

Somalia

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	Unavailable
Age to which education is compulsory:	13 ³⁸³⁰
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate:	Unavailable
Net primary enrollment rate:	Unavailable
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
Percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	Unavailable
Ratified Convention 138:	No ³⁸³¹
Ratified Convention 182:	No ³⁸³²
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No ³⁸³³

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in rural areas of Somalia are more likely to work than those in urban areas, and perform mostly unpaid farm work.³⁸³⁴ Children often work in herding and agricultural labor, starting at a young age, and are rarely employed in the formal sector.³⁸³⁵ Children who work in markets and on the streets, including children who sell *khat*, a leaf chewed for its stimulant effect, are vulnerable to violence perpetrated by armed clan militias.³⁸³⁶

Child prostitution is practiced in the country; however, there is little statistical data available on the extent of the problem.³⁸³⁷ Somalia is a source country for child trafficking.³⁸³⁸ Somali children are reportedly trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation by armed militias.³⁸³⁹ Other organized groups are reported to traffic children to South Africa for sexual exploitation. There are reports of children sent to live with relatives and friends in western countries where they work, and send earnings back to family members in Somalia.³⁸⁴⁰

³⁸³⁰ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Ending Age of Compulsory Education*, accessed October 21, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

³⁸³¹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 20, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

³⁸³² Ibid.

³⁸³³ ILO-IPEC, *All About IPEC: Programme Countries*, [online] 2001 [cited March 7, 2007]; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/about/countries/t_country.htm.

³⁸³⁴ World Bank, *Socio-Economic Survey Somalia 2002*, accessed May 28, 2003, 21; available from <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/so/surveydoc.htm>.

³⁸³⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Somalia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/>.

³⁸³⁶ Ibid, Sections 1a and 5.

³⁸³⁷ Ibid, Section 5.

³⁸³⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Somalia," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Somalia," Section 5.

³⁸³⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Somalia."

³⁸⁴⁰ Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Somalia," Section 5. See also Integrated Regional News Networks, "SOMALIA: Tragic Cargo - Part One", IRINnews.org, [online], June 8, 2006 [cited October 18, 2006]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org>.

The use of children in armed conflict is a problem in Somalia. Many children are members of armed gangs and militias. According to the U.S. Department of State, the recruitment of children into militias and other armed groups increased during 2006. It has been reported that the Supreme Council of Islamic Courts forcibly recruited some children in 2006. There are no reports of minors serving in the Somaliland Republic's armed forces, though it is difficult to determine the age of recruits because of a lack of birth registration records.³⁸⁴¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Somalia has been without a functioning central government since 1991. During the reporting period, control was exerted by four different entities: the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) based in Baidoa, the Supreme Council of Islamic Courts in and around Mogadishu, the self-appointed Independent Republic of Somaliland in the northwest, and the semi-autonomous region of Puntland in the northeast.³⁸⁴² Although pre-1991 laws prohibited child labor and trafficking, existing government entities have no means for enforcing labor laws.

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

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

³⁸⁴¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Somalia," Sections 5 and 6d. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Somalia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports>.

³⁸⁴² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Somalia."