

Zambia

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 1999:	11.2% ⁴⁵⁶⁶
Minimum age for admission to work:	15 ⁴⁵⁶⁷
Age to which education is compulsory:	Not compulsory ⁴⁵⁶⁸
Free public education:	Yes ^{4569*}
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	99% ⁴⁵⁷⁰
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	80% ⁴⁵⁷¹
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 1999:	52.8% ⁴⁵⁷²
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	98% ⁴⁵⁷³
Ratified Convention 138:	2/9/1976 ⁴⁵⁷⁴
Ratified Convention 182:	12/10/2001 ⁴⁵⁷⁵
ILO-IPEC Participating Country:	Yes ⁴⁵⁷⁶
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 1999, approximately 11.5 percent of boys and 10.8 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Zambia. The majority of working children in Zambia, or approximately 90.1 percent, are found in the agricultural sector, followed by approximately 9.1 percent in services, 0.5 percent in manufacturing, and 0.3 percent in other sectors.⁴⁵⁷⁷ Children work in agriculture, domestic service, and transportation.⁴⁵⁷⁸ In urban areas, children work in street vending.⁴⁵⁷⁹ Children also

⁴⁵⁶⁶ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

⁴⁵⁶⁷ Government of Zambia, *Constitution of Zambia*, Article 24; available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/za00000_.html. See also Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment)*, 2004, Article 5, Section 4A. See also USAID official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, June 15, 2007.

⁴⁵⁶⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Zambia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78764.htm>.

⁴⁵⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁵⁷⁰ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁴⁵⁷¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁴⁵⁷² UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁴⁵⁷³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁴⁵⁷⁴ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed September 25, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declAFpr.htm>.

⁴⁵⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁵⁷⁶ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour, Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20061019_Implementationreport_eng_Web.pdf.

⁴⁵⁷⁷ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁴⁵⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zambia," Section 6d.

⁴⁵⁷⁹ Ibid.

work in hazardous industries and occupations, including stone crushing, construction,⁴⁵⁸⁰ and mining.⁴⁵⁸¹

It is estimated that there are approximately 20,000 to 30,000 street children throughout the country.⁴⁵⁸² Commercial sexual exploitation of children is widespread in Zambia.⁴⁵⁸³ Zambian children are reportedly trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, agricultural labor, and domestic servitude.⁴⁵⁸⁴

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.⁴⁵⁸⁵ The law prohibits the worst forms of child labor including child prostitution, slavery in all of its forms, military conscription, and work harmful to the safety, health, or morals of children and young people.⁴⁵⁸⁶ However, children between 13 and 15 years are permitted to perform light work under certain conditions.⁴⁵⁸⁷ The law defines a child as a person under 15 years; a “young person” is defined as a person between 15 and 18 years.⁴⁵⁸⁸ A person violating these provisions is subject to imprisonment for up to 3 years.⁴⁵⁸⁹ In addition, the law makes it a felony for any person to sexually harass a child in the workplace or in a learning institution, with a minimum sentence of 3 years in prison for violators.⁴⁵⁹⁰

The law prohibits children who are “under the apparent age of 18” from being recruited into the military without the consent of a parent, guardian, or local District Secretary.⁴⁵⁹¹ The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child voiced concern that the law is stated in terms of “apparent age,” which could indirectly contribute to exploitive child labor in the form of underage

⁴⁵⁸⁰ Ibid. See also ILO-IPEC and Republic of Zambia Central Statistics Office, *Zambia 1999 Child Labor Survey: Country Report*, ILO-IPEC, Lusaka, 2001, Tables 4.7 and 4.15. See also *Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Zambia official, Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Zambia, Letter to USDOL official, June 6, 2001*. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, August 19, 2003.

⁴⁵⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2006: Zambia,” Section 6d. See also ILO, *Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations: Individual Observation concerning Convention No. 138, Minimum Age, 1973 Zambia (ratification: 1976)* Geneva, 2004; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=7594&chapter=6&query=Zambia%40ref&highlight=>.

⁴⁵⁸² U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2006: Zambia,” Section 5.

