

Djibouti

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children ages 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age of work:	16 ¹²⁸²
Age to which education is compulsory:	16 ¹²⁸³
Free public education:	Yes ^{1284*}
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	39% ¹²⁸⁵
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	32% ¹²⁸⁶
Percent of children 12-14 attending school in 1996:	66.8% ¹²⁸⁷
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	80% ¹²⁸⁸
Ratified Convention 138:	6/14/2005 ¹²⁸⁹
Ratified Convention 182:	2/28/2005 ¹²⁹⁰
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No ¹²⁹¹
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In urban areas of Djibouti, children work in a variety of activities in the informal sector.¹²⁹² Children work day and night in family-owned businesses such as restaurants and small shops.¹²⁹³ Children perform jobs such as shining shoes, guarding and washing cars,¹²⁹⁴ cleaning storefronts, sorting merchandise, selling various items, and changing money.¹²⁹⁵ Some children work as domestic servants and others are involved in begging.¹²⁹⁶ Children are also involved in the sale of drugs.¹²⁹⁷ Many working children are displaced from neighboring countries such as Ethiopia,

¹²⁸² Government of Djibouti, *Loi n°96/AN/00/4èmeL portant Orientation du Système Educatif Djiboutien*, (July 10, 2000), Article 5.

¹²⁸³ *Ibid.*, Article 14.

¹²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, Article 16. See also U.S. Department of State, "Djibouti," 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/2006/78731.htm>.

¹²⁸⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹²⁸⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹²⁸⁷ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005.

¹²⁸⁸ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹²⁸⁹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 18, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

¹²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹¹ ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

¹²⁹² U.S. Embassy - Djibouti, *reporting*, August 17, 2005.

¹²⁹³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Djibouti," Section 6d.

¹²⁹⁴ U.S. Embassy - Djibouti, *reporting*, August 17, 2005.

¹²⁹⁵ Ministry of Employment and National Solidarity official, Interview with USDOL consultant, July 11, 2006, Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, July 11, 2006.

¹²⁹⁶ U.S. Embassy - Djibouti, *reporting*, August 17, 2005.

¹²⁹⁷ Directorate of Promotion of Women and Social Affairs official, Interview with USDOL consultant, July 16, 2006. See also Open Door Association official, Interview with USDOL consultant, August 9, 2006.

and some live on the streets.¹²⁹⁸ In rural areas, children work in agriculture and with livestock.¹²⁹⁹

Child prostitution occurs in Djibouti.¹³⁰⁰ Many victims are from Ethiopia; HIV/AIDS orphans are especially vulnerable.¹³⁰¹ Djiboutian girls who engage in prostitution may be victims of trafficking.¹³⁰² Some children involved in prostitution in Djibouti are reported to be trafficked from neighboring countries, including Ethiopia.¹³⁰³

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment and apprenticeships in Djibouti is 16 years.¹³⁰⁴ Young persons 16 to 18 may not be employed as domestic servants or in hotels and bars.¹³⁰⁵ The law calls for the Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Health to develop additional categories of work that are prohibited to young persons, but these have not yet been established.¹³⁰⁶ Young persons must receive the same payment as adults for similar work. The Labor Inspector can require a medical exam to verify if the work is beyond the capabilities of the young person.¹³⁰⁷ Penalties for non-compliance with the provisions regarding equal pay and medical exams are punishable by fines.¹³⁰⁸ The law also prohibits night work for young persons, with penalties for non-compliance that include fines and, on the second infraction, 15 days of imprisonment.¹³⁰⁹

The law prohibits forced and bonded labor.¹³¹⁰ The law also prohibits the procurement of prostitution, with punishments including a fine and up to 10 years of imprisonment when a minor is involved. Increased penalties also apply if coercion is used or in cases involving the trafficking of persons outside or into the country.¹³¹¹ The law also provides for penalties against the use of children in pornography and trafficking of drugs.¹³¹² Djibouti does not have compulsory military service. The Government of Djibouti stated in a 1998 report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that “as is the case for all civilian and military jobs, young

¹²⁹⁸ Ministry of Employment and National Solidarity official, interview, July 11, 2006.

¹²⁹⁹ U.S. Embassy - Djibouti, *reporting*, August 17, 2005.

¹³⁰⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Djibouti," Section 5.

¹³⁰¹ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Djibouti*, accessed October 12, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>. See also Delegate Ministry to the Prime Minister Charged with the Promotion of the Woman, Family Well-Being, and Social Affairs, *Analyse de la situation des orphelins et enfants vulnérables (OEV) à Djibouti*, Djibouti, February 2006, 5.

¹³⁰² U.S. Department of State, "Djibouti," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

¹³⁰³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Djibouti," Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Djibouti."

¹³⁰⁴ Government of Djibouti, *Loi n°133/AN/05/5ème L portant Code du Travail*, (January 28, 2006), Articles 5 and 71.

¹³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, Articles 110-111.

¹³⁰⁶ U.S. Embassy - Djibouti official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, January 23, 2007.

¹³⁰⁷ Djibouti, *Loi n°133/AN/05/5ème L* Articles 109, 112.

¹³⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, Article 288.

¹³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, Articles 94, 289.

¹³¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Article 2.

¹³¹¹ The Protection Project, *2005 Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, 2005; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org>.

¹³¹² U.S. Embassy - Djibouti, *reporting*, August 24, 2004.

people under 18 may not be accepted into the army.” The government has a voluntary national services program for persons ages 16 to 25 that includes 3 months of military training.¹³¹³

The authority to enforce child labor laws and regulations rests with the Police Vice Squad (*Brigade des Moeurs*) and the local police department (*Gendarmerie*).¹³¹⁴ The *Brigade des Moeurs* has reportedly closed bars where child prostitution may be occurring.¹³¹⁵ The Labor Inspection Office has the authority to sanction businesses that employ children.¹³¹⁶ As of April 2006, the labor inspection office had one inspector and six controllers.¹³¹⁷ According to the U.S. Department of State, this shortage of inspectors limits the government’s ability to enforce labor laws.¹³¹⁸

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

Research has not identified any policies or programs by the Government of Djibouti to address exploitive child labor.

¹³¹³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Djibouti," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004, 296; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=966.

¹³¹⁴ U.S. Embassy- Djibouti, *reporting, August 24, 2004*.

¹³¹⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Djibouti," in *Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment*, Washington, DC, January 19, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/78948.htm>.

¹³¹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Djibouti, *reporting, August 24, 2004*.

¹³¹⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Djibouti."

¹³¹⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Djibouti," Section 6d.