9-6-2006

The Department of Labor’s 2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

U.S. Department of Labor

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The Department of Labor's 2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Abstract
[Excerpt] In its fifth year, the U.S. Department of Labor's Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor provides new and updated information on the incidence and nature of child labor, relevant laws and enforcement, and programs and policies in place to address exploitative child labor. The report highlights progress that has been made in the past year to combat the worst forms of child labor in 137 countries and territories receiving benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA)/Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Elimination Act (ATPDE), and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA). By highlighting progress and areas where challenges remain, we hope that this report will encourage trading partners of the United States to increase their efforts to address exploitative child labor and promote educational opportunities for all children.

Keywords
ILR, federal, key workplace, Catherwood, child labor, laws, enforcement, programs, policies, Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, (AGOA), the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA)/Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Elimination Act (ATPDE), Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

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The Department of Labor’s 2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Report Required by the Trade and Development Act of 2000

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of International Labor Affairs

2006
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Appendix A
Acknowledgments

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Foreword

In 2005, natural disasters in almost every corner of the globe increased the vulnerability of children to the worst forms of child labor, while also leaving thousands impoverished, homeless, and orphaned. At the same time, the year saw renewed commitment by the global community to respond to these challenges. I am proud of the leading role the U.S. government played in this respect. The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) responded to the Asian tsunami by providing funding to prevent at-risk children in Indonesia and Sri Lanka from engaging in the worst forms of child labor. In the coming year, USDOL will continue to support children suffering the effects of natural disasters, including funding for efforts to protect children from exploitation in the wake of the massive earthquake in Pakistan. These are just a few examples of the efforts to combat exploitative child labor supported by USDOL. In 2005, the Department awarded USD 69.7 million to combat exploitative child labor in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. These new projects complement some 76 projects funded in previous years that were ongoing in 2005.

This year also saw the U.S. government promoting improvements in international labor standards, including the fight against child labor, through the pursuit of international trade liberalization. In 2005, the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) was approved by the U.S. Congress and signed by President George W. Bush. This agreement has entered into force for the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua and is expected to enter into force for Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic in the near future. The United States also completed negotiations on free trade agreements with Peru and Oman. The governments involved in these agreements share a common goal of creating more opportunities for their citizens. Such progress holds the promise of helping to reduce poverty and the incidence of exploitative labor situations. The creation of good new jobs for adults can also increase the chances that children will be able to stay in school rather than engage in hazardous work to help support their families. Trade liberalization can bring about these changes over the long run; in the short run, the free trade negotiation process can also lead to commitments to support specific efforts to protect children, which many countries have made.

Even apart from the trade negotiation process and the contribution that process makes to efforts to address the problem of exploitative child labor in a number of countries, it is crucial that governments continue to take steps to fulfill their international commitments to combat the worst forms of child labor. When governments pursue the elimination of the worst forms of child labor and the promotion of basic education as national priorities, they make an important investment in their country’s children and in the potential of their national economies.

In its fifth year, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor provides new and updated information on the incidence and nature of child labor, relevant laws and enforcement, and programs and policies in place to address exploitative child labor. The report highlights progress that has been made in the past year to combat
the worst forms of child labor in 137 countries and territories receiving benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA)/Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Elimination Act (ATPDE), and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA). By highlighting progress and areas where challenges remain, we hope that this report will encourage trading partners of the United States to increase their efforts to address exploitative child labor and promote educational opportunities for all children.

James Carter  
Deputy Under Secretary  
for International Affairs  
U.S. Department of Labor  
August 22, 2006
Preface

Congressional Mandate and Legislative Requirement

This report was prepared in accordance with Section 412(c) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA), Pub.L. 106-200.1 Section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Act) requires the President to submit an annual report to the Congress on the status of internationally recognized worker rights within each beneficiary developing country.2 Section 412(c) of the TDA amended the Trade Act by expanding the annual report to include “the findings of the Secretary of Labor with respect to the beneficiary country’s implementation of its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.”3 The countries referenced in the legislation are those countries that may be designated as beneficiaries under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP),4 and includes GSP countries designated to receive additional benefits under the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA)/Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA), Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), and African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).5 In addition, this year’s report includes information on former GSP recipients that have negotiated free trade agreements with the United States over the last 2 years, in view of Senate Report 108-345.6

Generalized System of Preferences

The GSP program extends duty-free treatment on a unilateral basis to a wide range of products imported from designated developing countries and territories.7 The GSP program was enacted by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974.8 When the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 reauthorized the program, new eligibility criteria included a requirement that

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2 Ibid., Section 2464.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid., Section 2461.
5 The Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA)/Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) extends additional trade benefits to certain Andean countries, and includes as a criterion for receiving benefits: “whether the country has implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor as defined in section 507(6) of the Trade Act of 1974.” The Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, which constitutes Title II of the TDA, provides additional benefits to certain GSP eligible countries in Central America and the Caribbean. The CBTPA includes as a criterion for receiving benefits “whether a country has implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.” The African Growth and Opportunity Act constitutes Title I of the TDA. H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 606, 106th Cong., 2nd Sess. 123 (2000) states that with regard to “additional trade benefits extended to African beneficiary countries…..the conference intent that the GSP standard, including the provision with respect to the implementation of obligations to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, apply to eligibility for those additional benefits.”
7 Trade Act, Section 2461.
8 Ibid., Section 2461-2467.
countries take steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights. The TDA expanded the GSP eligibility criteria further to include a new criterion on the worst forms of child labor. The new criterion specifies that the President shall not designate any country as a beneficiary developing country if “[s]uch country has not implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.”

The Worst Forms of Child Labor

The definition of the “worst forms of child labor” provided in Section 412(b) of the TDA is as follows:

(A) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
(B) the use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes;
(C) the use, procuring, or offering of a child for illicit activities in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs; and
(D) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.

The work referred to in subparagraph (D) shall be determined by the laws, regulations, or competent authority of the beneficiary developing country involved.

The definition of the worst forms of child labor provided in the TDA is substantially similar to that contained in International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 182 except that the Convention specifies that the work referred to above in subparagraph D “shall be determined by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, taking into consideration relevant international standards…” While the language of ILO Convention 182 and the TDA provide a definition of three categories of the worst forms of child labor in subparagraphs A-C (sometimes referred to as “unconditional worst forms of child labor”), the TDA includes a definition of the worst forms of child labor that is more comprehensive than the definition provided for in the Convention. The definition of the worst forms of child labor provided in the TDA is as follows:

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forms”), they do not provide a universal definition of what constitutes a worst form of child labor, as reflected in the more general language of the Convention and the TDA with respect to the fourth category of the worst forms. Since there is no universally accepted set of activities that falls into subparagraph (D), ILO Recommendation 190 on the worst forms of child labor provides certain guidelines countries may consider in determining what constitutes a worst form of child labor under this category.14

Structure of the Report

The report provides individual profiles on 118 independent countries and a summary report on 19 non-independent countries and territories designated as GSP beneficiaries and/or beneficiaries under the ATPA/ATPDEA, CBTPA, and AGOA. Wherever possible, these profiles focus on the worst forms of child labor, rather than on child work in general. However, data and information on the incidence of the worst forms of child labor are often unavailable, due to the hidden nature of such activities. Therefore, the report presents as complete a picture as possible of the child labor situation in a country or territory. Each of the profiles consists of a textbox and three written sections: incidence and nature of child labor; child labor laws and enforcement; and current government policies and programs to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Textbox

Each country profile contains a textbox that lists selected measures adopted by governments to combat the worst forms of child labor. While they are by no means exhaustive lists, the measures are meant to provide a historical context for the description of current government efforts provided at the end of each country profile and an indication of the degree to which each country has made initial international and national level commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. It is useful to note that commitment levels vary based both on the extent to which exploitive child labor exists in a country and on the willingness of each government to take formal steps to address this problem when it does exist. The textbox includes the following selected measures:

1) whether a country has ratified ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age for Admission to Employment;
2) whether a country has ratified ILO Convention 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor;
3) whether a country is an ILO-IPEC Member or Associated Member;15
4) whether a country has developed and published a National Action Plan for Children;
5) whether a country has developed and published a National Child Labor Action Plan; and

14 These guidelines include consideration of whether the work exposes children to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; if the work is conducted in an unhealthy environment; or if the work is under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours, among other considerations. See ILO, R190, Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 in ILOLEX, [database online] 2002 [cited August 17, 2006], available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?R190.
15 ILO-IPEC member countries have signed formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the ILO to initiate child labor projects; Associated Members have given ILO-IPEC permission to initiate child labor projects, but have not signed an MOU.
6) whether a country has developed and published a specific Child Labor Sector Action Plan.

Measures one through three were chosen because of the leading role of the International Labor Organization in combating child labor. Although most governments covered in this report are members of the ILO, there are exceptions. Since these nations are not members of the ILO, they are not eligible to ratify ILO Conventions. In these cases, the first three measures will be marked “N/A.” The last three measures are applicable in all of the country reports. They are defined as follows: a “National Action Plan for Children” is a framework to promote the welfare of children; a “National Child Labor Action Plan” is a strategy specifically to combat child labor; and a “Child Labor Sector Action Plan” is a framework to combat child labor in a particular economic sector, such as mining, fishing, or carpet-making. Plans to combat specific worst forms of child labor, such as trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation, would also be counted as this type of measure. These action plans, rather than international agreements, are covered in measures four through six because they generally entail more specific national and local-level goals and resource commitments, while international agreements may not.16

**Incidence and Nature of Child Labor**

This section provides information on the incidence of child labor in the country and describes the activities that children perform. The quantity and quality of child labor data is continuously increasing and improving, and many countries have worked with ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, and the World Bank in recent years to collect such information. Despite these improvements, data on the incidence and nature of the worst forms of child labor continues to be scarce and is often dated. Although the preferred information for this section of the report is about children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, it is not always possible to separate the worst forms from other types of work performed by children. Therefore, as indicated above, this section provides information on all types of work performed by children, to provide a complete picture of the situation in the particular country. In addition to information on children’s work, this section also includes information on the poverty rate in the country. Poverty statistics are included to provide additional information for understanding the incidence and nature of child labor in a particular country.

Also included in this section is information on laws and policies that set educational requirements for children, as well as a brief assessment of children’s involvement in primary schooling.17 Children engaging in the worst forms of child labor are less likely to participate in primary schooling. Primary school enrollment and attendance figures are presented along with estimates of the percentage of children reaching the fifth grade,

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16 Although DOL recognizes that some Education for All plans supported by UNESCO entail child labor related goals and resource commitment, these plans are not included in the textbox because a number of plans are currently in draft and have not yet been published.

17 Some country profiles include a statement indicating that the age for compulsory education and the minimum age for work do not coincide. In cases where the minimum age for compulsory education is one or more years lower than the minimum age for work, children may be more likely to enter work illegally.
where available.\textsuperscript{18} Demographic information pertaining to gender, ethnicity, and rural/urban residence is provided, if particularly relevant.

\textit{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

This section reviews major laws and regulations related to child labor and available evidence regarding implementation. Laws and regulations described in this section include those that establish a minimum age for work and those that set related standards for light work, hours of work for children of different ages, and requirements of parental approval. While such laws may not explicitly prohibit the worst forms of child labor, prohibitions against child labor and enforcement thereof may influence the nature and extent of the worst forms of child labor. However, laws that prohibit children’s involvement in the worst forms of child labor are given special attention.

