

⁴¹³⁰ Ibid., 33.

⁴¹³¹ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008. See also ILO-IPEC, *Tackle Child Labor through Education: Moving Children from Work to School in 11 Countries*, Geneva, 2008; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/viewProduct.do?productId=8511>. See also EuropeAid, *EC and ILO launch project to tackle child*

labour in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, June 10, 2008; available from http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/documents/ec_tackle_pressrel_ease_en.pdf.

⁴¹³² IOM, *Zambia*, [online] 2008 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/pid/350>. See also U.S. Embassy-Lusaka, *reporting, February 29, 2008*.

Zimbabwe

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*⁴¹³³

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	101.2
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	87.8
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2002:	69.7
ILO Convention 138:	6/6/2000
ILO Convention 182:	12/11/2000
CRC:	9/11/1990
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

During the reporting period, Zimbabwe continued to suffer from humanitarian and economic crises with high rates of inflation and unemployment; severe shortages of food and

other basic necessities; widespread cholera outbreaks and continued effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic; political violence carried out by state-sponsored groups, including the youth militia, in the wake of the March 2008 presidential elections; and the internal displacement of thousands, including many children.⁴¹³⁴ The economic crisis, coupled with the erosion of the educational system, has led to an increase in the number of children working in the country.⁴¹³⁵ The number of street children has increased, as has the number of children working in the informal sector as more children struggle to fill the income gap left by relatives who are unemployed, ill, or deceased.⁴¹³⁶

In Zimbabwe, most working children are engaged in agriculture, hunting, and fishing.⁴¹³⁷ In agriculture, children work on coffee,⁴¹³⁸ tea,⁴¹³⁹ tobacco, cotton, sugar, and timber plantations. On tea, tobacco, cotton, and timber plantations, children work long hours for little pay and sometimes handle hazardous chemicals.⁴¹⁴⁰ Children work in the production of maize.⁴¹⁴¹ They also engage in herding cattle.⁴¹⁴²

To a lesser extent, Zimbabwean children work in domestic service, the restaurant and hotel industries, mining, quarrying, manufacturing, construction, and other types of work.⁴¹⁴³ Children engage in domestic work for third-party households, and are sometimes not paid by their employers.⁴¹⁴⁴ Children engage in the mining of diamonds,⁴¹⁴⁵ gold, chrome, and tin, as well as illegal gold panning with their families.⁴¹⁴⁶ In the capital of Harare, children work as street vendors, selling phone cards, fruit, and foodstuffs.⁴¹⁴⁷ Street

children are sometimes rounded up by police and taken to farms, where they are made to work as unpaid laborers.⁴¹⁴⁸

Girls continue to be exploited in prostitution, including in rural Matabeleland South Province. Poverty, high food prices, and lack of funds to pay school fees are all factors contributing to the prostitution of girls, including girls as young as 13 years.⁴¹⁴⁹ The belief that sex with a virgin can cure sexually transmitted infections contributes to the sexual exploitation of children and the spread of disease.⁴¹⁵⁰

Within Zimbabwe, rural children are trafficked to farms for agricultural work and domestic service, and to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service.⁴¹⁵¹ A limited number of South African girls are trafficked into the country for forced labor in domestic service.⁴¹⁵² There are reports that children left in Zimbabwe by emigrating parents have been exploited by traffickers offering to transport the children to their parents' countries of resettlement.⁴¹⁵³

A large number of Zimbabweans have migrated to other countries as a result of the deteriorating economic and social conditions, including some children.⁴¹⁵⁴ One study indicated that Zimbabwean children migrate due to the combined effects of poverty, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and lack of educational opportunities in the country. Children are known to migrate to South Africa where they engage in street vending, domestic service, hairdressing, washing cars, and unloading goods.⁴¹⁵⁵ Some reports indicate that children are sexually exploited by taxi and truck drivers in exchange for passage across the border to South Africa.⁴¹⁵⁶ Children are also known to cross the border into Mozambique in search of work. Zimbabwean children engage in market vending, selling firewood, and harvesting crops in Mozambique.⁴¹⁵⁷ Zimbabwean girls as young as 12 years are known to engage in prostitution along the transport corridor between Zimbabwe and the Mozambican port of Beira in Sofala Province and in Central Mozambique along the Zambezi River.⁴¹⁵⁸ Zimbabwean girls also work in Mozambique in bars and restaurants.⁴¹⁵⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Zimbabwe is 15 years.⁴¹⁶⁰ Children 13 to 15 years may be employed, but only as apprentices with permission from their parents or guardians or if their work is an integral part of a technical or vocational training program.⁴¹⁶¹ Children under 18 years are prohibited from performing work that might jeopardize their health, safety, or morals. Employers violating these provisions of the labor code can be punished by a fine, imprisonment of up to 2 years, or both.⁴¹⁶² The Children's Protection and Adoption Amendment Act further specifies that children under 18 years are prohibited from performing work that is likely to interfere with their education; expose them to hazardous substances; involve underground mining; expose them to electronically-powered hand tools, cutting, or grinding blades; subject them to extreme conditions; or occur during a night shift.⁴¹⁶³

