

Burundi

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2000:	31.2% ⁷²¹
Minimum age of work:	16 ⁷²²
Age to which education is compulsory:	12 ⁷²³
Free public education:	Yes ^{724*}
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	80% ⁷²⁵
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	57% ⁷²⁶
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2000:	41.9% ⁷²⁷
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	63% ⁷²⁸
Ratified Convention 138:	7/19/2000 ⁷²⁹
Ratified Convention 182:	6/11/2002 ⁷³⁰
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes, associated ⁷³¹
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000, approximately 32.3 percent of boys and 30.1 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Burundi.⁷³² Children in Burundi work in subsistence agriculture, family-based businesses, mining and brick-making industries, and the informal sector.⁷³³ In 2004, the Ministry for National Solidarity, Human Rights, and Gender estimated that there were approximately 5,000

⁷²¹ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005.

⁷²² Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, Article 126; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org/txt/F93BDI01.htm>.

⁷²³ U.S. Department of State, "Burundi," 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/2006/78722.htm>.

⁷²⁴ Ibid.

⁷²⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁷²⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁷²⁷ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁷²⁸ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

⁷²⁹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed June 16, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

⁷³⁰ Ibid.

⁷³¹ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006, 29; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf.

⁷³² UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

⁷³³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 6d.

street children in Burundi.⁷³⁴ Such children are involved in activities such as portering and hawking goods.⁷³⁵

Until September 2006, when it signed a cease-fire agreement with the government, the rebel group, Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People/National Liberation Front (PALIPEHUTU-FNL), continued to recruit children and use them as combatants.⁷³⁶ UNICEF reported that government armed forces did not use children as combatants, but there were reports that the military used children as guides and informers.⁷³⁷ Reports also indicate that the government has illegally detained former child soldiers who served in rebel groups rather than provide them with services such as demobilization and reintegration.⁷³⁸ Since the signing of the cease-fire agreement, there have been conflicting reports regarding whether the PALIPEHUTU-FNL's practice of child recruitment has continued.⁷³⁹

Until the September cease-fire agreement, children in Burundi were trafficked for the purposes of child soldiering; the government and a prominent NGO report that such trafficking no longer occurs in the country.⁷⁴⁰ Children in Burundi may be trafficked within the country and to neighboring countries for forced labor.⁷⁴¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Burundi is 16 years.⁷⁴² Children 12 to 16 are permitted to engage in light work or apprenticeships that do not jeopardize their health, development, or

⁷³⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Burundi," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004*, Washington, DC, February 28, 2005, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41591.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 5.

⁷³⁵ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Burundi: Focus on Street Children", IRINnews.org, [online], 2004 [cited February 7, 2007]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=41667>.

⁷³⁶ UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Burundi*, October 27, 2006, para 25-28; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/582/51/PDF/N0658251.pdf?OpenElement>. See also ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Programme*, technical progress report, Geneva, September 2006, 2. See also U.S. Department of State, "Burundi (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>. See also UN Secretary-General, *Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General*, October 26, 2006, para 18; available from <http://www.crin.org/docs/CAC.pdf>.

⁷³⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 1g. See also UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General*, para 21.

⁷³⁸ UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General*, para 20, 22-23. See also Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: Former Child Soldiers Languish in Custody*, New York, June 16, 2006; available from http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/06/15/burund13554_txt.htm.

⁷³⁹ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, January 30, 2007. See also ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Programme*, technical progress report, Geneva, March 2007, 3.

⁷⁴⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, March 2, 2007.

⁷⁴¹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Burundi." See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Burundi*, accessed October 4, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 5.

⁷⁴² *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, Article 126.

ability to attend and benefit from school.⁷⁴³ Children under 16 years may work a maximum of 6 hours per day, are prohibited from working at night, and must have rest periods of at least 12 hours between work sessions.⁷⁴⁴ The law allows for medical examinations to determine if a child's work causes undue physical stress.⁷⁴⁵ Employers found in violation of the provisions for the work of young persons are subject to fines and, for repeat offenses, closure of the place of employment.⁷⁴⁶

The law prohibits forced labor, except in special circumstances such as military service, civic obligations in the public interest, or as a result of a judicial decision.⁷⁴⁷ Inciting, exploiting, or facilitating the prostitution of persons under 21 is subject to fines and imprisonment of up to 10 years. Offenses against the decency of a child are punishable by prison terms of 5 to 15 years.⁷⁴⁸ The law does not specifically prohibit trafficking; however, traffickers can be prosecuted under laws against assault, fraud, kidnapping, rape, prostitution, and slavery, and can face up to 20 years in prison.⁷⁴⁹ The minimum age of compulsory recruitment to armed forces is 16.⁷⁵⁰ The Ministry of Defense has issued instructions that soldiers found to be forcing children to perform menial work be disciplined, with punishments ranging from a reduction in pay to confinement.⁷⁵¹

