

⁵³² ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication, December 13, 2007. See also ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication, February 27, 2008.

⁵³³ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication, February 27, 2008.

Burundi

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*⁵³⁴

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	31.2
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	32.3
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	30.1
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	12
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	82
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	58
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	41.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2007:	67
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated
*Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Burundi work in subsistence agriculture, family-based businesses, construction, mining and brick-making, and in the informal sector.⁵³⁵ Increasing rates of HIV/AIDS have led to greater numbers of orphans and, consequently, street children.⁵³⁶ Street children are involved in activities such as hawking goods, or working as porters, which may involve heavy loads.⁵³⁷ Children also work as domestic servants, and some have reported not being paid for wages.⁵³⁸ There

have also been reports that children are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation.⁵³⁹

Despite signing a cease-fire agreement with the Government, during the reporting period the rebel group, Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People/National Liberation Front continued to recruit children, sometimes forcibly.⁵⁴⁰ UNICEF reported that Government's armed forces did not use children as combatants, but there were reports that the military used children for menial tasks.⁵⁴¹ 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.⁵⁴²

There are conflicting reports that Burundi remains a source country for the internal trafficking of children for the purpose of child soldiers.⁵⁴³ Children in Burundi are trafficked within the country for the purposes of domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation.⁵⁴⁴

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Burundi is 16 years.⁵⁴⁵ Children 12 to 16 years are permitted to engage in light work or apprenticeships that do not jeopardize their health, development, or ability to attend and benefit from school.⁵⁴⁶ 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.⁵⁴⁷ The law allows for medical examinations to determine if a child's work causes undue physical stress.⁵⁴⁸ 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.⁵⁴⁹

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.⁵⁵⁰ Inciting, exploiting, or facilitating the prostitution of persons under 21 years are 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.⁵⁵¹ The law does not specifically prohibit trafficking; however, traffickers can be prosecuted under laws against assault, fraud, kidnapping, rape, prostitution, and slavery, and may face up to 20 years in prison.⁵⁵² By law, the minimum age for military recruitment is 16 years, although the Government reports that it does not recruit those under 18 years in practice.⁵⁵³ 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.⁵⁵⁴

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.⁵⁵⁵ According to USDOS, enforcement is based on the filing of complaints due, at least in part, to a lack of labor inspectors.⁵⁵⁶

Burundi was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central African Regions.⁵⁵⁷ As part of the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement, the governments agreed to use the child trafficking monitoring system developed by the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC LUTRENA project; to assist each other in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of trafficking offenders; and to protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficking victims.⁵⁵⁸

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

In 2007, the Government of Burundi continued to counter the prostitution of children through its Special Unit for the Protection of Underage Children and Social Ethics and the Brigade for the Protection of Women and Children, which investigates instances of forced prostitution and works to improve the living conditions of affected children.⁵⁵⁹ The Government also supported awareness raising activities and organized seminars with NGOs to address the issue of street

children and internal trafficking.⁵⁶⁰ The Ministry of National Solidarity and Human Rights also raised awareness about the forced labor nature of child soldiers to dispel the negative stigma that some associate with former child soldiers.⁵⁶¹

Further, the Government of Burundi's National Demobilization, Reinsertion, and Reintegration Program continued activities that demobilize child soldiers and prevent the recruitment of ex-combatant child soldiers. These activities were originally funded under a World Bank umbrella grant; and since June 2006, the Government and UNICEF have continued to provide support so these children may receive education and vocational training.⁵⁶² The Government has also helped to provide income-generating projects for former child soldiers.⁵⁶³

The Government 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 withdrew 4,335 children from child soldiering and prevented 4,560 children from involvement with armed groups in seven countries, including Burundi.⁵⁶⁴

In 2007, the Government of Norway also launched a year-long, USD 1.275 million regional project in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, implemented by ILO-IPEC, to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict and support the rehabilitation of former child soldiers.⁵⁶⁵ The Government is also participating in the implementation of a monitoring system on the use of children in armed conflict under UN Security Council Resolution 1612.⁵⁶⁶

⁵⁵⁴ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, title I chapter I article 3; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org/txt/F93BDI01.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Burundi," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008; available from

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100469.htm>.

⁵³⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, October 5, 2007. See also U.S. Embassy - Bujumbura, *reporting*, October 5, 2007.

⁵³⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi." See also International AIDS Society, "Burundi's experience in the reduction of the HIV/AIDS impact on orphans", [previously online], July 12, 2004 [cited December 11, 2007]; available from http://www.iasociety.org/abstract/show.asp?abstract_id=2171384.

