sets the minimum age for voluntary enlistment into military service at 18 years.³²⁵² This minimum age law also applies to the Local Defense Forces, a paramilitary government militia. There is no conscription.³²⁵³

Rwanda was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in West and Central African Regions.³²⁵⁴ As part of the regional Multilateral

Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government of Rwanda agreed to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders; to rehabilitate and reintegrate trafficking victims; and to assist fellow signatory countries to implement these measures under the Agreement.³²⁵⁵

In an effort to combat child prostitution, the Rwandan National Police (RNP) issues warnings to hotel owners against allowing underage girls to frequent these establishments.³²⁵⁶

The Government continued to issue fines to employers who employed children illegally and those who sent their children to work rather than school. The Government has 12 regional offices employing 30 child labor inspectors; however, according to USDOS, these offices were not given adequate resources to identify or prevent child labor effectively.³²⁵⁷

The Ministry of Internal Security's National Police is charged with combating trafficking, and questioned men traveling with minors but without an adult female at border crossings and security checkpoints throughout Rwanda. In some cases, Rwandan border officials refused to allow young girls to cross the border into Uganda, to prevent them from engaging in prostitution there.³²⁵⁸ According to the USDOS, Government efforts to address trafficking were constrained by a lack of resources, and enforcement of anti-trafficking laws was limited.³²⁵⁹ In May 2008, a man was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for operating a child prostitution ring, and his 17-year-old accomplice was given a reduced sentence of 5 years imprisonment owing to her status as a minor.³²⁶⁰

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government continues to implement its National Plan of Action against Child Labor, which was developed with assistance from ILO-IPEC under the USDOL-funded Global Child Soldiers Project.³²⁶¹ The elimination of child labor is also specifically mentioned as a government priority in Rwanda's Economic Development and

Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS).³²⁶² Targets to reduce child labor continue to be included in district officials' performance contracts.³²⁶³

The Government continues to implement its National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC).³²⁶⁴ The National Policy for OVC targets working children, children living in child-headed households, children affected by armed conflict, children exploited in prostitution and sexual abuse, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and street children for assistance. The National Policy for OVC outlines specific strategies for addressing child labor, such as improving children's working conditions, better enforcement of labor laws, supporting income-generating activities for families, strengthening a "catch-up" education system, and conducting child labor studies and sensitization campaigns.³²⁶⁵ The Government continued to provide catch-up education programs for formerly working children.³²⁶⁶

The Government of Rwanda is participating in a 4-year, USD 6.8 million project funded by USDOL and implemented by ILO-IPEC to conduct data collection on child labor.³²⁶⁷

The Government continued to participate in the 4-year Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together (KURET) project, which was funded by USDOL at USD 14.5 million and World Vision at USD 5.8 million through March 2009. Implemented by World Vision, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee and the Academy for Educational Development, the project withdrew and prevented a total of 32,823 children from exploitive labor in HIV/AIDS-affected areas of these four countries through the provision of educational services.³²⁶⁸

The Government of Rwanda continues to participate in the 2-year, USD 460,000 regional anti-trafficking technical assistance project implemented by the UNODC's Regional Office for Eastern Africa and funded by Norway and Sweden. The project aims to bolster coordination among the 11 countries involved through the Regional Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Eastern Africa and harmonize national legislation in line with the

Palermo Protocol.³²⁶⁹ The RNP has incorporated the EAPCCO's anti-trafficking strategies into its 2009-2013 Strategic Plan.³²⁷⁰ The Government provided training to police officers on child trafficking and sex crimes during the year.³²⁷¹

In March 2008, the Government's National AIDS Control Commission launched a project in Karongi District to provide income-generating assistance to teenage mothers, in an effort to prevent them from entering prostitution.³²⁷²

The Government continued to implement its Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) program. The second phase of the DDR ended in December 2008, and the third phase is being implemented from 2009-2011.³²⁷³ During the DDR process, child ex-combatants are provided with special rehabilitation services before being reunited with their families. To prevent ex-combatants from being rejected by their home communities and ease their reintegration into society, the Government continued to conduct public awareness campaigns.³²⁷⁴

The Government of Rwanda provides support to former child combatants at the Muhazi demobilization center in the Eastern Province. In 2008, this center served 41 children who had formerly been soldiers in the DRC.³²⁷⁵ Between January 2007 and October 2008, 29 Rwandan children were repatriated by the UN Mission in the DRC.³²⁷⁶

Local authorities continue to place street children in foster homes or facilities run by the Government. The Government supports 12 centers throughout the country that provide street children with shelter and help meet their basic needs.³²⁷⁷

³²³⁰ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Rwanda, *Establishing the Labour Code, Law No. 51/2001 of 30/12/2001* (December 30, 2001), article 11; available from <http://www.rwandainvest.gov.rw/lawlab.htm>. For age to which education is mandatory, see UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *National Education Systems*, [online] [cited March 4, 2009]; available from

http://www.uis.unesco.org/statsen/statistics/yearbook/tables/Table3_1.html. See also Government of Rwanda, *Constitution of Rwanda*, (May 30, 1991), article 27 available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/rw00000_.html. For free education, see Government of Rwanda, *Constitution of Rwanda*, Article 27. See also U.S. Department of State, "Rwanda," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008>.