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws. According to the U.S. Department of State, it only enforces such laws when complaints are filed because, at least in part, of a lack of labor inspectors.⁷⁵² The Ministry for National Solidarity, Human Rights, and Gender is responsible for combating trafficking. During 2006, there were arrests of alleged traffickers, but no prosecutions.⁷⁵³

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

During the year, the Government of Burundi and former rebel groups collaborated on a USD 3.5 million project implemented by UNICEF under the World Bank's Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program to demobilize, reintegrate, and prevent re-recruitment of child

⁷⁴³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Burundi (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2006 [cited October 3, 2006]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=18479&chapter=9&query=%28C138%2CC182%29+%40ref+%2B+%28Burundi%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 6d.

⁷⁴⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request*. See also *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, Articles 119-120.

⁷⁴⁵ *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, Article 128.

⁷⁴⁶ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request*.

⁷⁴⁷ *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, Article 2.

⁷⁴⁸ Government of Burundi, *Offenses Against Public Morals*, Articles 372 and 382; available from <http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/BurundiF.pdf>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Burundi*.

⁷⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 5.

⁷⁵⁰ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Burundi," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=761.

⁷⁵¹ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, March 2, 2007.

⁷⁵² U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, August 18, 2003. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 6d.

⁷⁵³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Burundi," Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, March 2, 2007.

soldiers. As of June 2006, when the project closed, more than 3,000 children had been demobilized and provided with services, which included medical and psychosocial services, educational and vocational training opportunities, loans, and other forms of support. Since June, the government and UNICEF have continued to provide support for children receiving education and vocational training.⁷⁵⁴ The government also participated in a global USD 7 million USDOL-funded project implemented by ILO-IPEC to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict and support the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. The project targeted a total of 5,264 children for withdrawal and 4,250 children for prevention from involvement with armed groups in seven countries, including Burundi.⁷⁵⁵ Language on the demobilization of child soldiers was included in the cease-fire agreement signed by the PALIPEHUTU-FNL, and with the support of UNICEF and other partners, the government has provided services to 26 children from the rebel group.⁷⁵⁶

The government has carried out public awareness campaigns against the use of child soldiers.⁷⁵⁷ Burundi is also participating in the implementation of a monitoring system on the use of children in armed conflict under UN Security Council Resolution 1612.⁷⁵⁸

In July 2006, 24 of the 26 governments represented in the ECOWAS and the ECASS participated in a Joint Ministerial Conference on Trafficking in Persons held in Nigeria to develop a common understanding of trafficking in West and Central Africa and to adopt a common set of strategies against trafficking in persons, especially women and children. During the Ministerial Conference, Burundi was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in the West and Central African Regions.⁷⁵⁹ As part of the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement, the governments agreed to put into place the child trafficking monitoring system developed by the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC West and Central Africa LUTRENA trafficking project; ensure that birth certificates and travel identity documents cannot easily be falsified or altered; provide assistance to each other in the investigation, arrest and

⁷⁵⁴ World Bank, *Burundi*, [online] October 2006 [cited October 4, 2006]; available from <http://www.mdrp.org/burundi.htm>.

⁷⁵⁵ See ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Program*, project document, Geneva, September 17, 2003.

⁷⁵⁶ UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General*, 8. See also Olalekan Ajia, *UN Special Representative Commends Demobilization of Child Soldiers in Burundi*, [online] March 27, 2007 [cited April 1, 2007]; available from http://www.unicef.org/protection/burundi_39232.html?q=printme.

⁷⁵⁷ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, March 2, 2007*.

⁷⁵⁸ Brenda Kariuki, *UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Sees Burundi's Progress in Education and Demobilization of Child Soldiers*, Bujumbura, February 7, 2006; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burundi_30956.html.

⁷⁵⁹ ECOWAS and ECASS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006. See also Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006.

prosecution of trafficking offenders; protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficking victims; and improve educational systems, vocational training and apprenticeships.⁷⁶⁰

⁷⁶⁰ ECOWAS and ECASS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons in West and Central Africa*. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, technical progress report, Geneva, September 1, 2006. See also Goujon, Emmanuel, "African States Sign up to Fight Human Trafficking," *Agence France-Presse*, July 7, 2006.