Where available and substantiated, information is provided on penalties for violations of child labor laws, regulations, and policies, as well as other enforcement and prosecution data. Formal institutional mechanisms that aim to promote adherence to and enforcement of child labor laws, regulations, and policies, particularly related to the worst forms of child labor, are also reviewed.

\textit{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

To the extent that there is a problem in a country regarding the worst forms of child labor, this section describes government initiatives aimed at combating such practices during 2005.\textsuperscript{19} It is important to note, however, that it is often difficult to separate those policies and programs that address only the worst forms of child labor from those that focus on child labor in general. In addition, although government efforts may not be focused on the worst forms of child labor, initiatives that improve family income or increase school attendance may have an impact on the worst forms of child labor. For these reasons, this section of the report provides information on many types of child labor initiatives where appropriate. Such initiatives include national plans of action or comprehensive policies to address the worst forms of child labor, which typically consist of a combination of strategies, including raising awareness about the worst forms of child labor, enhancing local capacity to address the problem, withdrawing children from exploitive work, and offering children educational alternatives. Each country’s government efforts may include those policies or programs that have received funding and technical assistance from international agencies, donor governments, and international financial institutions; and initiatives that are implemented and supported through non-governmental

\textsuperscript{18} For a description of this data and a discussion of its limitations, please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.

\textsuperscript{19} For a more historical perspective on child labor in these countries, readers should consult the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 \textit{Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor} reports. Copies of these reports are available on the U.S. Department of Labor Web site, at: http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/media/reports/iclp/main.htm. Copies may also be obtained by calling the International Child Labor Program office at (202) 693-4843 or via e-mail at GlobalKids@dol.gov.
organizations and in cooperation with other governments. Many countries have targeted programs to reduce child labor, often supported by the ILO’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) and other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies. These efforts frequently go beyond simply withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labor to include broader social programs to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor; to ensure that these children have access to educational alternatives; and to promote income generating opportunities for the children’s families that help reduce dependence on the labor of their children.

Sources of Information

In preparing this report, the U.S. Department of Labor relied primarily on information garnered from the Department of State in Washington D.C. and U.S. consulates and embassies abroad, including the Department of State’s annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (Human Rights Report). DOL also relied upon a wide variety of reports and materials originating from foreign governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other agencies within the U.S. Government. U.S. Department of Labor officials also gathered materials during field visits to some of the countries covered in this report. Finally, several governments included in the report submitted information in response to a Department request for public input published in the Federal Register.²⁰

Introduction

Millions of children around the world continued to engage in exploitative child labor in 2005. Children were involved in dangerous and illegal activities ranging from hazardous agriculture, mining and fireworks production, to prostitution, deep-sea diving and drug trafficking. Working children were most commonly found in the informal sector, an area of economic activity that is largely unregulated by governments. Many child laborers were subject to physical, psychological or sexual abuses that may prevent them from developing into healthy, productive and self-sufficient adults. Some were also unable to attend school, depriving them of an opportunity to learn important new skills.

Children who worked in 2005 did so for a variety of reasons. Many labored in order to survive and earn income for themselves and their families. While some children performed light work for their parents in shops or on family farms, others worked under hazardous or abusive conditions, because they were discouraged or prohibited from attending school, could not afford to do so, or could not gain access to quality or affordable education programs. A number of children became involved in exploitative work in 2005 as a result of new economic, social, environmental and political factors, such as natural disasters, the death of a parent from HIV-AIDS, or armed conflict. These factors not only influenced whether children worked, and how often they worked, but what type of labor they performed.

Individual countries and international and non-governmental organizations continued to take new steps in 2005 to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. This section describes some of the major issues and events that influenced child labor in 2005, actions prompted by these developments, and new child labor elimination initiatives undertaken by governments and their partners during the year. The country profiles that follow provide detailed information on the child labor situation and the myriad of efforts undertaken to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the 137 countries covered in this report.

Child Labor and Natural Disasters

Natural disasters can have a devastating effect on the lives of children. Young people who live through the chaos and destruction brought on by a major earthquake, hurricane, flood or other emergency are often forced to cope with personal injury or the injury or death of one or more family members; a lack of clothing, food and shelter; and the destruction of their homes and schools. They can also experience a debilitating loss of their sense of security, and become vulnerable to involvement in the worst forms of child labor. In some instances, children who have been separated from their parents, or orphaned as the result of a natural disaster, will find themselves with little choice but to generate income for their own survival. Other children, who were studying prior to a disaster, can fall victim to exploitation in the worst forms of child labor when they lose a teacher or their school is destroyed. In 2005, natural disasters considerably increased the risk of child labor for vulnerable children in a number of Asian, African, and Latin
American communities. In all of these instances, the natural disasters spurred new actions to prevent or withdraw children from work in the worst forms of child labor.

**Tsunami and Earthquake Recovery Efforts**

As a result of the December 2004 Asian earthquake and tsunami, the Government of Indonesia and UNICEF estimate that over 100,000 Indonesians died and over 400,000 were displaced. In Aceh province and Nias, the areas hardest hit by the disaster, UNICEF estimates that the disaster orphaned or separated more than 2,000 children from their parents. According to the ILO, as many as 40,000 school students and 1,870 teachers lost their lives. An estimated 28 percent of schools were destroyed and some 3,000 teachers lost their homes. In response to this tragedy, the Government of Indonesia is participating in a USDOL-funded Education Initiative project implemented by Save the Children. The program targets 10,530 children working or at risk of entering hazardous and exploitative labor in commercial agriculture, construction, fishing, trading/vending, and domestic work. Program activities include the rebuilding and reactivating of community learning centers damaged by the tsunami; trafficking monitoring and prevention; support and technical training for learning center staff and tutors; awareness raising about the negative effects of hazardous child labor; and strengthening of district government capacity to meet the educational needs of vulnerable children and youth.

In Sri Lanka, approximately 30,000 people died and more than 500,000 people were displaced according to reports by UNICEF. Nearly 1,000 children were orphaned or separated from their parents. The government is participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to prevent and withdraw children from domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, and exploitative work in agriculture and other hazardous industries. Children targeted by this child labor project are being provided with education and training services, as well as psycho-social counseling, recreational activities, medical care, and other support. In addition, the Government of Sri Lanka is working with ILO-IPEC to increase awareness about the dangers of child labor, and striving to build its capacity to meet the needs of children and families affected by the disaster.

UNICEF also collaborated with the governments of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and India on a number of tsunami child protection strategies, including health and nutrition care services; efforts to provide clean water and sanitation; family reunification and adoption services; and counseling and income generation support.

According to figures released by the Government of Pakistan’s Federal Relief Commission (FRC) and Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), the disastrous earthquake that occurred in Pakistan in 2005 resulted in the death of over 70,000 people. UNICEF estimates that at least 17,000 of the victims were school-aged children. According to the ILO, some 400,000 houses collapsed leaving 2.8 million people without shelter. More than 7,500 schools are estimated to have been damaged. Following the earthquake, the Government of Pakistan took measures to aid vulnerable children by implementing restrictions on the relocation of child survivors to
protect them from traffickers; collaborating with international NGOs to register affected children and reunite families; establishing child care and rehabilitation centers; and building makeshift schools in temporary shelters.

**Trafficking in Children**

In 2005, thousands of children around the world were trafficked for the purpose of labor exploitation. They are recruited, harbored, transported, and received within and across borders using force, coercion, abduction, fraud, or other abusive means. Girls are primarily trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic service, and forced marriage. Boys are trafficked mostly for the purpose of exploitative labor in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, organized begging, and for use in armed conflict. Child victims of trafficking may be exposed to rape, torture, and other forms of violence; psychological abuse; drug and alcohol addiction; as well as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. According to ILO Convention No. 182, the trafficking of children is a type of slavery and is considered a worst form of child labor.

An international framework to combat trafficking is already in place; however, regional, country, and local level initiatives are key to supporting the fight to eliminate this worst form of child labor. In 2005, these initiatives fell into three general categories: a) bilateral and multilateral agreements outlining the protocol for handling international child trafficking cases; b) regional and national legislation explicitly prohibiting child trafficking and establishing harsh penalties for traffickers; and c) national or local initiatives to raise awareness, set up rehabilitation centers for victims, or train officials to recognize victims and provide them with appropriate services.

In 2005, many notable accomplishments were achieved to combat child labor in each of these three areas.

**Multilateral and Bilateral Trafficking Agreements**

The governments of nine West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo) signed the Multinational Cooperation Agreement to combat Child Trafficking in West Africa. Signatory governments are to adopt measures to prevent child trafficking, mobilize resources to combat the problem, exchange detailed information on the victims and those responsible, develop specific plans of action, and establish a national monitoring and coordination committee. The Government of Yemen also signed trafficking agreements with neighboring countries, provided training to security and border officials on how to recognize and care for trafficked children, cracked down on official corruption facilitating trafficking, raised awareness among parents about the dangers of child trafficking, and established a reception and rehabilitation center on the border with Saudi Arabia for returned child victims. The governments of Thailand and Laos signed an MOU on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which outlined action plans in the areas of prevention and suppression of trafficking, and protection, repatriation, and reintegration of victims.
Regional and National Trafficking Legislation

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the European Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings, which focuses on a cooperative framework for the protection and assistance of trafficked persons. The Governments of Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo each passed national legislation to prohibit slavery and/or trafficking in persons, including children. A comprehensive anti-trafficking law was adopted by the Kyrgyz government. The Government of Guatemala reformed its Penal Code to expand the definition of trafficking from solely covering international trafficking of women for prostitution to include any kind of transport or transfer of persons for economic gain, and increased penalties. The draft Constitution of Iraq included prohibitions on trafficking of children.

National Anti-Trafficking Policy Efforts

The Government of Bangladesh established an inter-ministerial committee on trafficking and an anti-trafficking unit within the police force; trained law enforcement agencies and immigration officials in several districts to address trafficking; arrested several public officials for complicity in trafficking-related crimes; and supported a major national anti-trafficking campaign to increase awareness of the problem among vulnerable groups. Panama also established a new anti-trafficking commission.

Child Labor in the Mining Sector

In addition to paying greater attention to the relationship between child labor and education in 2005, the international community strived to raise awareness about a particularly dangerous form of child work: child labor in mining and quarrying.

Children who work in the mining and quarrying sector are involved in a variety of dangerous activities. Children mine and cut rock in deep tunnels, haul heavy loads from mining to processing sites, and work with toxic chemicals such as mercury to extract gold from rocks. Children also pan for gold in rivers and pound rocks into gravel. Such work puts them at risk of back injury, respiratory ailments, broken bones, and death. Given the remoteness of many mining communities, children working in this sector frequently do not have access to quality education programs, which further contributes to the cycle of child labor and poverty.

In order to draw attention to this extremely dangerous form of child labor, the International Labor Organization’s 2005 World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) focused on this issue. On June 12th, many governments, communities, workers’ and employers’ organizations organized local events in conjunction with the WDACL. In Niger, interviews, performances, and a debate on child labor were broadcast nationally from two of the country’s principle mining sites. In Peru, a mass media campaign was launched to promote the successful effort to combat child labor in the mining community of Santa Filomena. In Nepal, children’s art and song competitions were held to draw
attention to the problem of child labor in mining and quarrying. Communities and Small-Scale Mining, a global network of mining companies, experts, international organizations, and NGOs that seeks to promote development in small-scale mining communities, pledged its support during the year for ILO-IPEC initiatives to combat child labor.

