

Saint Lucia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Saint Lucia are unavailable.⁴⁰⁷³ Some school age children work in rural areas and in some cases have helped to harvest bananas on family farms.⁴⁰⁷⁴ Children work in urban food stalls and as street traders during non-school and festival days.⁴⁰⁷⁵ Children have also become involved in commercial sexual exploitation in order to pay for basic needs, such as school fees and food.⁴⁰⁷⁶

Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, 25.4 percent of the population in Saint Lucia were living on less than USD 1 a day.⁴⁰⁷⁷

Education in Saint Lucia is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15 years.⁴⁰⁷⁸ In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99 percent.⁴⁰⁷⁹ Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Saint Lucia.⁴⁰⁸⁰ As of 2000, 97 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.⁴⁰⁸¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Saint Lucia. The Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Law sets 16 years as the minimum age for

⁴⁰⁷³ This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section for information about sources used. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms, such as the use of children in the illegal drug trade, prostitution, pornography, and trafficking. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section. Such statistics and information may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on the definition of working children and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

⁴⁰⁷⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: St. Lucia*, Washington, D.C., February 28 2005, 6c; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41773.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown official, email communication to USDOL official, 2005.

⁴⁰⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: St. Lucia*, 6c.

⁴⁰⁷⁶ Felicia Robinson, Director of Human Services and Family Services, Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs and Gender Relations, *Saint Lucia Report to the Regional Congress*, Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs and Gender Relations, 2001; available from http://www.iin.oea.org/ST_LUCIA_ing.PDF.

⁴⁰⁷⁷ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2005* [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.

⁴⁰⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: St. Lucia*, 5. See also *Education Act of Saint Lucia*, No. 41 of 1999, Article 27; available from <http://www.education.gov.lc/pdffiles/EducationAct.pdf>.

⁴⁰⁷⁹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51> (Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definition of gross primary enrollment rates in the "Data Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

⁴⁰⁸⁰ This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section for information about sources used.

⁴⁰⁸¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=55> (School life expectancy, % of repeaters, survival rates; accessed December 2005).

employment.⁴⁰⁸² It also establishes 18 years as the minimum age for work in industrial settings.⁴⁰⁸³ The Education Act of 1999 also sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years during the school year.⁴⁰⁸⁴ Hazardous work is not defined in a single law, but is covered through a combination of legislation and regulations.⁴⁰⁸⁵ The penalties for violation of child labor laws do not exceed USD 200, or 3 months of imprisonment.⁴⁰⁸⁶ The Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, or forced labor, except for labor required by law, court order, military service, or public emergency.⁴⁰⁸⁷ The Criminal Code bans the procurement of women and girls for prostitution, as well as the abduction of any female for the purpose of forced sexual relations.⁴⁰⁸⁸ Procurement is punishable with imprisonment for up to 2 years and abduction for the purpose of sexual relations is punishable with imprisonment for up to 14 years.⁴⁰⁸⁹ Information on trafficking in persons is unavailable for Saint Lucia⁴⁰⁹⁰ and there are currently no laws that specifically address trafficking in persons.⁴⁰⁹¹

The Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor Relations, Public Service, and Cooperatives is responsible for implementing statutes on child labor. There were no reports of violations of child labor laws in 2004, the most recent year such information is available; however there are reports that internal trafficking of minors is becoming a problem.⁴⁰⁹²

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

The Government of Saint Lucia has given high priority to bettering educational opportunities for its children and supports programs such as subsidized meals in a number of schools and the building of new schools.⁴⁰⁹³ The Caribbean Development Bank approved a loan to the Government of Saint Lucia in March 2003, a portion of which is for the rehabilitation of eleven primary schools and the provision of equipment to renovate the schools.⁴⁰⁹⁴

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments		
Ratified Convention 138		
Ratified Convention 182	12/06/2000	✓
ILO-IPEC Member		
National Plan for Children		
National Child Labor Action Plan		
Sector Action Plan		

In 2002, the Ministry of Education acquired funding from the World Bank to make secondary schools more accessible to a larger proportion of the population. The funding provides for the construction of additional schools, improvement of the curriculum and quality of teaching, provision of education materials and equipment, funding of fellowships, and other programs targeting disadvantaged youth.

⁴⁰⁸² In 2004, the minimum age for employment increased from 14 to 16 years. U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: St. Lucia*, Section 6d.

⁴⁰⁸³ Government of Saint Lucia, *Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act*, 136. See also Government of St. Lucia, *Child Labour*, information submitted in response to U.S. government inquiry, Castries, October 12, 2004.

⁴⁰⁸⁴ *Education Act*, Article 47.

⁴⁰⁸⁵ ILO, *Review of Annual Reports under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, GB.283/3/1, Geneva, March 2002, para. 121.

⁴⁰⁸⁶ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *unclassified telegram no. 1792*, September 2001.

⁴⁰⁸⁷ *Constitution of Saint Lucia, 1978*, (February 22, 1979), Section 4; available from <http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/Constitutions/Lucia/Luc78.html>.

⁴⁰⁸⁸ The Protection Project, *Saint Lucia*, Washington, DC, March, 2002, Articles 103 and 225; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org/main1.htm> [no longer available online, hard copy on file].

⁴⁰⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, Articles 225 and 106.

⁴⁰⁹⁰ *Ibid.* See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: St. Lucia*, Section 5.

⁴⁰⁹¹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: St. Lucia*, Section 5.

⁴⁰⁹² *Ibid.*

⁴⁰⁹³ *Ibid.*, U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *unclassified telegram no. 1792*.

⁴⁰⁹⁴ Caribbean Development Bank, *Economic Reconstruction Programme- Rehabilitation of Primary Schools and Health Centres in St. Lucia*, press release, Caribbean Development Bank, March 6, 2003; available from www.caribank.org.

This program, expected to end in 2008, will encourage greater parental involvement in the education of their children.⁴⁰⁹⁵

In 2004, the World Bank, in partnership with CARICOM and other international donor organizations, launched a regional HIV/AIDS prevention project in Saint Lucia. It will provide psychosocial and basic material support to orphans and increase access to HIV/AIDS prevention and services for in and out of school youth, groups that are vulnerable to the worst forms for child labor. The first phase of this project is expected to end in 2007.⁴⁰⁹⁶

⁴⁰⁹⁵ The World Bank, *Project Appraisal Document for Proposed Loans and Credit in the Amount of US\$5.0 Million to St. Kitts and Nevis and \$6.0 Million and SDR 4.8 Million to St. Lucia*, D.C., Washington, May 15, 2002; available from http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2003/11/11/000012009_20031111091449/Rendered/PDF/241590EBoard.pdf.

⁴⁰⁹⁶ The World Bank, *Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan in the Amount of US\$3.2 Million and Proposed Credit in the Amount of SDR1.15 Million and Proposed Grant in the Amount of SDR1.15 Million to Saint Lucia*, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., June 1, 2004; available from http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2004/06/17/000012009_20040617132504/Rendered/PDF/291290SL.pdf. See also World Bank, *Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed IDA Grant in the Amount of SDR 6.1 Million Equivalent to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS Project*, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., March 4, 2004; available from http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2004/03/09/000160016_20040309103136/Rendered/PDF/272670LCR.pdf.