

## Namibia

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 6-14 estimated as working in 1999:	14.7% <sup>2974</sup>
Minimum age for admission to work:	14 <sup>2975</sup>
Age to which education is compulsory:	16 <sup>2976</sup>
Free public education:	Yes <sup>2977*</sup>
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2003:	101% <sup>2978</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2003:	74% <sup>2979</sup>
Percent of children 6-14 attending school in 1999:	91.6% <sup>2980</sup>
As of 2002, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	88% <sup>2981</sup>
Ratified Convention 138:	11/15/2000 <sup>2982</sup>
Ratified Convention 182:	11/15/2000 <sup>2983</sup>
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes, associated <sup>2984</sup>
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 1999, approximately 15.5 percent of boys and 13.9 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Namibia. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (91.4 percent), followed by services (8.2 percent), manufacturing (0.4 percent), and other sectors (0.1 percent).<sup>2985</sup>

<sup>2974</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

<sup>2975</sup> Government of Namibia, *Labor Act 2004*, (December 8, 2004), Chapter 2, Sections 3 and 4; available from <http://www.mol.gov.na/acts/Gaz3339.pdf>.

<sup>2976</sup> Government of Namibia, *Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990*, (February 1990); available from [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/wa00000\\_.html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/wa00000_.html). See also U.S. Department of State, "Namibia," 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/2006/78749.htm>.

<sup>2977</sup> Government of Namibia, *Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990*, Article 20. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Namibia," Section 5.

<sup>2978</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>2979</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

<sup>2980</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

<sup>2981</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

<sup>2982</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed September 25, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declAFpr.htm>.

<sup>2983</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2984</sup> ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour; Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20061019\\_Implementationreport\\_eng\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20061019_Implementationreport_eng_Web.pdf).

<sup>2985</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

Children work in commercial and subsistence agriculture, the informal sector, and domestic service.<sup>2986</sup> Children find self-employment in basket weaving, traditional beer making, selling fruits and vegetables, barbering, milking cows, and farming communal land.<sup>2987</sup> To support their households, children also tend livestock, hunt, fish, and gather wild foods.<sup>2988</sup> Children from Angola, Zambia, and other countries neighboring Namibia reportedly enter the country illegally and work on communal farms.<sup>2989</sup> Children from poor rural households frequently assist extended family in urban centers with house cleaning, cooking, and child care, in exchange for food, shelter, and sometimes clothes and money.<sup>2990</sup> Numerous HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children are reportedly engaged in commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>2991</sup>

## Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. The law also prohibits children under 16 years from working in any mine, industrial, or construction setting or underground, and prohibits children under 18 years from engaging in night work, which is defined as any work taking place between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.<sup>2992</sup> The Constitution protects children under 16 years from economic exploitation and states that they are not to be employed in any work that is likely to be hazardous; harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development; or that would interfere with their education.<sup>2993</sup>

The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.<sup>2994</sup> The law prohibits trafficking in persons,<sup>2995</sup> protects children from commercial sexual exploitation, and makes it an offense for any adult to solicit or entice a child to participate in prostitution.<sup>2996</sup>

The law allows for compulsory military service, but there is no military draft because individuals currently enlist in the armed forces in sufficient numbers. According to the Ministry of Defense policy, the minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years.<sup>2997</sup>

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<sup>2986</sup> Debie LeBeau, *Scoping Report on Child Labour in Namibia*, Discussion Document, commissioned by ILO-IPEC, Geneva, August 2003, Pages 29-33. See also U.S. Embassy- Windhoek, *reporting*, August 24, 2004.

<sup>2987</sup> Debie LeBeau, *Scoping Report*, Pages 24-25.

<sup>2988</sup> *Ibid.*, Page 25.

<sup>2989</sup> *Ibid.*, Page 31.

<sup>2990</sup> *Ibid.*, Page 32.

<sup>2991</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Namibia," Section 5. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Namibia*, accessed September 26, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net/>. See also Debie LeBeau, *Scoping Report*, 35 and 37.

<sup>2992</sup> Government of Namibia, *Labor Act 2004*, Chapter 2, Sections 3 and 4. See also Debie LeBeau, *Scoping Report*, 17.

<sup>2993</sup> Government of Namibia, *Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990*, Article 15.

<sup>2994</sup> *Ibid.*, Article 9.

<sup>2995</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Namibia," Section 5.

<sup>2996</sup> Debie LeBeau, *Scoping Report*, 21.

<sup>2997</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Namibia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/document\\_get.php?id=788](http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=788).

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.<sup>2998</sup> Ministry inspectors are trained to identify the worst forms of child labor and use existing enforcement mechanisms.<sup>2999</sup> In 2006, the ministry continued its regular labor inspections, and five complaints were filed with the ministry regarding child labor.<sup>3000</sup> The Women and Child Protection Units of the Namibian Police Force investigate cases involving abduction and child prostitution.<sup>3001</sup> The Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare is charged with ensuring that adequate care is provided to children, particularly orphans and other vulnerable children.<sup>3002</sup>

Existing national laws comprehensively address the worst forms of child labor in Namibia. The government, however, has difficulty with monitoring working conditions on tens of thousands of communal and commercial farms.<sup>3003</sup>

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

The Government of Namibia is working with ILO-IPEC to implement a USD 5 million USDOL-funded regional child labor project in Southern Africa, which includes activities in Namibia. Project activities in Namibia include conducting research on the nature and incidence of exploitive child labor and building the capacity of the government to address child labor issues.<sup>3004</sup> In collaboration with the government and NGOs, the American Institutes for Research is implementing a regional USD 9 million USDOL-funded project in Southern Africa to improve the quality of and access to basic and vocational education for children who are working or at risk of entering exploitive child labor.<sup>3005</sup> Over its lifetime, this project aims to prevent 10,000 children in five countries, including Namibia, from engaging in exploitive labor.<sup>3006</sup> With the assistance of the Namibia Agricultural Union and the Namibia Farm Workers' Union, the Government of Namibia conducts public awareness campaigns on child labor.<sup>3007</sup>

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<sup>2998</sup> ILO, *The Effective Abolition of Child Labour: Review of Annual Reports under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, GB.280/3/2, Geneva, March 2001; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb280/pdf/gb-3-2-abol.pdf>.

<sup>2999</sup> U.S. Embassy- Windhoek, *reporting*, December 13, 2006, Para 3.

<sup>3000</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Namibia," Section 5.

<sup>3001</sup> Government of Namibia, *Units within the Namibian Police Force*, [online] 2006 [cited October 11, 2006]; available from <http://www.nampol.gov.na/html/units.html>.

<sup>3002</sup> Government of Namibia, *Statement by His Excellency Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, On the Occasion of the Official Launching of the National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children*, [online] 2005 [cited October 11, 2006]; available from [http://www.grnnet.gov.na/Nav\\_frames/News\\_launch.htm](http://www.grnnet.gov.na/Nav_frames/News_launch.htm).

<sup>3003</sup> U.S. Embassy- Windhoek, *reporting*, December 13, 2006, Para 6.

<sup>3004</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Time-Bound Programme to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in South Africa's Child Labour Action Programme and Laying the Basis for Concerted Action Against Worst Forms of Child Labour in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland*, Geneva, September 30, 2004.

<sup>3005</sup> American Institutes for Research, *Reducing Exploitive Child Labor Southern Africa (RECLISA)*, project document, Washington, DC, September 8, 2005.

<sup>3006</sup> *Ibid.*, page 22.

<sup>3007</sup> U.S. Embassy- Windhoek, *reporting*, December 13, 2006, Para 7.