Combating Child Labor through Education

The education of children is essential to any nation’s social and economic development, both at the individual and macro levels. Children who have been educated enter adulthood better able to make choices, earn income, participate in the political process, and lead healthier and more productive lives. Their communities and nations also enjoy higher standards of living as a result.

In 2005, the Global Task Force on Child Labor and Education, the product of a series of roundtables and ongoing discussions by ILO-IPEC, UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF, and Global March Against Child Labor, was established to promote the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labor and promoting universal education. The Task Force has acknowledged that the internationally embraced and highly visible goal of Education for All by 2015—established by governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations at the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal—cannot be achieved without addressing child labor. Through the collective expertise of its members, the Task Force has vowed to raise awareness about its goals among new audiences, better mobilize resources and political support, increase cooperation across Ministries of Education and Labor, and promote more research on the causes and consequences of child labor and the lack of access to quality education.

Combating Child Labor through Research

Also during 2005, the global community funded new research aimed at increasing the knowledge base on exploitative child labor. This research will enable countries to develop better interventions to combat child labor in the future.

Estimates on Working Children

During the year, certain governments carried out independent efforts to gather information on child labor. The Ministry of Education and Culture of Paraguay required that all schools in the country gather information regarding the working status of children. After working with ILO-IPEC on SIMPOC surveys in the past, the Ministry of Education of El Salvador included questions on child labor in its national 2004 Matriculation Census. The new information obtained through this survey, available for the first time in 2005, is enabling IPEC and the government to better target child labor eradication efforts.

In addition, with support from USDOL, the Understanding Children’s Work (UCW) project developed more accurate statistics on working children. UCW is a joint program
founded by ILO-IPEC, UNICEF and the World Bank to address the need for more and better statistics on child labor. ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, the World Bank, and other institutions gather data on working children, but examine different age groups and use different definitions of work. During 2005, UCW analyzed data gathered by these institutions using a single definition of child work and a set age group. This newly standardized data is being used in the country profiles in this report.

Research on Additional Child Labor Topics

With funding from USDOL, ILO-IPEC carried out studies on a variety of topics, such as the impact of working time on children’s health and school attendance and performance; the relationship between wages paid to children and productivity; the influence of children’s non-economic activities, such as child care and cooking, on their health and education; and the characteristics of child bonded labor. In addition, IPEC developed and tested methods over the year to trace the impact of child labor projects as they are implemented. IPEC also continued to develop tracking systems to identify longer-term effects of interventions on children and their families.

Also with support from USDOL, IPEC continued its work on child labor monitoring. This type of monitoring involves observing workplaces and other locations for the incidence of child labor; removing children from work (where possible) and referring them to services; and following up to ensure the children remain out of exploitative work. As part of its projects, ILO-IPEC aims to establish systems for child labor monitoring that communities, governments, employers, and other parties can continue after a project ends. During 2005, ILO-IPEC produced guidelines on child labor monitoring systems that can be used by other child labor projects as well as concerned citizens and governments in their fight against child labor. The research that IPEC is conducting and the information IPEC has produced on successful methods for tracking working children can help the international community to develop better interventions to combat child labor in the future.

University researchers and others in the research community also examined a variety of child labor-related topics during 2005, such as hazardous child labor, the role of household poverty in decisions on children’s labor and schooling, and the effects of children’s movement in and out of work on the accuracy of child labor estimates. Original research also examined how government sponsored conditional transfer programs like the Bangladesh Food-for-Education program impacted school enrollment and attendance.

Many other efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor, which were implemented at the country level, are described in this report. It is the Department’s hope that this information will both improve understanding and encourage further discussion regarding international child labor issues.
Data Sources and Definitions

This section presents data sources and definitions used in discussions of child labor and education that appear in the country profiles in this report. This section also discusses some of the strengths and weaknesses of these data. The majority of profiles in this report provide one or more of the following pieces of data: percentage of children counted as working; percent of the population living below USD 1 per day; gross and net primary enrollment ratios; percent of children attending school; and survival rate to grade five.

Working Children

Many of the profiles in this report present data on the percentage of children counted as working in the country in question. The percent of children counted as working is the share of all children within a given age group that reported working in market activities. Data presented in the current report may differ from data that were presented in previous reports. The primary reasons for differences in work statistics between previous reports and the current report include differences in a) sources of data used, b) age range for data presented, and c) definitions of child work.

Data are from the Understanding Children’s Work (UCW) project analysis of primarily four survey types: 1) ILO’s Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor (SIMPOC) surveys; 2) UNICEF’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS); 3) World Bank (WB)-sponsored surveys, including Living Standards Measurement Surveys (LSMS), Priority Surveys, and others; and 4) other types of survey instruments including Labor Force Surveys (LFS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). The first three survey programs are commonly recognized as being the primary sources for data on children’s work and child labor and therefore received priority over all other available data sources.

Every effort was made to include the most recent and available data source among the four survey types. In countries where a SIMPOC, MICS, or World Bank-sponsored survey did not exist or the data were not available for analysis by the UCW project, other reliable and publicly-available sources of micro-data were analyzed and presented in the report. In the event that data did not exist from the three sources above and no other reliable and publicly available source of micro-data exists for a country, the report concludes “statistics on the number of working children under age 15 are unavailable.”

In general, data are presented for children 5 to 14 with some differences in a few countries. In previous reports, statistics were often only reported for children 10 to 14,

21 As part of broader efforts towards durable solutions to child labor, the ILO, UNICEF and World Bank initiated the inter-agency Understanding Children’s Work (UCW) project in December 2000. The project is guided by the Oslo Agenda for Action, which laid out the priorities for the international community in the fight against child labor. For further information see the project Web site at: www.ucw-project.org.
driven by the availability of the data. Since micro-analysis of raw data was undertaken for the current report, children 5 to 9 were also included in the estimates of working children as children in this age category have been found to be working. The inclusion of children 5 to 9 may result in slightly lower rates of working children than were reported in past reports based on a 10 to 14-year age range because proportionally fewer children work in the 5 to 9 age range. In other words, few children ages 5 to 9 contribute to the numerator (children performing market work) while the entire population of 5 to 9 year olds contributes to the denominator (total child population).

While previous *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* reports utilized some of the same data sources that are being used in the current report, an attempt was made in the current report to present a standardized work statistic. For example, previous reports cited work statistics from UNICEF MICS and ILO SIMPOC reports; however, each survey source used a different definition of work (MICS survey reports include household chores in their definition of work while SIMPOC does not). USDOL contracted with the UCW project to apply a standard definition of children’s work, to the extent possible, to the micro-data described above. This resulted in the individual analysis of over 70 data sets.

In general, when research reports refer to children’s work they define work as “economic activity.” However, according to Guarcello et al., typical child labor surveys do not collect enough detailed information on children’s activities to accurately measure economic activity. Economic activity is defined by the ILO as “the production of economic goods and services as defined by the United Nations system of national accounts and balances during a specified time-reference period.” Economic activities can further be broken down into market and non-market activities. Market activities are those activities that lead to the production of goods and services that are primarily intended for sale or are sold on the market. Non-market activities are those activities that lead to the production of goods primarily for household final consumption. Non-market economic activities include, for example, bottling, dressmaking and tailoring, and the production of butter, cheese, or flour for the household’s own consumption. Non-market activities are typically excluded from current child labor surveys altogether or are not measured in enough detail to enable their full inclusion in an estimate of economic activity. For these reasons, the statistic on working children presented in this report represents children involved in market activities.

While every attempt was made to present a standardized child work statistic, there are differences across surveys that have the potential to affect the comparability of statistics across countries. Some of these differences are explained in greater detail here but in general include differing age groups, questionnaire content and wording, purpose of the survey, sample design, and year of data collection.

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As indicated, the age group most commonly cited is 5 to 14, but some of the profiles present a work statistic only for children 6 to 14, 7 to 14, or 10 to 14. In general, the question on work refers to work in the past 7 days; however, a small number of surveys refer to work activities in the past twelve months (i.e. Argentina, Guinea, and Mauritania) and are therefore likely to capture a higher proportion of working children than surveys with 7 day time frames. The purpose of the survey—whether the survey is designed specifically to measure children’s work and child labor (SIMPOC surveys) or to measure the impact of poverty reduction programs (World Bank’s LSMS)—may affect estimates of children’s work. In addition, the wording of work-related questions and sample design may impact survey results. For example, estimates of working children are typically lower when based on LSMS data compared to SIMPOC data.25

When such information is available, the report also provides the percentage of boys and girls reported as working as well as the industry in which children reportedly work. For some surveys, industry of work was not reported by the entire sample of working children. Therefore, the distribution of children working by industry, i.e., agriculture, service, and manufacturing, represents children with non-missing data for industry of work.

**Percent of the Population Living Below USD 1 per Day**

Many countries have their own definitions and methodologies for measuring poverty. The availability of poverty measures on a country by country basis is limited and the definitions used vary from country to country. The current report uses the percent of the population living below USD 1 per day because it is commonly used when attempting to present a standardized measure across countries. Data on the percent of the population living below USD 1 per day is taken from the World Bank’s *World Development Indicators*. Recent editions of the *World Development Indicators*, including the 2005 edition used in preparation of this report, use 1993 consumption purchasing power parities (PPP) estimates developed by the World Bank, in which the original USD 1 a day in 1985 PPP terms is about USD 1.08 a day in 1993 PPP dollars.26

**Gross Primary Enrollment Ratio**

The gross primary enrollment ratio is the enrollment of primary students, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the total primary school-age population. The gross primary enrollment ratio describes the capacity of an education system to enroll students of primary school age. For example, a ratio of 100 percent indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its school-age population. It does not mean that all children of official primary school age are actually enrolled. The gross primary enrollment ratio can be over 100 percent due to the inclusion, in the numerator, of over-aged and under-aged pupils/students because of early or late entrants, and grade repetition. In many countries, the official primary school-age group is 6 to 11 years. The

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differences in national systems of education and duration of schooling should be considered when comparing the ratios.27

**Net Primary Enrollment Ratio**

The net primary enrollment ratio is the enrollment of primary students of the official primary school age expressed as a percentage of the primary school-age population. A high net primary enrollment ratio denotes a high degree of participation of the official school-age population. When compared with the gross primary enrollment ratio, the difference between the two ratios highlights the incidence of under-aged and over-aged enrollment. A net primary enrollment ratio below 100 percent provides a measure of the proportion of children not enrolled at the specified level of education. However, since some of these children could be enrolled at other levels of education, this difference should in no way be considered as an indication of the percentage of students not enrolled.28

**Percent of Children Attending School**

The percent of children attending school is the share of all children within a specified age group that reported attending school. The UCW project data described in the Data Sources and Definitions Section under “Working Children” are used to develop country specific school attendance statistics. In general the age group for which attendance statistics are calculated is for children ages 5 to 14. In some cases, however, different age categories are used usually ranging from 6 to 14 or 7 to 14.