The law prohibits forced labor, servitude, and slavery but provides exceptions in cases where such labor is required by a member of a "disciplined force," such as the National Youth Service, or parents. The law provides penalties of 2 years of imprisonment, a fine, or both, for forced labor violations.⁴¹⁶⁴ There are no laws specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons in Zimbabwe; however, the law prohibits procuring individuals for prostitution either inside the country or internationally. The law also prohibits procuring individuals to leave Zimbabwe with the intention of engaging them in prostitution.⁴¹⁶⁵ The law provides penalties of a fine and up to 10 years of imprisonment for those convicted of procuring children for prostitution.⁴¹⁶⁶ Sexual relations with children under 16 years are prohibited and rape is punishable by life imprisonment.⁴¹⁶⁷

The minimum age for both military conscription and for voluntary recruitment into the Armed Forces is 18 years.⁴¹⁶⁸ The minimum age for joining the National Youth Service training is 16 years.⁴¹⁶⁹

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) was the lead government agency responsible for human

trafficking; its Victim Friendly Units investigate cases of child trafficking. Officers of the ZRP comprised Interpol Zimbabwe's anti-trafficking desk and assisted with international investigations in 2008.⁴¹⁷⁰ During the reporting period, Zimbabwean police arrested a number of adults on charges of procuring children for prostitution and referred the child victims for counseling.⁴¹⁷¹ The Ministry of Home Affairs' Department of Immigration is responsible for monitoring border areas and ports for signs of human trafficking.⁴¹⁷²

According to USDOS, a lack of resources limited the ability of the Ministry of Labor's Department of Social Welfare to conduct inspections or enforce child labor laws.⁴¹⁷³ Similarly, USDOS has indicated that Zimbabwe's efforts to investigate and combat trafficking were hindered by hyperinflationary conditions and a lack of resources, including personnel and fuel.⁴¹⁷⁴

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

The Government of Zimbabwe's UN Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) 2007-2011 incorporates child labor issues. ZUNDAF specifically includes the number of districts holding monthly meetings to discuss child labor issues as an indicator for measuring improved capacity of the education system to retain students at all levels.⁴¹⁷⁵

The Government of Zimbabwe continued to collaborate with the ILO, UNICEF, IOM, and UNESCO for a program to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the country. During the program's first phase, the Government worked with the ILO to define the worst forms of labor in Zimbabwe and conduct a national survey on the extent of child labor.⁴¹⁷⁶

While the Government lacks resources to assist trafficking victims, it has referred some victims to NGOs and international organizations for assistance.⁴¹⁷⁷ In collaboration with Save the Children-Norway, the Government provided assistance to children at an IOM Child Care Center in Beitbridge along the South African border.⁴¹⁷⁸ This center served 2,087 children in

2008.⁴¹⁷⁹ Between June and December 2008, 766 children were assisted at the new IOM center for unaccompanied children and child trafficking victims in Plumtree, on Zimbabwe's border with Botswana. The Government provided the land to the IOM for this center, which was opened in May 2008.⁴¹⁸⁰ The Government continued to take part in anti-trafficking awareness campaigns implemented by the IOM and Interpol, and worked with the IOM to educate government officials on trafficking issues.⁴¹⁸¹

⁴¹³³ 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 Zimbabwe, *Act to Amend the Labour Relations Act and the Public Service Act*, No. 17, (2002), section 9. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Zimbabwe (ratification: 2000)*, [previously online], Geneva, 2003 [cited December 8 2007]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/> [hard copy on file]. For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Department of State, "Zimbabwe," 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>. See also The Law Library of Congress official, Personal communication to USDOL official, February 2008. See also Government of Zimbabwe, *Education Act*, (1987), part II, section 5. For free public education, see Government of Zimbabwe and UNDP, *Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) 2007-2011*, Harare, 2006, 11; available from http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/1507-Zimbabwe_UNDAF_2007-2011_-_ZUNDAF_2007-2011.pdf. See also Government of Zimbabwe, *Education Act*, part II, section 6.