⁴⁵⁸³ Ibid. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, “Zambia: Street Kids Open Their Minds to Govt Plan”, IRINnews.org, [online], March 27, 2006 [cited October 16, 2006].

⁴⁵⁸⁴ U.S. Department of State, “Zambia (Tier 2 Watch List),” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65990.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, February 26, 2007.

⁴⁵⁸⁵ Government of Zambia, *Constitution of Zambia, 1991*, Article 24. See also Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment)*, Article 5, Section 4A.

⁴⁵⁸⁶ Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment)*, Para 3b.

⁴⁵⁸⁷ Ibid., Para. 5A2.

⁴⁵⁸⁸ Ibid., Paras. 3a and 3b. See also Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 274 of the Laws of Zambia)*, Part I, Para. 2; available from <http://annualreview.law.harvard.edu/population/countries/zambia/THE%20EMPLOYMENT%20OF%20YOUNG%20PERSONS%20AND%20CHILDREN%20ACT.htm>.

⁴⁵⁸⁹ Government of Zambia, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Amendment)*, Para. 5A4.

⁴⁵⁹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting*, January 17, 2007.

⁴⁵⁹¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “Zambia,” in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=966.

recruitment.⁴⁵⁹² Although Zambia does not have a comprehensive trafficking law, the law prohibits forced labor and trafficking of children.⁴⁵⁹³ The law prescribes a penalty of 20 years to life in prison for trafficking a child, but does not provide a definition of trafficking.⁴⁵⁹⁴

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) is responsible for enforcing labor laws,⁴⁵⁹⁵ and has established a child labor unit.⁴⁵⁹⁶ The MLSS conducts inspections of workplaces and investigates child labor complaints.⁴⁵⁹⁷ The law gives labor inspectors the authority to enter households and farms in order to investigate potential child labor violations. The law also allows the MLSS to bring child labor charges, which can result in a fine or imprisonment.⁴⁵⁹⁸ In 2006, the government nearly doubled the amount allocated to the child labor unit of the MLSS.⁴⁵⁹⁹ However, the U.S. Department of State reports that resources are still insufficient, which hinders the government's enforcement capacity.⁴⁶⁰⁰ In January 2007, the High Court found a man guilty of trafficking for attempting to sell his son; this conviction was the first under Zambia's trafficking law enacted in 2005.⁴⁶⁰¹

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

The government included efforts to eliminate and monitor exploitive child labor in its national development plan that was finalized in June 2006.⁴⁶⁰² The Government of Zambia developed a strategy to counter trafficking through awareness raising, legal reform, and research; it sought international funding to support these activities.⁴⁶⁰³ The government continued to provide awareness and training activities for officials tasked with enforcing child labor laws and began to train five labor inspectors as prosecutors.⁴⁶⁰⁴

The Zambian government is collaborating with Jesus Cares Ministries on the second phase of a USD 750,000 USDOL-funded Child Labor Education Initiative project that aims to withdraw and prevent 3,600 children from engaging in exploitive work through the provision of educational services.⁴⁶⁰⁵ In 2006, USDOL awarded ILO-IPEC a USD 3.92 million grant to assist

⁴⁵⁹² Ibid.

⁴⁵⁹³ Government of Zambia, *Constitution of Zambia, 1991*, Articles 14, 24.

⁴⁵⁹⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zambia," Section 5.

⁴⁵⁹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, January 17, 2007*. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 19, 2003*.

⁴⁵⁹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 19, 2003*. See also Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Zambia official, Letter to USDOL official, June 6, 2001.

⁴⁵⁹⁷ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, January 17, 2007*. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 19, 2003*.

⁴⁵⁹⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zambia." See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 28, 2005*.

⁴⁵⁹⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zambia," Section 6d.

⁴⁶⁰⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁰¹ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, February 26, 2007*.

⁴⁶⁰² Government of the Republic of Zambia, *Fifth National Development Plan*, Lusaka, June 2006, 173-174; available from <http://www.cspr.org.zm/Reports&Updates/FNDP.pdf>.

⁴⁶⁰³ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Zambia."

⁴⁶⁰⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Zambia," Section 6d.