**Survival Rate to Grade Five**

The survival rate to grade five is the percentage of a cohort of pupils (or students) enrolled in the first grade of a given level or cycle of education in a given school-year who are expected to reach grade five. The survival rates are calculated on the basis of the reconstructed cohort method, which uses data on enrollment and repeaters for 2 consecutive years. The survival rate measures the ability of an education system to retain children in school and keep them from dropping out. The survival rate to grade five of primary school is of particular interest since this is commonly considered as a prerequisite to sustainable literacy.29

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Acronyms

ADB  Asian Development Bank
AGOA  African Growth and Opportunity Act
ASEAN  Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATPA  Andean Trade Preference Act
ATPDEA  Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act
AUSAID  Australian Agency for International Development
CBTPA  Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act
CEACR  International Labor Organization Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations
ECOWAS  Economic Community of West African States
ECPAT  End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
EFA  Education for All
EU  European Union
FAO  Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP  Gross Domestic Product
GNP  Gross National Product
GSP  Generalized System of Preferences
ICLP  International Child Labor Program
IDB  Inter-American Development Bank
ILO  International Labor Organization
ILO Convention 138  International Labor Organization, Convention No. 138: Minimum Age for Admission to Employment
ILO Convention 182  International Labor Organization, Convention No. 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor
ILO-IPEC  International Labor Organization, International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor
IMF  International Monetary Fund
IOM  International Organization for Migration
MERCOSUR  Common Market of the South (America); members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organization</td>
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<td>OAS</td>
<td>Organization of American States</td>
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<td>OECS</td>
<td>Organization of Eastern Caribbean States</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRSP</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIMPOC</td>
<td>Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>USDA</td>
<td>United States Department of Agriculture</td>
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<td>USDOL</td>
<td>United States Department of Labor</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Program</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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Glossary of Terms

Basic Education

Basic education comprises both formal schooling (primary and sometimes lower secondary) as well as a wide variety of non-formal and informal public and private educational activities offered to meet the defined basic learning needs of groups of people of all ages.


Bonded Labor

Bonded labor or debt bondage is “the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or those of a person under his control as security for a debt,” as defined in the UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956).

Bonded labor typically occurs when a person who needs a loan and has no security to offer pledges his/her labor, or that of someone under his/her control, as a security for a loan. In some cases, the interest on the loan may be so high that it cannot be paid. In others, it may be deemed that the bonded individual’s work repays the interest on the loan but not the principal. Thus, the loan is inherited and perpetuated, and becomes an inter-generational debt.

Bonded labor is identified as one of the worst forms of child labor in ILO Convention 182.


Child Labor Education Initiative

From FY 2001 to FY 2005, the U.S. Congress appropriated USD 182 million to USDOL for a Child Labor Education Initiative (EI) to support international efforts to eliminate child labor through programs that will improve access to basic education in international areas with a high rate of abusive and exploitative child labor. In addition, the Education Initiative has four goals:

- Raise awareness of the importance of education for all children and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve and expand education infrastructures;
• Strengthen formal and transitional education systems that encourage working children and those at risk of working to attend school;
• Strengthen national institutions and policies on education and child labor; and
• Ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts.


Commercial Farms

Commercial farms are large-scale agricultural holdings that produce for largely commercial purposes. For the purposes of this report, the term, commercial farms, encompasses both farms and plantations, which are defined as agricultural holdings that produce commodities exclusively for export. Commercial farms generally pay workers by either the weight or the quantity of the product collected. To ensure that this minimal amount is met, or to maximize earnings, children may work alongside their parents, as part of a family unit. Children may also be hired as full-time wage-laborers, although they usually perform the same work as adult workers, but are paid one-half to one-third what is paid to adults doing comparable work. Workdays are extremely long, and safety and health risks include exposure to dangerous chemical fertilizers or pesticides, poisonous insects or reptiles, and unsafe hygienic conditions and drinking water.

ILO Convention 138 prohibits the use of child labor on “plantation and other agricultural undertakings mainly producing for commercial purposes, but excluding family and small-scale holdings producing for local consumption and not regularly employing hired workers.” The line between “commercial” agriculture and “production for local consumption” is frequently blurred, and sometimes requires judgment calls.


Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; or the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

The exact nature of the exploitation differs from one country to another. CSEC includes so-called “sex tourism” in which adults procure the services of children for prostitution or pornography; the exploitation of children by pimps or other criminal elements who offer “protection” to children (often children living on the streets) in return for their work in the sex trade; trafficking of children across borders to fuel prostitution or pedophilia rings; or the use of domestic servants, refugee children, or child soldiers for sexual purposes.
ILO Convention 182 prohibits the sale and trafficking of children, and the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic performances.


**Compulsory Education**

Compulsory education refers to the number of years or the age-span during which children and youth are legally obliged to attend school.


**Conditional Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Conditional worst forms refer to activities that can only be determined to be “worst forms” by relevant national authorities. Article 3 section (d) of ILO Convention 182 provides a general description of these potentially hazardous forms of labor, and Article 4 makes clear that such work should be defined by national laws. Some of these hazardous forms could constitute acceptable forms of work, if certain conditions were changed. Examples include work with dangerous tools or chemicals or work for long hours or at night.


**Domestic Servants**

Domestic servants, also referred to as domestic workers or child domestics, are children who work in other people’s households doing domestic chores, caring for children, and running errands, among other tasks. Child domestics sometimes have live-in arrangements, whereby they live in their employer’s household and work full-time in exchange for room, board, care, and sometimes remuneration.


**Education for All**

In 1990, delegates from more than 155 countries convened in Jomtien, Thailand, to create strategies for addressing the issues of education, literacy, and poverty reduction. Using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a basis for their work, participants established a set of goals to provide all children, especially girls, with the basic human right to an education and to improve adult literacy around the world. The result was “The
World Declaration on Education for All (EFA).” This declaration called for countries, by the end of the decade, to meet the basic learning needs of all children and adults; provide universal access to education for all; create equity in education for women and other underserved groups; focus on actual learning acquisition; broaden the types of educational opportunities available to people; and create better learning environments for students. To achieve these goals, participating countries were requested to create Action Plans that detail how they were going to meet the goals of the Jomtien declaration. By 2000, basic education in more than 180 countries had been evaluated as part of the EFA 2000 Assessment.

In April 2000, delegates gathered again for the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, where the results of the assessment were released. After reviewing the data gathered, it was clear that much more progress would be needed to achieve EFA. These delegates, from 164 countries, adopted the Dakar Framework for Action and renewed and strengthened their commitment to the achievement of quality basic education for all by the year 2015. The World Education Forum adopted six major goals for education to be achieved within 15 years, including: the attainment of Universal Primary Education and gender equality; improving literacy and educational quality; and increasing life-skills and early childhood education programs. However, the gender goal was deemed to be particularly urgent, thus requiring the achievement of parity in enrollment for girls and boys at primary and secondary levels by 2005, and of full equality throughout education by 2015.


Exploitative Child Labor

There is no universally accepted definition of the term “exploitative child labor.” ILO Convention 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor, provides a widely accepted definition of the worst forms of child labor. Under Article 3 of the convention, the worst forms of child labor comprise:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes;
(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
Convention 182 states that a child is any person under the age of 18.

In addition, ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, provides guidelines for the minimum age of employment as well as for work that is acceptable for children below the minimum age. Under Article 2(3), the minimum age of admission to employment should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling or less than 14 or 15 years, depending on the economy and educational facilities of the country in question. Article 7(1) of the convention states that national laws may permit the employment of persons 12 to 14 or 13 to 15 years (depending on the country in question) in light work that is not likely to harm their health or development, and not prejudice their attendance at school, participation in training programs, or capacity to benefit from instruction received. (See definition of “light work.”) For the purpose of this report, “exploitative child labor” is defined as that work described in ILO Convention 182, Article 3, sections (a) through (d) when performed by a person under 18 years, and work that prevents persons under 15 years of age from attending and participating effectively in school.


**Fast-Track Initiative**

The Fast-Track Initiative (FTI) was initiated by the World Bank in 2002 to assist a limited number of countries having sound education policies, but lacking the resources needed to achieve Universal Primary Education by 2015 (the timeline established under the Education for All protocol). The goal of the FTI is to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Universal Primary Education through a combination of stronger national policies, improved capacity, and incremental financial assistance. The countries eligible for assistance were required to have in place a clear national education strategy that had been incorporated into the country's broader development strategy, and generally approved by the World Bank and other donors. After wide-ranging discussions with developing countries, donors, and civil society, it was determined that 18 countries met this criteria: Albania, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia. Five other countries with the largest numbers of children out of school were also identified: Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.


**Forced Labor**

Forced labor is defined in ILO Convention No. 29 as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person
has not offered himself voluntarily.” In practice, it is the enslavement of workers through the threat or use of coercion, and it is primarily found among the most economically vulnerable members of society.

Forced and compulsory labor is identified as one of the worst forms of child labor in ILO Convention 182.


Formal Education

The system of formalized transmission of knowledge and values operating within a given society, usually provided through state-sponsored schools.


ILO Convention 138: Minimum Age for Admission to Employment

ILO Convention 138, adopted in 1973 and ratified by 135 nations, serves as the principal ILO standard on child labor. Under Article 2(3) of ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, the minimum age of admission into employment or work in any occupation “shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, and, in any case, shall not be less than fifteen.” Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum legal working age of 14 when ratifying the convention. Additionally, under article 7(1), “National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is – (a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and (b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received.”


ILO Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor

ILO Convention 182 was adopted in 1999 and has been ratified by 150 nations. It commits ratifying nations to take immediate action to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Under Article 3 of the convention, the worst forms of child labor comprise:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes;
(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

(See definitions of “Unconditional Worst Forms” and “Conditional Worst Forms” in this glossary for further information on the above categories.) Among other actions, ILO Convention 182 requires ratifying nations to: remove children from abusive child labor and provide them with rehabilitation, social reintegration, access to free basic education and vocational training; consult with employer and worker organizations to create appropriate mechanisms to monitor implementation of the Convention; take into account the special vulnerability of girls; and provide assistance and/or cooperate with efforts of other members to implement the Convention.


ILO-IPEC Associated Members

Associated members of ILO-IPEC (the International Labor Organization’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor) are countries in which ILO-IPEC has initiated child labor projects with the permission of the country’s government, but which have not yet signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (see also definitions for “ILO-IPEC Program Countries” and “IPEC”). As of October 2005, there were 26 associated members of ILO-IPEC.


ILO-IPEC Members/Program Countries

ILO-IPEC members or program countries are countries that have signed a MOU with IPEC, thereby committing to cooperate with ILO-IPEC on the implementation of child labor projects in their countries. As of October 2005, there were 60 ILO-IPEC program countries.


Informal Sector

Definitions of the informal sector vary widely. In general, the informal sector refers to areas of economic activity that are largely unregulated and not subject to labor legislation. A more precise description of the informal sector by the ILO suggests “these units typically operate at a low level of organization, with little or no division between
labor and capital as factors of production and on a small scale.” Furthermore, where labor relations exist, interactions are not based on contracts or formal arrangements; rather they are grounded on casual employment, kinship, and personal or social relations. Because employers in the informal sector are not accountable for complying with occupational safety measures, children who work in “hazardous” or “ultra-hazardous” settings likely run the risk of injury without any social protections. For this reason, households may be reluctant to indicate work by children in the informal sector, which can increase the probability of underreporting. In addition, because businesses in the informal sector are not usually included in official statistics, children working in informal sector enterprises do not show up in labor force activity rates.