⁴¹³⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Crisis Without Limits: Human Rights and Humanitarian Consequences of Political Repression in Zimbabwe*, New York, January 22, 2009, 13; available from <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/01/21/crisis-without-limits-0>. See also UNICEF, *UNICEF Humanitarian Action Report 2009*, New York, 2009, 119-121; available from <http://www.unicef.org/har09/index.html>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," sections 5 and 6d.

⁴¹³⁵ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting*, March 3, 2009, para 1C. See also Nadia Strakova and Pavel Vondra, *Africa Tour 2008- Final Integrated Report*, Hivos/Stop Child Labour, The Hague, 2008, 34; available from <http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/africatour2008/img/>

africatour2008-finalreport.pdf. See also Zim Online, "Harare says Poverty and AIDS Fueling Child Labour", May 10, 2006 [cited February 6, 2009]; available from http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/may10_2006.html#Z2.

⁴¹³⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," sections 5 and 6d.

⁴¹³⁷ Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office, *Child Labour Report, 2004*, Harare, March 2006, 38 and 44.

⁴¹³⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 6d.

⁴¹³⁹ Caiphas Chimhete, "Deperate Farmers Resort to Child Labour," *Zim Standard* (Harare), February 6, 2006; available from http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/feb6_2006.html#Z16. See also Nadia Strakova and Pavel Vondra, *Africa Tour 2008- Final Report*, 38. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: Growing Problem of Child Labour on Farms", IRINnews.org, [online], January 28, 2004 [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.globalmarch.org/clns/clns-jan-2004-details.php#29-2>. See also Educational International, "Barometer of Human and Trade Union Rights in Education: Zimbabwe", [previously online], June 18, 2007 [cited August 13, 2007]; available from http://www.eiie.org/barometer/en/profiles_detail.php?country=zimbabwe [hard copy on file].

⁴¹⁴⁰ Pamela Saffer, "Zimbabwe: Child Labor on Farms," *World Notes*, February 16, 2006; available from <http://www.pww.org/article/articleview/8600/1/142/>.

⁴¹⁴¹ Refugees International, "Zimbabwe: Access to Education Difficult for the Children of Farm Workers", [online], July 7, 2004 [cited November 4, 2007]; available from <http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/3071/> [hard copy on file].

⁴¹⁴² Global March Against Child Labor, "Zimbabwe: Zim to Host International March", [online], September 13, 2007 [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.globalmarch.org/clns/clns-sep-2007-details.php#13-1>.

⁴¹⁴³ Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office, *Child Labour Report 2004*, 44.

⁴¹⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 6d.

⁴¹⁴⁵ Brian Leber, *Zimbabwe: The Mugabe Regime and the Diamond Trade*, January 20, 2009, 3.

⁴¹⁴⁶ Global March Against Child Labor, *Stats and Facts on Child Labour in Mines and Quarries*, [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.globalmarch.org/events/facts-wdacl.php3>. See also Educational International, "Barometer in Education: Zimbabwe".

⁴¹⁴⁷ "Zimbabwe Capital Tops on Child Labor," *Bernama.com- Malaysian National News Agency* (Kuala Lumpur), October 15, 2008; available from

http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v3/news_lite.php?id=364728.

⁴¹⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 6d.

⁴¹⁴⁹ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: Sex Work Thrives as Girls Struggle to Survive", IRINnews.org, [online], April 18, 2007 [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=71678>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Zimbabwe*, accessed December 11, 2007; available from http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Csec_onlineDatabase.asp [hard copy on file].

⁴¹⁵⁰ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: Child Abused Every Hour, New Data Reveals", IRINnews.org, [previously online], November 20, 2006 [cited November 27, 2006]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=56443> [hard copy on file]. See also UNICEF, "UNICEF "Shocked and Outraged" at Latest Case of Child Rape in Zimbabwe", UNICEF.org, [previously online], August 1, 2006 [cited October 13, 2006]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_35154.html?q=printme [hard copy on file].