⁴⁶⁰⁵ USDOL, *Cooperative Agreement: Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Zambia*, Washington D.C., September 29, 2005.

the government with preparing a national Timebound Program against the worst forms of child labor.⁴⁶⁰⁶ The government is participating in a USDOL funded, ILO-IPEC USD 3 million program to combat and prevent HIV/AIDS-induced child labor in Uganda and Zambia.⁴⁶⁰⁷ The project aims to implement education and skills training opportunities for 3,600 children withdrawn from child labor and to prevent children from entering work situations through community-based social protection schemes.⁴⁶⁰⁸ The government also participated in a USDOL funded ILO-IPEC USD 5.3 million project to build the capacity of governments in Anglophone Africa, including Zambia, to withdraw and prevent children from the worst forms of child labor.⁴⁶⁰⁹ Approximately 3,643 children in Zambia were withdrawn or prevented from the worst forms of child labor during the life of the project, which ended in July 2006.⁴⁶¹⁰

ILO-IPEC is also working with several African governments, including Zambia, on a USD 1.53 million, Canadian-funded project to enhance skill training to combat the worst forms of child labor in the urban informal sector.⁴⁶¹¹ In addition, the European Economic Community granted USD 257,000 to ILO-IPEC to conduct a study from July to December 2006 on the scale and nature of child trafficking in Zambia.⁴⁶¹²

The government operates two camps for withdrawn and rehabilitated street children, and removed approximately 200 children as of the end of 2006.⁴⁶¹³ The government is also implementing a program that provides education and skills training for children who have been removed from the streets, including prostitutes and older youth.⁴⁶¹⁴ The government continues to work with NGOs to relocate street children and place them in educational settings.⁴⁶¹⁵ It also continues to undertake awareness-raising activities to sensitize lawmakers, teachers, and trade union officials about child labor.⁴⁶¹⁶ The government has sponsored efforts, such as articles and speeches by prominent citizens, to raise awareness about child domestic labor among local communities.⁴⁶¹⁷

⁴⁶⁰⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Support to the Development and Implementation of Timebound Measures Against the WFCL in Zambia*, project document, ZAM/06/P50/USA, Geneva, September 14, 2006, 5.

⁴⁶⁰⁷ ILO-IPEC, *Combating and Preventing HIV/AIDS-induced Child Labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: Pilot Action in Uganda and Zambia*, project document, RAF/04/P57/USA, Geneva, July 2004.

⁴⁶⁰⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁰⁹ ILO-IPEC, *Building the Foundations for Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Anglophone Africa*, project document, RAF/02/P51/USA, Geneva, September 24, 2002.

⁴⁶¹⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Building the Foundation for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Anglophone Africa: Zambia*, technical progress report, RAF/02/P51/USA, Geneva, March 2, 2006.

⁴⁶¹¹ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 16, 2006.

⁴⁶¹² Ibid.

⁴⁶¹³ U.S. Embassy-- Lusaka, *reporting, January 17, 2007*. See also Jesus Cares Ministries, *Combating Child Labour Through Education*, technical progress report, Jesus Cares Ministries, Lusaka, March 30, 2006. See also U.S. Embassy-- Lusaka, *reporting, January 17, 2007*.

⁴⁶¹⁴ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Zambia: Street Kids". See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 28, 2005*.

⁴⁶¹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 28, 2005*.

⁴⁶¹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, *reporting, August 24, 2004*.

⁴⁶¹⁷ Ibid. See also, Jesus Cares Ministries, *JCM Progress Report, March 2006*.

The Government of Zambia continues to implement its universal primary education program, called the Basic Education Sub-Sector Investment Program (BESSIP), with the support of USAID, the World Bank, and other donors.⁴⁶¹⁸ BESSIP specifically targets working children.⁴⁶¹⁹

⁴⁶¹⁸ USAID, "Zambia: Education", [usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov), [online], 2006 [cited October 16, 2006]; available from <http://www.usaid.gov/zm/education/ed.htm>. See also World Bank, *The World Bank in Zambia; Country Brief 2005-2006*, Washington D.C., 2006; available from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTZAMBIA/Resources/Zambia_2005_7.pdf.

⁴⁶¹⁹ See U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 29, 2003.