IPEC: International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor

In 1992, the ILO created IPEC to implement technical cooperation activities in countries with significant numbers of child laborers. The objective of the IPEC program is the elimination of child labor, particularly children working under forced labor conditions and in bondage, children in hazardous working conditions and occupations, and especially vulnerable children, such as working girls and very young working children (under 12 years of age).

Countries participating in IPEC sign an MOU outlining the development and implementation of IPEC activities and the efforts to be undertaken by governments to progressively eradicate child labor. IPEC National Program Steering Committees are then established with the participation of governments, industry and labor representatives, and experienced NGOs. IPEC provides technical assistance to governments, but most of the direct action programs are carried out by local NGOs and workers’ and employers’ organizations. IPEC activities include awareness-raising about child labor problems; capacity building for government agencies and statistical organizations; advice and support for direct action projects to withdraw working children from the workplace; and assistance to governments in drawing up national policies and legislation.

From fiscal year 1995 to fiscal year 2005, the U.S. Congress appropriated approximately USD 292 million for ILO-IPEC projects.

Light Work

This report uses the definition of light work as established in ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. Under article 7(1) of the convention, “National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is – (a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and (b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received.” Countries that have specified a minimum legal working age of 14 may permit the employment or work of persons 12 to 14 years of age on light work as defined in article 7(1).


Non-formal Education

Any organized educational activity outside the established formal school system – whether operating separately or as an important feature of some broader activity – that is intended to serve identifiable learning objectives. Non-formal or transitional education programs can enable former child workers to “catch up” or be “mainstreamed” with their peers who began their schooling at the appropriate age. However, there should always be a strong link between such rehabilitation programs and the formal education system, since the latter will ensure opportunities for further education and employment.


Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

A Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper is a document written by the government of a developing country with the participation of civil society to serve as the basis for concessional lending from the World Bank and the IMF, as well as debt relief under the World Bank’s Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. A PRSP should measure poverty in the country, identify goals for reducing poverty, and create a spending and policy program for reaching those goals. A PRSP should also ensure that a country's macroeconomic, structural, and social policies are consistent with the objectives of poverty reduction and social development. A new PRSP must be written every three years in order to continue receiving assistance from International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank.


Primary Education

Primary education, sometimes called elementary education, refers to school usually beginning at 5 or 7 years of age and covering about six years of full-time schooling. In
countries with compulsory education laws, primary education generally constitutes the first (and sometimes only) cycle of compulsory education.


**Ratification**

Ratification is a serious undertaking by a State formally accepting the terms of an international agreement, thereby becoming legally bound to apply it. Other ways of becoming bound to an international agreement include acceptance, approval, accession, signature, or an exchange of notes.

In order to ratify an agreement, a country must, if necessary, adopt new laws and regulations or modify the existing legislation and practice to support the agreement, and formally deposit the instruments of ratification with the appropriate depositary. (In the case of ILO Conventions, ratifications must be registered with the Director-General of the ILO’s International Labor Office.)

For certain international agreements that require ratification, signing an agreement or enacting an agreement into domestic law by Congress, or a similar state organ, does not mean that the international agreement has been ratified. Signing an international agreement serves as a preliminary endorsement, albeit a formality, as signatories are not bound by the terms of the international agreement or in any way committed to proceed to the final step of ratification. However, a signatory is obliged to refrain from acts, which would defeat the object and purpose of the international agreement unless it makes its intention not to become a party to the international agreement clear. Similarly, appropriate state entities may signal approval of an international agreement, but that is only one of the requisite steps on the path toward official ratification. The final step requires that the instruments of ratification be deposited with the depositary.

In the case of ILO conventions, ILO procedures provide the option to ratify or not ratify a convention, but do not include the option to sign a convention as a preliminary endorsement. Generally, an ILO convention comes into force in a ratifying country 12 months after the government has deposited the requisite instrument of ratification. This grace period provides ILO members time to enact or modify legislation to comply with the convention before it comes into force.


**Time-Bound Program**

Time-Bound Programs are particular child labor interventions implemented by ILO-IPEC in collaboration with governments that aim to prevent and eliminate all incidences of the
worst forms of child labor in a country within a defined period. The objective is to eradicate these forms of child labor within a period of 5-10 years, depending on the magnitude and complexity of child labor in each country. Since the start of this initiative in 2001, Time-Bound Programs have been initiated in 20 countries.


**Trafficking of Children**

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children provides a commonly accepted definition of trafficking. It states: “(a) ‘trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs...” It goes on to state: “(c) the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered ‘trafficking in persons’ even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article....”

The trafficking of children is identified as a worst form of child labor in ILO Convention 182.


**Unconditional Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Unconditional worst forms of child labor refer to activities that constitute worst forms by definition. Unconditional worst forms of child labor are generally illegal and objectionable forms of work, even for adults. They include slavery, forced or compulsory labor, trafficking, debt bondage, involvement in illicit activities, commercial sexual exploitation, and the forced recruitment of children into armed conflict. These forms have been identified as worst forms of child labor by the international community though the ratification of ILO Convention 182.

Worst Forms of Child Labor

See “ILO Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor.”
Afghanistan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Afghanistan are unavailable. Child workers are reported to be numerous in rural areas, where they engage in herding, and gathering firewood. Children also work in the urban informal sector in activities such as shining shoes, begging, repairing cars, weaving carpets, rummaging for scrap metal, or in domestic service. Some reports estimate there are as many as 50,000 children working on the streets of Kabul. There are reports that children continue to join or are forcibly recruited into armed groups.

Afghanistan is a country of origin for children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced begging, labor, domestic servitude, slavery, crime, and the harvesting of body organs. Children are reportedly trafficked to Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and Oman, for street begging and child labor, and some children have been trafficked to neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Iran to work in factories and brothels. There have been increasing reports of

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30 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


34 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Afghanistan, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, Washington, DC, June 3, 2005; available from
children reported as missing or kidnapped throughout the country, which may indicate abduction by traffickers. It is also reported that impoverished Afghan families have pushed their children into coercive labor arrangements that constitute or become involuntary servitude, including forced marriage and commercial sexual exploitation. Years of conflict have left many families with child-headed households.

The Constitution of Afghanistan provides for free and compulsory education for all citizens up to the secondary level. However, continued violence and instability in the country have hampered educational reconstruction efforts. Access to education for girls was limited in some areas. In some regions, as of 2003, the enrollment rate of girls was estimated at only 3 percent. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 92 percent. Gross 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 Afghanistan. Access to education problems are exacerbated by religious extremist attacks on schools,
teachers, and students. Attacks on girls’ schools continued during 2005. Some refugee children who have returned from neighboring countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, are reported to have limited opportunity for education, often because their labor is needed to supplement the meager incomes of their families.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The 1987 Labor Code prohibits employment of children under 15, although children 14 years old may be employed as workers and children 13 years old may be hired as trainees with parental approval. Children 16 to 18 years old may only work 35 hours per week and children under 16 are only permitted to work for 30 hours per week. The Labor Code does not permit children to be engaged in underground work or in conditions that are physically arduous or harmful to the child’s health. The minimum age for military service in the Afghan National Army is 18 years. The Constitution prohibits forced labor, including that of children.

There is no evidence of effective enforcement of child labor laws in Afghanistan. According to the U.S. Department of State, the government lacks the capacity to enforce child labor laws. The Afghan Judicial Reform Commission within the Ministry of Justice has been charged with drafting and revising laws to prevent and prosecute trafficking crimes. Until new laws are enacted, trafficking crimes may be prosecuted under laws dealing with kidnapping, rape, forced labor, transportation of minors, child endangerment, and hostage-taking. Prison sentences for such offenses are longer for cases involving minors and girls.

47 Presidential Decree No. 20, (May 25, 2003). See also USDOL consultant, email communication to USDOL official, December 17, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, December 21, 2005.
48 Constitution of Afghanistan, Article 49.
49 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Afghanistan, Section 6d.
52 Ibid.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Afghanistan is working to address child soldiering and child trafficking, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, together with UNICEF, participates in a Working Group on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.53 In collaboration with UNICEF, the government developed a National Action Plan to Combat Child Trafficking that sets goals and timelines for reducing the number of children vulnerable to trafficking. In addition, the government established a National Counter Trafficking Commission comprised of representatives of the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior, and Women’s Affairs as well as representatives of UNICEF and other international and national NGOs.54

USDOL largest donor to a USD 5.27 million, 4-year project in which UNICEF works with the government to demobilize and reintegrate former child soldiers. The project provides community-based rehabilitative, psychosocial, and non-formal education services to 8,000 child soldiers. As of September 15, 2005, 5,345 former child soldiers have been demobilized.55

The Government of Afghanistan and the international community have undertaken significant steps to rebuild the country’s education system, particularly within the context of post-conflict reconstruction.56 The World Bank is funding a USD 35 million Education Quality Improvement Program in Afghanistan, which aims to improve education through investment in personnel, physical facilities, capacity building, and the

54 U.S. Embassy- Kabul, reporting, September 14, 2005.
promotion of girls’ education. The government is also implementing a USD 15 million World Bank project that, among other activities, aims to promote learning and skills development among disadvantaged girls and former combatants.

UNICEF is working to increase access to education for 1 million Afghan children and to increase girls’ enrollment by 1 million by 2006 through community-based schools, improved teacher training, and accelerated learning programs. The ASB, Islamic Development Bank, and other donors are funding the construction of new schools as well as the repair of existing schools. USAID is working with the Ministry of Education on a comprehensive program to enrich the quality of and access to basic education that includes an accelerated learning program for over-aged students, the provision of textbooks, and innovative teacher training programs. To date, 48.5 million books have been printed, 6,800 teachers have been trained, 170,000 new students have been enrolled, and 376 schools have been built or refurbished. As part of the UN World Food Program’s initiative to spur school enrollment, over 1 million school children will receive food at school and to take home.

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Albania

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 36.6 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were counted as working in Albania in 2000. Approximately 41.1 percent of all boys 7 to 14 were working compared to 31.8 percent of girls in the same age group. Children, especially from the Roma community, work on the streets as beggars and vendors. Children can also be found laboring as farmers, shoe cleaners, drug runners, and textile, factory, and construction workers. Local NGOs estimate that there are approximately 1,000 street children in Tirana. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, less than 2 percent of the population of Albania were living on less than USD 1 a day.

The trafficking of Albanian children as young as 6 years old to Western Europe and within Albania for prostitution and other forms of exploitative labor remains a problem. The Ministry of the Interior estimated that between 1992 and 2000, some 4,000 children

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64 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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, please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.


66 U.S Embassy- Tirana, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006. See also U.S. Embassy- Tirana, reporting, August 26, 2005.

67 Living Standards Measurement Survey, 2002 carried out by INSTAT, as reported in UNICEF’s The State of Albania’s Children, 2006.

