

Zimbabwe

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for work:	15 ⁴⁶²⁰
Age to which education is compulsory:	Not compulsory ⁴⁶²¹
Free public education:	No ⁴⁶²²
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2003:	96% ⁴⁶²³
Net primary enrollment rate in 2003:	82% ⁴⁶²⁴
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2002, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	70% ⁴⁶²⁵
Ratified Convention 138:	6/6/2000 ⁴⁶²⁶
Ratified Convention 182:	12/11/2000 ⁴⁶²⁷
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes, associated ⁴⁶²⁸

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Most working children in Zimbabwe can be found in agriculture, hunting, and fishing. Children also work in domestic service, hotels, food service, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, and other types of work,⁴⁶²⁹ such as guarding cars.⁴⁶³⁰ Most working children work as unpaid family workers.⁴⁶³¹ UNICEF reports that, in some cases, farmers hire children as

⁴⁶²⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Zimbabwe," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78765.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting*, March 7, 2007, Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers para C. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Zimbabwe (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2003 [cited July 14, 2006]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>.

⁴⁶²¹ Right to Education database, *Constitutional Guarantees: Zimbabwe*, accessed July 10, 2006; available from <http://www.right-to-education.org/content/consguarant/zimbabwe.html>. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State's Parties Due in 1992: Zimbabwe, Addendum, CRC/C/3/Add.35*, prepared by Government of Zimbabwe, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, May 23, 1995; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/b82db9a977eea080412562e600392abc?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/b82db9a977eea080412562e600392abc?Opendocument). See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Zimbabwe*, accessed October 7, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

⁴⁶²² Right to Education database, *Constitutional Guarantees: Zimbabwe*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 5.

⁴⁶²³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁴⁶²⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

⁴⁶²⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

⁴⁶²⁶ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 7, 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratifgroupe.pl?class=g03_04&country=Zimbabwe.

⁴⁶²⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁶²⁸ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour- Highlights 2006*, [online]2006 [cited October 18, 2006], 30; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

⁴⁶²⁹ Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office, *Child Labour Report, 2004*, Harare, March 2006, 38-44. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting*, December 18, 2006.

⁴⁶³⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 6d.

⁴⁶³¹ Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office, *Child Labour Report 2004*.

independent contractors to avoid the appearance of employing children.⁴⁶³² Children are reported to work on tea estates and sell sugar across the border in Mozambique. Children who engaged in domestic work for third-party households were sometimes not paid by their employers, and children orphaned by AIDS often performed domestic work for their extended relatives without pay. The number of children working in the informal sector continue to increase as more children struggle to fill the income gap left by relatives who are unemployed, ill, or deceased.⁴⁶³³

Girls in Zimbabwe are increasingly being exploited in prostitution,⁴⁶³⁴ with some girls reportedly engaging in prostitution to pay for school fees. The number of girls on the streets in urban areas is growing as a result of poverty and HIV/AIDS.⁴⁶³⁵ The belief that sex with virgins can cure sexually transmitted infections contributed to the sexual exploitation of children.⁴⁶³⁶ Some reports indicate that girls are being sexually exploited in exchange for passage across the border to South Africa.⁴⁶³⁷

Within Zimbabwe, girls are trafficked from rural to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation in brothels under false pretenses of marriage or employment. Girls from rural areas are also trafficked to urban areas for domestic service, and to farms for agricultural labor.⁴⁶³⁸ A few South African girls are trafficked into the country for domestic work.⁴⁶³⁹ Children who had been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and displaced persons were among the groups at highest risk of being trafficked.⁴⁶⁴⁰

The government continues to run national youth service training camps. Youth who deserted the camps indicated that they were subjected to military training, as well as racist and partisan political indoctrination. Additionally, graduates of the program were used to commit acts of political violence.⁴⁶⁴¹

⁴⁶³² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 6d.

⁴⁶³³ Ibid.

⁴⁶³⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁶³⁵ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Zimbabwe*.

⁴⁶³⁶ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: Child Abused Every Hour, New Data Reveals", IRINnews.org, [online], November 20, 2006 [cited November 27, 2006]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=56443>. See also UNICEF, *UNICEF "Shocked and Outraged" at Latest Case of Child Rape in Zimbabwe*, press release, August 1, 2006; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_35154.html?q=printme. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe."

⁴⁶³⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Overview para B.