⁴¹⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Zimbabwe (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>.

⁴¹⁵² Ibid.

⁴¹⁵³ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: Children Left at Home Pay the Price of Migration", IRINnews.org, [online], June 11, 2007 [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=72669>.

⁴¹⁵⁴ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: Child Migrants Seek a Better Life in South Africa", IRINnews.org, [online], September 3, 2007 [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=74083>.

⁴¹⁵⁵ Save the Children UK, *Children Crossing Borders: Report on Unaccompanied Minors who have Travelled to South Africa*, July 2007, 5-6; available from http://www.savethechildren.org/uk/en/54_3163.htm [hard copy on file]. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Child Migrants".

⁴¹⁵⁶ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "South Africa-Zimbabwe: Undocumented Kids Alone in a New Country", IRINnews.org, [online], March 8, 2007 [cited February 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70584>.

⁴¹⁵⁷ Save the Children UK, *Visitors from Zimbabwe: A Preliminary Study Outlining the Risks and Vulnerabilities*

Facing Zimbabwean Children who have Crossed Illegally into Mozambique, May 24, 2006, 6; available from <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2006/s-c-zim-24may.pdf>

⁴¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 7-8. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Mozambique: Exploitation and Abuse Awaits Zimbabwe's Migrant Children", IRINnews.org, [online], May 25, 2006 [cited December 9, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=59123>.

⁴¹⁵⁹ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Exploitation Awaits Zimbabwe's Children".

⁴¹⁶⁰ Government of Zimbabwe, *Labour Relations Amendment Act*, section 9. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138)*

⁴¹⁶¹ Government of Zimbabwe, *Labour Relations Amendment Act*, section 9.

⁴¹⁶² *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁶³ Government of Zimbabwe, *Children's Protection and Adoption Amendment Act, 2001 (No. 23)*, February 10, 2009; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home.

⁴¹⁶⁴ Government of Zimbabwe, *Labour Relations Amendment Act*, section 6. See also Government of Zimbabwe, *Constitution of Zimbabwe*, (April 20, 2000), chapter 3, article 14; available from http://www.nca.org.zw/Downloads/zim_constitution.pdf [hard copy on file]. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," sections 5 and 6c.

⁴¹⁶⁵ Government of Zimbabwe, *Sexual Offences Act, 8/2001, (2001)*, part IV, 11. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 5.

⁴¹⁶⁶ Government of Zimbabwe, *Sexual Offences Act*, part IV, 11.

⁴¹⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 25D.

⁴¹⁶⁸ Government of Zimbabwe, *National Service Act 19/1979, (1979)*, sections 2, 9, 12, 17. See also The Law Library of Congress official, Personal communication, February 2008.

⁴¹⁶⁹ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 1A.

⁴¹⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 1A.

⁴¹⁷¹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Zimbabwe."

⁴¹⁷² U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 24B.

⁴¹⁷³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 6d.

⁴¹⁷⁴ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 24C.

⁴¹⁷⁵ Government of Zimbabwe and UNDP, *ZUNDAF 2007-2011*, 61.

⁴¹⁷⁶ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, December 5, 2007*, para 1A. See also The Herald (Harare), "Govt Committed to Ending Child Labour", allAfrica.com, [previously online], October 2, 2007 [cited October 8, 2007]; available from <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200710020256.html> [hard copy on file].

⁴¹⁷⁷ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 24C.

⁴¹⁷⁸ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Child Migrants". See also U.S. Embassy-Harare, *reporting, December 5, 2007*, para E. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Zimbabwe."

⁴¹⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 26C.

⁴¹⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 3, 2009*, para 26C.

⁴¹⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Zimbabwe," section 5.

Territories and Non-Independent Countries

There is limited information on the extent and nature of child labor in non-independent countries and territories eligible for GSP, AGOA, and CBTPA benefits. These countries and territories generally are not eligible to become members of ILO, so ILO Conventions 138 and 182 do not apply to any of them.⁴¹⁸² Territories are subject to the laws of the sovereign country.

Because of extremely limited information, a determination was made that USDOL would publish full reports on 18 of the 19 territories covered in this report once every 5 years. For this reason, this report includes shortened profiles for these territories, containing only new information published during the reporting period. For extended profiles on these territories, please see