68 ILO-IPEC, Combating Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans and Ukraine, project document, Geneva, September 2003, 7. See also ILO-IPEC, Rapid Assessment of Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in Albania, 2003, Tirana, 2004, 26; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/decl/pec/publ/download/cee_albania_ra_0303.pdf. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Albania, Section 5. The Children’s Human Rights Center reported that as a result of increased efforts by the government, trafficking of children is shifting from illegal methods of transportation, such as via speedboats, to “legal” methods where children cross borders with passports and visas. See also Children’s Human Rights Center (CRCA), Child Trafficking in Albania: A Comprehensive Report on Child Trafficking in Albania, Tirana, July 2003, 6. A 2003 survey of 66 children found the majority of trafficked boys engaged in begging and selling various items on the street. More girls than boys were exploited in prostitution. See also ILO-IPEC, Rapid Assessment of Trafficking in Children, 26-27.
were trafficked from Albania abroad.\(^69\) Children are trafficked to Italy and Greece to participate in organized begging rings and forced labor, including work in agriculture and construction.\(^70\) Some children are kidnapped or sold by family members to traffickers.\(^71\) Children who are returned to the Albanian border from Greece are often at high risk of being re-trafficked.\(^72\) According to a 2003 report, trafficking of Albanian children specifically to Greece appears to be on a decline.\(^73\) However, there is evidence of new trafficking routes to Kosovo and Slovenia to further points in Europe.\(^74\) Internal trafficking is reported to be rising, with increasing numbers of children in the capital of Tirana falling victim to prostitution and other forms of exploitation.\(^75\)

Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 or 7 to 15 years.\(^76\) Beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, the period of compulsory education was raised from 8 to 9 years.\(^77\) In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 104 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 95 percent.\(^78\) Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the

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\(^70\) ILO-IPEC, *Rapid Assessment of Trafficking in Children*, 25. Children, particularly Roma boys, are trafficked to Greece and Italy for begging and forced labor. Italy is the destination point for the majority of trafficked Albanian children/women; however, large numbers of Albanian children may work as child prostitutes in Greece. See also Renton, *Child Trafficking in Albania*, 44-45. See also UNICEF, *Profiting From Abuse: An Investigation into the Sexual Exploitation of our Children*, New York, 2001, 18; available from http://www.unicef.org/publications/pub_profiting_en.pdf.


\(^74\) U.S. Embassy- Tirana, reporting, August 26, 2005.

\(^75\) Ibid. See also Limanowska, *Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe: 2004 - Focus on Prevention, 2005*, 101.

\(^76\) Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record of the 1004th Meeting: Albania*, March 31, 2005, para 57 and 59; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/ecf0e2e2031659f0c1256f8f003e8e28?OpenDocument. Even though education is free, parents must bear the burden of paying costs for supplies, books and school materials. See also U.S. Embassy- Tirana, reporting, August 26, 2005.


number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2000, 50.9 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{79} The government reported that the dropout rate from 2003 to 2004 was 1.2 percent and the repetition rate was 2.8 percent.\textsuperscript{80} The Children’s Human Rights Center of Albania reported in 2004 that 25 percent of children in urban areas and 35 percent of children in rural areas are not registered in school.\textsuperscript{81} The increase in population of the capital city Tirana over the last decade has not been accompanied by the building of new school facilities, resulting in overcrowding of classrooms. In 2002, 60 percent of schools were operating under two shifts, with 20 percent of these schools reducing teaching periods. According to UNICEF, the educational needs of children living in these areas are not being met.\textsuperscript{82}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Labor Code sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years. Article 99 of the Labor Code allows children ages 14 to 18 years to be employed to do light work and seek employment during school holidays.\textsuperscript{83} Article 101 prohibits night work by children younger than 18 years of age and Article 78 limits their work to 6 hours per day.\textsuperscript{84} The employment of children is punishable by a fine under Article 60 of the Law for Pre-University Education.\textsuperscript{85} The Constitution forbids forced labor by any person, except in cases of execution of judicial decision, military service, or for service during state emergency or war.\textsuperscript{86} The Labor Code also prohibits forced or compulsory labor.\textsuperscript{87}

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.

\textsuperscript{79} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.


\textsuperscript{81} Reference to the Children’s Human Rights Center of Albania 2004 report as cited in U.S. Embassy-Tirana, \textit{reporting}, August 26, 2005.

\textsuperscript{82} These are findings of the Education Directorate for the Tirana district as cited in UNICEF, \textit{Needs for Information and Social Services in the City of Tirana}, Tirana, November 1, 2002, 14-15; available from http://www.unicef.org/albania/Needsinformation.pdf.


\textsuperscript{84} Ibid., 6.


\textsuperscript{86} Furthermore, the Constitution states that children have the right to special protection by the state; however, the ages are not specified. See \textit{Albanian Constitution}, Chapter II, Article 26, and Chapter IV, Article 54(3); available from http://www.ipls.org/services/constitution/const98/cp2.html.

\textsuperscript{87} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Albania}, Section 6c.
The Labor Inspectorate within the Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws as they pertain to registered businesses.\textsuperscript{88} In the first 10 months of 2004, there were 169 cases of children working of which 138 did not have appropriate administrative permissions.\textsuperscript{89} Since 1999, the Government of Albania has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{90}

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Albania, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Criminal Code prohibits prostitution, and the penalty is more severe when a child is solicited for prostitution.\textsuperscript{91} The Criminal Code sets penalties for trafficking, including 15 to 20 years imprisonment for trafficking of minors.\textsuperscript{92} Eight convictions for the trafficking of children were made under Article 128 of the Criminal Code in 2003.\textsuperscript{93} A witness protection law was adopted in 2004 and, though funding remains weak, implementation has begun.\textsuperscript{94} The government has remained committed to its enforcement and interdiction capabilities at border crossings and at ports resulting in several arrests of traffickers.\textsuperscript{95} In 2005, the Government of Albania appointed a new, full-time national coordinator for anti-trafficking with a dedicated staff of five.\textsuperscript{96}

The minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years and for compulsory military service is 19 years. In 2004, there were no reports of children under 18 years of age serving in the Albanian armed forces.\textsuperscript{97}

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{88} According to the Ministry of Labor’s Child Labor Unit, most violations concerning children were in the shoe and textile companies, but violations are on the decline. There has also been a decline in illegal child labor in construction, as building methods are progressively in need of better skilled labor. The fine for employing an underage worker is 20 to 30 times the monthly minimum wage of the employee in violation of the code. See U.S. Embassy- Tirana, reporting, August 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{89} Committee on the Rights of the Child, Written Replies by the Government of Albania, 34-35.
\textsuperscript{90} ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\textsuperscript{93} Ibid.
\end{flushright}
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

A number of national strategies, including the Government of Albania’s 2001-2005 National Strategy for Children, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and Strategies on Education and Social Services, have integrated child labor concerns. The Ministry of Labor’s Child Labor Unit provides training to labor inspectors on identification and monitoring of child labor. There is a National Steering Committee on Child Labor and a Child Labor Unit within the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs that coordinates efforts. In February 2005, the government approved the National Strategy Against Child Trafficking and the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking. The Child Trafficking Strategy was subsumed in the Action Plan of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007, which also was approved in 2005. The Government of Albania reported that it would complete a National Child Labor Action Plan by January 2007. Issues concerning the trafficking of children have also been mainstreamed into the National Strategy for Social Services (2005-2010) as well as the UN Common Country Assessment and the Albania National Report towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The signing of a memorandum of understanding regarding the repatriation of child victims of trafficking is under consideration by the Governments of Albania and Greece.


The government, through the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs manages the Linza Center, which offers reintegration services to trafficking victims, including children. The government is also participating in a 3-year, USD 1.5 million USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional project to combat the trafficking of children for labor and sexual exploitation. The project is working in partnership with the Government of Albania and local organizations. Project activities include distributing educational materials and training teachers in 12 regions and youth representatives to use the materials in local communities to raise awareness on combating child labor. Youth clubs have been established to assist children removed from exploitative situations to attend educational programs and vocational training. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, a program on prevention and monitoring of child labor in three cities has involved partnerships between teachers, social workers, police, and labor inspectors to identify working children and remove them from work, effectively shifting such responsibilities to local entities.

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The Government of Albania is a member of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, and has participated in regional anti-trafficking efforts through the initiative’s Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime. USAID is providing support to two projects titled “Transnational Action Against Child Trafficking” and “The Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking,” in which Albanian government officials and NGO representatives work with their counterparts in other countries to identify trafficking routes, cooperate on repatriation of trafficked children, and improve care for trafficked children and their families before and after repatriation. In an effort to implement the national plan of action against human trafficking, UNICEF reported that

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111 Ibid.
in cooperation with the government, children, family members, and teachers have been reached with anti-trafficking educational materials, and at-risk, abused or exploited children have been reintegrated into the formal education system.\textsuperscript{114}

Albania has been invited by the World Bank to participate in the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, which aims to provide all children with primary school education by the year 2015.\textsuperscript{115}

\textsuperscript{114} UNICEF, \textit{UNICEF Albania Child Trafficking}.

Algeria

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Algeria are unavailable. In 2004, the Ministry of Labor’s National Labor Institute conducted a survey on child labor with technical assistance from the ILO. Preliminary survey results indicated that low family income and unemployed parents are two primary factors contributing to child employment in Algeria. Children are found working a variety of hours in small workshops, on family farms, and in informal trade. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, less than 2 percent of the population in Algeria were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs in Algeria, but the extent of the problem in not clear. Algeria is a transit country for trafficking of children from Central and Western Africa to Europe for the purposes of labor and sexual exploitation.

Under the Ordinance of April 16, 1976, education is compulsory in Algeria between the ages of 6 and 16 and free at all levels. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 109 percent and the net primary school enrollment rate was 95 percent. Gross and net

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<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
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<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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116 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.

117 U.S. Embassy- Algiers official, email communication to USDOL official, June 1, 2005.


enrollments 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 Algeria. As of 2001, 97 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. In rural areas, girls are slightly more likely to drop out than boys due to financial reasons.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Algerian Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 16, unless participating in an apprenticeship. To participate in an apprenticeship, minors must have the permission of a legal guardian, and they cannot participate in dangerous, unhealthy, or harmful work or work that may jeopardize their morality. Article 28 of the Labor Code prohibits night work for youth under the age of 19. Article 182 of Ordinance No. 75-31 of April 1975 requires children to request the permission of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in cases of fixed-term temporary jobs.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Algeria. The Penal Code prohibits compulsory labor, including forced or bonded labor by children. Ordinance 75-47 of June 1975 and Law No. 82-04 of February 1982 prohibit the corruption and debauchery of minors younger than age 19, while Article 343 and 344 of the penal code prohibit the use and recruitment of minors in prostitution. Although there is no law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons, the Penal Code prohibits the removal, arbitrary detention, and kidnapping of a person. In addition, the laws against immigration, prostitution, and forced labor are used to enforce anti-trafficking standards. Ordinance 74-103 of November 1974 establishes 19 as the minimum age for recruitment into military service.

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing minimum age laws and its Labor Inspection Department is charged with enforcing the law through regular inspections throughout the country. The Department of State reports that the Ministry of Labor

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123 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.
127 Ibid.
128 Ibid., Article 28.
130 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Algeria, Section 6c.
132 Ibid.
135 Algeria Criminal Code, Section 2, Article 74.
supposedly enforces minimum age laws through surprise inspections to public sector enterprises, but that it does not enforce the law in the agricultural or private sectors.\textsuperscript{136}

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

The Government of Algeria is collaborating with UNICEF on programs to promote access to universal education, child protection, and economic growth. In the latter area, the government has implemented a national plan for economic development aimed at improving the situation of women and children, especially in rural provinces, where girls face barriers to education.\textsuperscript{137}

\textsuperscript{136} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Algeria*.

Angola

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 5.2 percent of children ages 7 to 14 were counted as working in Angola in 1995. Approximately 4.9 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 5.6 percent of girls in the same age group. Children often work on family farms in subsistence agriculture. Some children in rural areas also work in diamond mining.