³²³¹ Neil W. Boris, Lisanne A. Brown, Tonya R. Thurman, Janet C. Rice, Leslie M. Snider, Joseph Ntaganira, and Laetitia N. Nyirazinyoye, "Depressive Symptoms in Youth Heads of Households in Rwanda. Correlates and Implications for Intervention," *The Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 162, no. 9 (September 2008), Abstract; available from <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/162/9/836?lookupType=volpage&vol=162&fp=836&view=short>.

³²³² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy-Kigali, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1E. See also World Vision, *KURET (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together) Initiative*, Project Document, July 18, 2005, 7.

³²³³ Republic of Rwanda, *National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children*, Kigali, 2003, 33.

³²³⁴ Save the Children, *UN Study on Violence Against Children. 10 Essential Learning Points: Listen and Speak Out Against Sexual Abuse of Girls and Boys*, Norway, 2005, 44; available from http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/sc_alliance_2005_main_report_un_study_on_violence_against_children_16.pdf

³²³⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Swept Away: Street Children Detained Illegally in Kigali, Rwanda*, New York, May 14, 2006, 3; available from <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2006/05/14/swept-away>. See also Save the Children, *UN Study on Violence Against Children*, 41.

³²³⁶ Human Rights Watch, *Street Children Detained in Kigali*, 9. See also Human Rights Watch, *Lasting Wounds: Consequences of Genocide and War on Rwanda's Children*, New York, March 2003, 61-63; available from <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2003/04/02/lasting-wounds-0>.

³²³⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 5.

³²³⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Rwanda (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

³²³⁹ Save the Children, *UN Study on Violence Against Children*, 41.

³²⁴⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report-2008: Rwanda."

³²⁴¹ Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, "Democratic Republic of the Congo (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

³²⁴² Government of Rwanda, *Labour Code*, article 11. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 6d.

³²⁴³ Government of Rwanda, *Labour Code*, articles 11, 60-61, 63, and 65.

³²⁴⁴ Ibid., article 11.

³²⁴⁵ Ibid., article 65.

³²⁴⁶ Ibid., article 4.

³²⁴⁷ U.S. Embassy-Kigali, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 1A. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Rwanda."

³²⁴⁸ U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *reporting*, February 18, 2009, para 25. See also Government of Rwanda, "Rwanda," in *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offences against Children*; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws>.

³²⁴⁹ Government of Rwanda, *Criminal Code*, previously online, articles 364-365; available from www.protectionproject.org [hard copy on file].

³²⁵⁰ Ibid., articles 371-374. See also Government of Rwanda, "Legislation of Interpol Member States: Rwanda," section 40 part 2.

³²⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, *reporting*, February 27, 2008, para 28A.

³²⁵² OHCHR, *11.b. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*, 25 May 2000, [online] January 5, 2009 [cited February 10, 2009], Rwanda Declaration; available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/ratification/11_b.htm.

³²⁵³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182) Rwanda (ratification: 2000) 2006*, [online] [cited March 4, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Rwanda," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/library/global-reports>

³²⁵⁴ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 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.

³²⁵⁵ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially*

Women and Children, in West and Central Africa, Abuja, July 7, 2006.

³²⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 5.

³²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, section 6d.

³²⁵⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Rwanda." See also U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, para 26H.

³²⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, paras 24B and 26H. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Rwanda."

³²⁶⁰ U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, para 25E.

³²⁶¹ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention of Child Recruitment and Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups: Strategic Framework for Addressing the Economic Gap*, Geneva, 2007, 21.

³²⁶² U.S. Embassy-Kigali, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1D.

³²⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 6d.

³²⁶⁴ U.S. Embassy-Kigali, *reporting, November 30, 2007*, para A. See also Human Rights Watch, *Street Children Detained in Kigali*, 2-3. See also U.S. Embassy-Kigali, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1D.

³²⁶⁵ Republic of Rwanda, *National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, WFCL: Rwanda*. See also UNICEF, *Rwanda- Background*, [online] [cited February 13, 2009]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/rwanda_1717.html?q=printme.

³²⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, para 26E.

³²⁶⁷ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 31, 2009.

³²⁶⁸ World Vision, *KURET, Project Document*, World Vision, *Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together*

(*KURET*), Project Document, July 18, 2005, i, 2, and 9. See also World Vision, *Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together (KURET)*, Technical Progress Report, September 29, 2008, cover. See also World Vision official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 6, 2008, Revised TPR, 44.

³²⁶⁹ UNODC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 2, 2009. See also UNODC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 2, 2009. See also UNODC and EAPCCO, *Regional Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Eastern Africa*, Addis Ababa, August 2008.

³²⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, para 24B.

³²⁷¹ *Ibid.*, para 25F.

³²⁷² U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Rwanda."

³²⁷³ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Rwanda: Turning Ex-Child Soldiers into Able Citizens", IRINnews.org, [online], September 30, 2008 [cited February 4, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=80668>.

³²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

³²⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Kigali, *E-mail communication to USDOL official*, June 23, 2009.

³²⁷⁶ Mike Pflanz, "Rwanda 'Recruited Child Soldiers for Congo Rebels'," *The Telegraph* (London), December 11, 2008; available from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/rwanda/3708901/Rwanda-recruited-child-soldiers-for-Congo-rebels.html>.

³²⁷⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Rwanda," section 5.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*³²⁷⁸

Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	99.1
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	93.4
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2000:	86.5

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

No changes have been recorded since the last reporting period regarding the incidence and nature of child labor in Saint Kitts and Nevis.*