⁴⁶³⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe." See also U.S. Department of State, "Zimbabwe (Tier 3)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65989.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Overview para B.

⁴⁶³⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Zimbabwe." See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Overview Section B.

⁴⁶⁴⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 5.

⁴⁶⁴¹ Ibid. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zimbabwe: 'Green Bombers' Deserting Poor Conditions in Camps", IRINnews.org, [previously online], January 24, 2004 [cited October 7, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=39106> [hard copy on file].

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Zimbabwe is 15 years.⁴⁶⁴² Children between 13 and 15 may be employed if they are apprentices or if their work is an integral part of a vocational training program. At 15, children may engage in light work beyond training programs, and young persons under 18 years are prohibited from performing work that might jeopardize their health, safety, or morals. Child labor offenses are punishable by a fine, imprisonment of 2 years, or both.⁴⁶⁴³

The law also prohibits the involvement of children in hazardous labor, defined as any work likely to interfere with the education of children; expose children to hazardous substances; involve underground mining; require the use of electronically powered hand tools, cutting, or grinding blades; expose children to extreme conditions; or occur during a night shift.⁴⁶⁴⁴

No law specifically prohibits trafficking in persons. However, the law does prohibit various types of sexual exploitation, including the transportation of individuals across the border for sexual purposes and procuring individuals for prostitution either inside Zimbabwe or internationally. The law provides penalties of a fine and up to 2 years of imprisonment for those convicted of procuring individuals for prostitution, and it provides a stronger penalty of up to 10 years of imprisonment in cases involving the procurement of children under 10.⁴⁶⁴⁵ The law prohibits compulsory or forced labor, including by children, but provides exceptions in cases where such labor is required from a member of a disciplined force, the national youth service, or parents. The law provides penalties of 2 years of imprisonment, a fine, or both, for forced labor violations.⁴⁶⁴⁶ The minimum age for both military conscription and for voluntary recruitment into the armed forces is 18 years. The minimum age for joining the national youth service training is 16 years.⁴⁶⁴⁷

The Ministry of Labor's Department of Social Welfare is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws; however, it could not conduct inspections or monitoring for lack of personnel.⁴⁶⁴⁸

The Zimbabwe Republic Police, which is officially part of the Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for combating trafficking.⁴⁶⁴⁹ The government has established Victim Friendly

⁴⁶⁴² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138)*.

⁴⁶⁴³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers para C.

⁴⁶⁴⁴ ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Children's Protection and Adoption Amendment Act, 2001 (No. 23)*, June 4, 2003; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home.

⁴⁶⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Zimbabwe." See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 5.

⁴⁶⁴⁶ Government of Zimbabwe, *Constitution of Zimbabwe*, Chapter 3, Article 14; available from <http://www.parlzim.gov.zw/Resources/Constitution/constitution.html>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Sections 5 and 6c.

⁴⁶⁴⁷ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Zimbabwe," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=779.

⁴⁶⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 6d.

Courts, which are mandated to hear trafficking cases.⁴⁶⁵⁰ In 2006, the government sentenced a woman to 4 years in prison for having trafficked a child into prostitution.⁴⁶⁵¹

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

In 2006, the Government of Zimbabwe established a task force for coordinating anti-trafficking efforts. The taskforce is comprised of members from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Labor, Social Welfare, Information, and Public Service.⁴⁶⁵² Senior government officials participated in a trafficking training workshop conducted by the IOM and officials from law enforcement, immigration, and social services received training to identify and assist victims of trafficking.⁴⁶⁵³

Media outlets sponsored by the government ran anti-trafficking messages, including some produced by the IOM, and continued to print and air public service announcements warning against prostitution and employment scams that could result in trafficking. The Ministries of Public Service, Social Welfare, and Labor also collaborated with an NGO to operate a center to help reunite deported children with their families. The center offered psychosocial support for child victims of sexual exploitation.⁴⁶⁵⁴

⁴⁶⁴⁹ Ibid., Sections 1d. and 5.

⁴⁶⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Zimbabwe."

⁴⁶⁵¹ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Overview para B.

⁴⁶⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zimbabwe," Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Prevention para B.

⁴⁶⁵³ U.S. Embassy- Harare, *reporting, March 7, 2007*, Overview para B.

⁴⁶⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Zimbabwe."