The combination of poverty and war has led to an influx of orphaned and abandoned children working in urban areas. Children in urban areas often work as domestic servants and street vendors in the informal sector. In Luanda alone, it was estimated that there were 10,000 street children; however, following a government-conducted study in 2005 approximately 1,500 were identified and registered. Street children are also common in the Benguela and Huambo provinces. Some of the street children were displaced or separated from their families and communities during the civil war and have yet to be reunited, but the majority of them only work on the streets, returning to their

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Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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


141 U.S. Embassy- Luanda, reporting, September 16, 2005. Local NGOs estimate that approximately 100,000 children were abandoned or orphaned as a result of the war. See U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Angola*, Section 5.


144 Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- Luanda, reporting (corrected), August 23, 2004.
family homes at night or on weekends. These street children are more vulnerable to resorting to crime or prostitution and are at high risk of sexual and other forms of violence and trafficking. Child pornography, forced labor, and other forms of child exploitation are reported to exist in the country. Angola is a source country for small numbers of women and children trafficked, primarily internally, for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Children who are orphaned, homeless, or internally displaced are the most vulnerable to trafficking.

Although by law, education in Angola is compulsory and free for 8 years, the government reports that a certain percent of students are not in school due to a lack of school buildings and teachers. Students are often responsible for paying additional school-related expenses, including fees for books and supplies. In 1999, the gross primary enrollment rate was 74 percent and in 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 61 percent. 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. There continue to be significant disparities in enrollment between rural and urban areas. In 1995, 71.2 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school. It is reported that higher percentages of boys attend school than girls. During the conflict, nearly half of all children who are orphaned, homeless, or internally displaced may account for up to half of the refugee and internally displaced population in Angola. Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict, Angola, 7.

145 Many more children live with their families in extreme poverty on the outskirts of major cities and other areas that have been slow to recover from the war, and are at-risk of becoming street children. United Nations, Humanitarian Situation in Angola: Monthly Analysis, October-November 2004, 2004; available from http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/0/cc3855c3fc3ff171c1256f70003834fa?OpenDocument.
154 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Angola, CRC/C/15/Add.246, para 52.
155 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
156 República de Angola, Relatório de Seguimento.
schools were reportedly looted and destroyed, leading to current problems with overcrowding.\(^{157}\) The Ministry of Education hired 20,000 new teachers in 2005, and continued to implement teacher trainings.\(^{158}\) Teachers tend to be underpaid, inadequately trained, and overworked (sometimes teaching two or three shifts a day). Teachers also reportedly demand payment or bribes directly from their students.\(^{159}\) Other factors, such as the presence of landmines, lack of resources and identity papers, and poor health also prevent children from regularly attending school.\(^{160}\) Although budgetary allocations for education were increased in 2004, the education system in Angola continues to be extremely under-funded.\(^{161}\)

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

By law, the minimum age for employment in Angola is 14 years. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 are not permitted to work at night, under dangerous conditions, or in activities requiring great physical effort. Children under 16 years of age are restricted from working in factories.\(^{162}\)

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Angola. The Constitution and Angolan statutory law prohibit forced or bonded child labor.\(^{163}\) The 1996 Decree of Application on Military Service established a minimum age of 18 years for voluntary recruitment of men and 20 years for women.\(^{164}\) Trafficking in persons is not specifically prohibited in Angola, but constitutional and statutory laws prohibit kidnapping, forced or bonded servitude, prostitution, illegal entry,\(^{165}\) and pornography.\(^{166}\) Under Angolan law, sexual relations with a child under 12 years are defined as rape. Sexual relations with a child between 12 and 15 years may be defined as sexual abuse, and can result in up to 8 years of imprisonment.\(^{167}\) Since 1999, the Government of

\(^{157}\) Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict, Angola, 11.


\(^{159}\) U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Angola, Section 5. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Angola, CRC/C/15/Add.246, para 52.

\(^{160}\) Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict, Angola. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Angola, CRC/C/15/Add.246, para 26. The lack of birth and identity records, or cedulas, often prevent returnees, IDPs, and other unregistered children from entering the school system in Angola. U.S. Embassy- Luanda, reporting, September 16, 2005.

\(^{161}\) UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Angola, CRC/C/15/Add.246, paras 13, 52.


\(^{166}\) U.S. Embassy- Luanda, reporting, October 15, 2002.

Angola has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\(^{168}\)

While the Ministry of Public Administration, Employment, and Social Security’s (MAPESS) Inspector General has the ultimate authority to enforce labor laws, the Ministry of Family and Women’s Affairs currently has jurisdiction over most child labor cases, and is responsible for receiving and often investigating child labor complaints.\(^{169}\) However, the Children’s Affairs court, established by the Ministry of Justice in 2003, has jurisdiction over child labor cases in the province of Luanda. The court’s coverage will eventually expand into all 18 provinces.\(^{170}\) MAPESS maintains employment centers that screen out prospective employees who are under 14 years. MAPESS has authority to levy fines and order restitution for violations of child labor laws. There is no standard procedure for investigations or formal inspections outside the family law system.\(^{171}\) The Government of Angola does not have the capacity to regulate labor in the informal sector, which is where most children work.\(^{172}\) Individuals may report child labor violations, but the U.S. Department of State reports that both child labor complaints and enforcement of child labor laws are rare.

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

Since May 2002, the government has supported former child soldiers and other children affected by the war under its “Post-war Child Protection Strategy.” Under this strategy, these children receive a “child rights package,” consisting of birth registration and identification documents, education, skills training, counseling, and family tracing and reunification services. Since 2003, the World Bank has funded the Angola Emergency Demobilization and Reintegration Project, which aims to meet the special needs of female, child, and disabled ex-combatants in establishing sustainable livelihoods.\(^{173}\) The government also established a special Task Force to develop and implement a plan to address the needs of street children.\(^{174}\)

\(^{168}\) ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\(^{174}\) The Task Force, which is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration, the National Institute for Children, and the Ministry of Women and Family, received technical assistance from UNICEF. See United Nations, *Humanitarian Situation in Angola: Oct.-Nov. 2004*.  

Anti-trafficking programs supported by the government include training for border post directors, basic assistance and reintegration services to trafficking victims (including literacy and skills training for children), and enforcement of documentation requirements for international air travel for children unaccompanied by their parents.\textsuperscript{175} The Ministry of Justice continued its campaign to register children and provide them with identity papers in an effort to prevent trafficking and increase children’s access to school and other services. The government operates facilities for abandoned and abducted children throughout the country but these tend to be under-funded, understaffed and overcrowded.\textsuperscript{176}

In 2005, the Government of Angola began participating in a 3-year, USD 4 million USDOL Education Initiative project being implemented by Save the Children-U.S. This project aims to prevent children, particularly former child soldiers, from engaging in the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{177} The Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) continues efforts to increase access for out-of-school children, mostly in resettlement areas. Through its Back to School campaign, the MEC continues to train new teachers for placement in schools throughout the country.\textsuperscript{178} The National Plan on Education for All, which grew out of the Back to School campaign, is one of several initiatives to rebuild the educational system.\textsuperscript{179} The World Bank is funding projects that include education components, including one that aims to help local communities re-build social infrastructure and develop municipal governments’ capacity to provide social services.\textsuperscript{180} The USD 91.7 million Emergency Multisector Recovery Program aims to improve access to primary education and will support school construction and rehabilitation efforts.\textsuperscript{181} The World Food Program is also operating programs in Angola, including food-for-work

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\textsuperscript{175} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Angola}.
programs which aid in the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure,\textsuperscript{182} and school feeding programs.\textsuperscript{183}

\textsuperscript{182} There is no indication that food-for-work programs involve children in work activities. WFP, \textit{Russia Makes a Landmark Pledge of Food Aid for North Korea and Angola}, The World Food Programme, [online] [cited June 18, 2005]; available from http://www.wfp.org/newsroom/subsections/preview.asp?content_item_id=1182&section=13.

Argentina

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 20.7 percent of children ages 10 to 14 were counted as working in Argentina in 1997. Approximately 25.4 percent of all boys 10 to 14 were working compared to 16 percent of girls in the same age group. The labor force participation rates of children are slightly higher in rural than urban areas, but the Government of Argentina reports that rates of child labor have gone down in rural areas and have increased in urban areas. Children work in agriculture in the production of flowers, garlic, strawberries, and tomatoes. In some cases, children are involved in the application of pesticides. In urban areas, children are engaged in begging, domestic service in third-party homes, food preparation, street sales, and trash recycling. They also work in small and medium businesses and workshops and perform odd jobs such as washing car windshields and shining shoes. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 3.3 percent of the population in Argentina were living on less than USD 1 a day.

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184 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


Children in Argentina are exploited in prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and drug trafficking. Children are trafficked to Argentina mainly from Paraguay, but also from the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Bolivia for commercial sexual exploitation.

Education is free and compulsory in Argentina for 10 years, beginning at age 5. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 119 percent. Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 1997, 96.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 92 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Access to schooling is limited in some rural areas of the country. Children who work during harvests also often miss school.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Law on Labor Contracts sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. In addition, a government regulation specifically prohibits the employment of children less than 14 in domestic service. However, the law allows children under 14 years to work in family businesses as long as such work is not hazardous, and the National Regulation...
on Farm Labor allows children under 14 years to work on family farms as long as such work does not interfere with the child's schooling.198

Children ages 14 to 18 years are permitted to work if they have completed compulsory schooling, which normally ends at 14 years. Children who have not completed such schooling may obtain permission to work in cases in which their income is necessary for family survival, as long as they continue their studies.199 Children ages 14 to 18 years must present medical certificates that attest to their ability to work.200 Such children are prohibited from working more than 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week and between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. In some cases, however, children ages 16 to 18 years can work for longer hours and at night.201

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Argentina. The Penal Code provides for imprisonment from 6 to 15 years for facilitating the prostitution of children under thirteen, and 4 to 10 years when it involves children from 13 to 17 years old. The publication and distribution of pornography, as well as participating or forcing another to participate in pornography, are also considered crimes, and carry penalties of 1 month to 4 years of imprisonment.202 Argentina’s Migration Law establishes penalties for trafficking of minors that range from 5 to 20 years.203 The Law on Voluntary Military Service sets the minimum age for volunteering for the Argentine armed forces at 18 years.204 Forced labor is also prohibited under Argentine law.205 The Government of Argentina drafted a list of hazardous forms of child labor and conducted a poll requesting public comment on the list during 2005, but by the end of 2005, the list had not been enacted into law.206 Since 1999, the Government of Argentina has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it

198 Ley de Contrato de Trabajo, Article 189. See also Government of Argentina, Régimen Nacional de Trabajo Agrario, Ley No. 22.248, (April 25, 1996), Article 107 as cited in CONAETI, Legislación: Nacional. The Government of Argentina has stated that, per section 112 of this law, children under 18 years are prohibited from hazardous work in agriculture, and thus work for children under 14 years should be considered “light work.” The ILO’s Committee of Experts has noted, however, that there is no provision in Argentine law to establish a minimum age for admission to light work. See CEACR, Direct request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Argentina (ratification: 1996), Geneva, 2003; available from http://webfusion.ilo.org. See also CEACR, Observation.
199 Ley de Contrato de Trabajo, Article 189.
200 Ibid., Article 188.
201 Children may work 8 hours a day and 48 hours a week if they obtain the permission of administrative authorities. Boys over 16 years may work at night in some cases. See Ibid., Article 190.
has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Government of Argentina has a national regime of sanctions for the infringement of labor laws, including child labor laws, with fines ranging from USD 350 to USD 1,750 for each child employed. Provincial governments and the city government of Buenos Aires are also involved in the enforcement of child labor laws. In addition, most illegal child labor can be found in the informal sector, where inspectors have limited authority to enforce the law. Argentina's Congress recognized in 2004 that the country lacks sufficient inspectors and programs to detect child labor and that there is a lack of sanctions against employers for exploiting children. In addition, the Inspection Monitoring Unit lacks support to rescue and remove exploited children. The U.S. State Department suggests that heavy caseloads for prosecutors, the slow judicial system, and police complicity hamper government efforts to combat trafficking.

