

São Tomé and Príncipe

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2000:	15.4% ³⁶⁹²
Minimum age for admission to work:	14 ³⁶⁹³
Age to which education is compulsory:	13 ³⁶⁹⁴
Free public education:	Yes ³⁶⁹⁵
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	133% ³⁶⁹⁶
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	98% ³⁶⁹⁷
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2000:	68.8% ³⁶⁹⁸
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	66% ³⁶⁹⁹
Ratified Convention 138:	5/4/2005 ³⁷⁰⁰
Ratified Convention 182:	5/4/2005 ³⁷⁰¹
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No ³⁷⁰²

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000, approximately 17.2 percent of boys and 13.5 percent of girls 5 to 14 were working in São Tomé and Príncipe.³⁷⁰³ Children work in subsistence agriculture, on plantations, in informal commerce, and in domestic services.³⁷⁰⁴ Children also work in auto mechanic shops.³⁷⁰⁵

³⁶⁹² UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

³⁶⁹³ Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Lei n° 6/92 de 11 de Junho*, Article 128; available from <http://www.doingbusiness.org/Documents/LawLibrary/S%C3%A3o-Tom%C3%A9-and-Principe-Lei-n.%C2%B0-6.92-de-11-de-Junho.pdf>. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention, Initial reports of States parties due in 1993: Sao Tome and Principe*, CRC/C/8/Add.49, March 4, 2003, 15; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/d9dc78db076fd54c1256e2f002df2a4/\\$FILE/G0345594.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/d9dc78db076fd54c1256e2f002df2a4/$FILE/G0345594.pdf).

³⁶⁹⁴ São Tomé and Príncipe Embassy official, Interview with USDOL official, June 7, 2007. See also UNESCO, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2005: The Quality Imperative*, 284; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001373/137333e.pdf>.

³⁶⁹⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Sao Tome and Principe," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78753.htm>.

³⁶⁹⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://www.stats.uis.unesco.org>.

³⁶⁹⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

³⁶⁹⁸ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

³⁶⁹⁹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

³⁷⁰⁰ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm>.

³⁷⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁷⁰² ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour; Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

³⁷⁰³ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

³⁷⁰⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Sao Tome and Principe," Section 6d.

³⁷⁰⁵ Ambrósio Quaresma, *UNICEF quer conhecer a realidade de mão de obra infantil em S. Tomé e Príncipe*, [online] [cited January 3, 2007]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/saotome/trabalho.htm>.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for work in São Tomé and Príncipe is 14 and the law imposes fines on those who employ underage workers.³⁷⁰⁶ The law prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in unhealthy or dangerous conditions, as well as from working underground.³⁷⁰⁷ Children under 18 may not work more than 7 hours a day and 35 hours per week.³⁷⁰⁸ The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor, including by children.³⁷⁰⁹ Military service is compulsory at 18 years; 17-year-olds may volunteer with parental consent.³⁷¹⁰ The law also prohibits trafficking in persons.³⁷¹¹ The government has not prosecuted any cases of child labor law violations.³⁷¹²

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 São Tomé and Príncipe to address exploitive child labor.

³⁷⁰⁶ Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Lei n° 6/92 de 11 de Junho*, Articles 128 and 147. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Sao Tome and Principe*, 15. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Sao Tome and Principe," Section 6d.

³⁷⁰⁷ Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Lei n° 6/92 de 11 de Junho*, Article 129. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Sao Tome and Principe*, 15.

³⁷⁰⁸ Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, *Lei n° 6/92 de 11 de Junho*, Article 136. U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Sao Tome and Principe."

³⁷⁰⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Sao Tome and Principe," Section 6c.

³⁷¹⁰ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Sao Tome and Principe," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=792. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Sao Tome and Principe*, 16.

³⁷¹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Sao Tome and Principe," Section 5.

³⁷¹² Ibid.