⁵³⁷ Iteka, *Bulletin d'Information de la Ligue Burundaise des Droits de l'Homme ITEKA*, July, 2007, 11; available from http://www.ligue-iteka.africa-web.org/IMG/pdf/Bulletin_ITEKA_no99_juillet_2007.pdf. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Burundi: Focus on Street Children", IRINnews.org, [online], June 15, 2004 [cited December 11, 2007]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=50237>.

⁵³⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Paying the Price: Violations of the Rights of Children in Detention in Burundi*, New York, March, 2007; available from <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/burundi0307>.

⁵³⁹ U.S.-Embassy-Bujumbura, *reporting December 3, 2007*, para 2. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Burundi: Humanitarian Country Profile", IRINnews.org, [online], February 1, 2007 [cited December 11, 2007]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/country-profile.aspx>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 6d.

⁵⁴⁰ UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Burundi*, November 28, 2007, para 7, 16, and 18; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/593/11/PDF/N0759311.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, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 5.

⁵⁴¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 1g. See also U.S. Embassy - Bujumbura, *reporting*, October 5, 2007, para IV, B.

⁵⁴² UN Secretary-General, *Report of the Secretary-General 2007*, para 29-32. 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.

⁵⁴³ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, February 29, 2008, para 3. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, October 5, 2007, para 3.

⁵⁴⁴ U.S. Embassy -Bujumbura, *reporting*, June 7, 2007, para 8. See also U.S. Department of State, "Burundi (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82805.htm>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Burundi*, accessed December 2, 2007; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

⁵⁴⁵ Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, title V, chapter VI, article 126.

⁵⁴⁶ 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- 2007: Burundi," section 5.

⁵⁴⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C138: Burundi*. See also Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, title V, chapter 4, articles 119-120.

⁵⁴⁸ Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, title V, chapter 6, article 128.

⁵⁴⁹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C138: Burundi*.

⁵⁵⁰ Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, title I, section 1, article 2.

⁵⁵¹ 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*.

⁵⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 5.

⁵⁵³ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, October 5, 2007, para 2.

⁵⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 1g. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting*, October 5, 2007.

⁵⁵⁵ Government of Burundi, *Décret loi no. 1/037 du 7 juillet 1993 portant révision du Code du travail*, title V, chapter VI, article 128.

⁵⁵⁶ U.S.-Embassy-Bujumbura, *reporting December 3, 2007*, para 2. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 6d.

⁵⁵⁷ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006, ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, Technical Progress Report, Washington, DC, September 1, 2006, 2.

⁵⁵⁸ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons in West and Central Africa*, 5-7. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, Technical Progress Report, 10-11.

⁵⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 13. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 5.

⁵⁶⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 14.

⁵⁶¹ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 15.

⁵⁶² Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program, *MRDP Fact Sheet: Burundi*, [online] February 2008 [cited March 12, 2008]; available from

http://www.mdrp.org/PDFs/MDRP_BUR_FS_0208.pdf. See also Multi - Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program, *The Social and Economic Status of Beneficiaries of the Burundi Child Soldier Demobilization, Social Reintegration and Recruitment Prevention Special Project 2007*, 1; available from http://www.mdrp.org/in_focus_right.htm. 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.

⁵⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, October 5, 2007*, para 2. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 12.

⁵⁶⁴ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Program*, Project Document, ILO, Geneva, September 17, 2003. See also ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 14, 2008.

⁵⁶⁵ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

⁵⁶⁶ Olalekan Ajia, *UN Special Representative Commends Demobilization of Child Soldiers in Burundi*, Bujumbura, March 27, 2007; available from http://www.unicef.org/protection/burundi_39232.html.

Cambodia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Cambodia work in exploitive conditions, on commercial rubber and tobacco plantations, in salt production, in fish processing, in portering, in brick making, and as rubbish pickers.⁵⁶⁷ They also work processing sea products; breaking, quarrying or collecting stones; in gem and coal mining; in garment factories; and in restaurants.⁵⁶⁸ Children work in restaurants and as domestic servants. Most child domestics are girls 14 to 17 years old, though it is not uncommon to find workers as young as 6 or 7 years; they typically work 12 to 16 hour days, 7 days a week.⁵⁶⁹

Cambodia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking in children. Children are trafficked internally for purposes of commercial

sexual exploitation, work in garment factories, begging, in construction, as domestics, and porters. Cambodian children are trafficked to Thailand for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work, begging, street hawking, flower selling, and for work in the construction and agricultural sectors.⁵⁷⁰ Children are also trafficked into Vietnam for begging.⁵⁷¹ Vietnamese girls are trafficked into Cambodia for the purpose of sexual exploitation.⁵⁷²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Law sets the minimum age for wage employment at 15 years,⁵⁷³ although a later 1999 ministerial decree sets the minimum age at 14 years.⁵⁷⁴ The law allows children 12 to 15 years to perform light work that is not hazardous and does