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

The National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI), headed by the Government of Argentina, worked with ILO-IPEC during 2005 to complete a national child labor survey, due to be released in 2006. CONAETI also prepared a national plan to combat child labor in the country, but it had not been formally enacted into law at the end of 2005. The Government of Argentina participated during 2005 in an ILO-IPEC regional project to prevent and eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children in the border area with Brazil and Paraguay. As part of the project, the

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207 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
215 The project was initiated in 2001 in Brazil and Paraguay with funding from USDOL. Funding to support the participation of the Government of Argentina is provided by the Government of Spain. See ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents on the Border of Paraguay/Brazil (Ciudad del Este - Foz do Iguaçu)*, technical progress report, Geneva, August 23, 2002, 3, 40. See also ILO-IPEC, *Los Proyectos IPEC en breve: "Programa Luz de Infancia, para la Prevención*
government is providing funding for the construction of a service center in the city of Puerto Iguazu for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation; construction began in November. With support from the IDB, CONAETI continued to carry out a program in 2005 to train labor inspectors on child labor issues.

The National Council for Childhood, Adolescence, and Family (CONAF), a federal government agency, is gathering information about the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Argentina and, in Buenos Aires, operates a hotline and a network of offices to assist victims. CONAF also works with other agencies and organizations such as UNICEF to raise awareness about commercial sexual exploitation of children. CONAF also operates a national program to assist street children to return to their families and to school. The Ministry of Social Development provides funds to heads of households, including single mothers, who keep their children in school.

The Ministry of Education has a number of programs through which it provides scholarships to enable older children and adolescents who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out to complete compulsory schooling. CONAETI has begun to participate in the planning of some scholarship programs, such as the Ministry’s Integral Program for Educational Equality, in order to encourage a greater focus on working children in these programs. The IDB is also providing financing to support the government in efforts to improve the quality and equity of the secondary education system. The government also provides school meals and has received support from UNICEF to keep schools open during the December 2004 to March 2005 summer vacation.

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216 Embassy of Argentina, email communication, January 6, 2006.
222 Government of Argentina, Report filed with the ILO under Article 22.
Armenia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Armenia are unavailable. Children work in family-run agricultural or small business enterprises. Children can be observed selling flowers on the streets of Yerevan and working in local marketplaces, usually after school hours. There are reports of increasing numbers of children begging on the streets and dropping out of school to work in the informal sector, especially in agriculture. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 12.8 percent of the population in Armenia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation from and through Armenia to the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and several other countries. In November 2005, a case of trafficking

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225 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.


231 Countries thought to be destination countries for girls trafficked from or through Armenia include Russia, Uzbekistan, and Greece, among others. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005:
to Armenia came into the public eye when the National Security Service discovered a trafficked 16-year-old Ukrainian girl being exploited in the commercial sex industry in Yerevan. She was repatriated with the assistance of the Armenian government, who also arrested the trafficker.232

By Constitutional guarantee, primary education and 5 years of secondary education are free and compulsory through age 14.233 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 99 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 94 percent.234 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 Armenia.235 Children from ethnic minority communities may be deterred by the scarcity of school materials and classes available in their native languages.236 Access to education in rural areas remains poor, and many schools lack heating and basic facilities.237 Agricultural responsibilities take precedence over school in rural areas, and children work in the fields during harvest season leading to prolonged absence from school.238

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age of employment for children at 16 years, but allows children ages 14 to 16 years to work with written permission from a parent or guardian.239 Children ages 14 to 16 may only work up to 24 hours per week, and children ages 16 to 18 may work a maximum of 36 hours per week. Employers must require proof of a medical examination from any employee under age 18.240 Children under age 18 are prohibited from working overtime, at night, on holidays, or in hazardous work such as strenuous physical labor. The Law on the Rights of the Child further defines hazardous work to include the production and/or sale of alcohol and tobacco products, as

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235 For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.
238 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Questionnaire Responses.
well as activities that may compromise children’s health, physical, or mental development, or interfere with their education. 241

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Armenia, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Constitution and the Law on Employment of 1992 prohibit forced and bonded labor, including by children. 242 The Criminal Code outlaws trafficking in persons, which is punishable by fines or up to 8 years of imprisonment, and specifically outlaws child trafficking, which is punishable by up to 7 years of imprisonment. 243 Sexual intercourse with a minor under age 16 and enticing underage girls into prostitution are also criminal offenses. 244 The Law on the Rights of the Child gives responsibility to the government to protect children from criminal activities, prostitution, and begging. 245 Armenian males are registered for military conscription at age 16, but are not subject to compulsory military service until age 18. 246

According to the U.S. Department of State, local community councils and unemployment offices have jurisdiction to enforce the laws on minimum working age, but their efforts are uneven. 247 There have been no reports of child labor complaints being prosecuted in Armenia. 248 Although the Armenian government has heightened its attention to the issue of trafficking and is taking steps to more effectively prevent and prosecute trafficking-related offenses, 249 the U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement of anti-trafficking laws is generally weak, and there is evidence of collusion with traffickers by individual government officials. Traffickers were tried under the Criminal Code, however, there were instances when cases that should have been trafficking cases were classified under the pimping statutes, which carry lower penalties. 250

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246 Ibid., Paragraph 51.
249 Ibid.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2005, the Government of Armenia ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.\textsuperscript{251} Ratification of these instruments is thought to be a step forward in the implementation of Armenia’s National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children’s Rights 2003-2015.\textsuperscript{252} This plan, adopted in 2003, was designed in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is linked to Armenia’s Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.\textsuperscript{253}

The government approved a National Action Plan to combat trafficking in January 2004. Armenian officials began to implement elements of the plan and increased the number of prosecutions under the anti-trafficking statute, but the government’s record on victim protection remained mixed.\textsuperscript{254} However, the government is collaborating with international organizations and NGOs on a variety of counter-trafficking efforts, including mass-media public awareness campaigns and two NGO-run hotlines for trafficking victims.\textsuperscript{255} IOM contributes to Government of Armenia counter-trafficking efforts through projects that train Armenian consular staff to recognize and assist trafficking victims in Armenia and destination countries and support Armenian law enforcement agencies and border guard troops in detection, investigation and prosecution of traffickers.\textsuperscript{256} Armenia has participated in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime since 1998.\textsuperscript{257}


\textsuperscript{254} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment}.


\textsuperscript{257} Other participating states include Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. See Black Sea Economic Cooperation- Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, \textit{Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior / Public Order of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Black Sea Economic Cooperation,} [online] 2004 [cited June 25, 2005].
officials coordinate with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on anti-trafficking efforts, including a March 2005 workshop on Combating Trafficking in Children.\(^{258}\) In June 2005, Armenia’s Office of the Prosecutor General signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP, aimed at improving trafficking prevention and victim assistance.\(^{259}\)

The Ministry of Education and Science is implementing the final phase of its Educational National Plan 2001-2005 which focuses on improving education quality and broadening children’s involvement in the system.\(^{260}\) Under its National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (2003-2015), the government aims to implement numerous other educational reforms including improved registration systems; psycho-social support services in schools; programs targeted to special-needs children; greater outreach to families; support for extracurricular activities; modernized technology; curriculum and teaching methodologies; and better financial management in the education sector.\(^{261}\) Progress toward these reforms has been slow, due largely to inadequate financing.\(^{262}\)

Armenia is a participating member of the Framework Program of Cooperation between the Council of Europe and Ministries of Education of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. The framework aims to develop the education system in these countries; assist in structural reform of the education sector; develop curriculum and teaching methodologies; and support regional cooperation.\(^{263}\) The World Bank is currently funding the Second Social Investment Fund Project, which assists the Government of Armenia in ongoing efforts to upgrade schools; repair school heating systems; upgrade furniture in schools; and carry out other community development activities that aim to strengthen local educational institutions.\(^{264}\) Another World Bank-funded project,
Educational Quality and Relevance, is building the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Science to develop education quality monitoring systems; strengthen ongoing education reforms; implement communications technology; and improve project evaluation.\textsuperscript{265} Current UNICEF projects are working with the government toward its goal of increasing preschool enrollment and making preschools more flexible and family-friendly,\textsuperscript{266} and on promoting life-skills activities and inclusive education for children with disabilities.\textsuperscript{267}


\textsuperscript{267} UNICEF Staff, email communication to USDOL official, June 28, 2005.
Bahrain

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 years in Bahrain are unavailable, but reports indicate that child labor is not widespread. Children reportedly work in family businesses and in small numbers performing odd jobs in the Manama Central Market.

According to the Education Act of 2005, education is free and compulsory for all children, including non-citizens, ages six to 15 years. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 97.0 percent and net primary enrollment rate was 90.0 percent. 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. As of 2001, 99.0 percent of the children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. The government provides for school equipment, supplies and transportation and establishes separate schools for boys and girls at all levels. In addition, the

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268 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. The Government does not collect data pertaining to the number of children engaged in child labor, the nature of extent of child work, or the number of sanctions applied to employers in violation of child labor laws. See ILO, Review of Annual Reports- The Effective Abolition of Child Labor: Bahrain, GB.277/3/2, Geneva, March 2003, available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb280/pdf/gb-3-2-abol.pdf. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bahrain, Section 6d; available from http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41719.htm. 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, please see the section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources.”


270 U.S. Embassy -Manama, reporting, August 27, 2005. The Education Act was ratified by the King on August 15, 2005. Under the law, parents who do not register their children for primary school by age 6 or who allow their children to be absent from school for over 10 days can face prosecution. See also Gulf Daily News, “School for All,” August 16, 2005, available at <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/1yr_arc_Articles.asp?Article=119570&Ssn=BNEW&IssueID=28149>.


government is working to improve educational quality by hiring additional teachers, reducing class sizes, and offering teacher training and professional development courses for instructors. The government has also taken steps to reduce school dropouts and encourage regular school attendance.274

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Law for the Private Sector, as amended, establishes 14 years as the minimum age for employment275 and applies to both national and foreign workers, including children, in the private sector. The law does not apply (with the exception of certain provisions regulating foreign workers) to workers, including children, in the domestic service and agricultural sectors or in enterprises owned by immediate family members.276 The Ministry of Labor (MOL) grants and reviews work permits for foreigners,277 and such permits may only be granted to persons 18 years of age and older.278 The Labor Law for the Private Sector establishes special requirements for the employment of children ages 14 to 16.279 Children ages 14 to 16 may not be employed in hazardous conditions; may not work overtime or at night; may not work on a piece-rate basis; and may not work for more than four consecutive hours or more than six hours per day. They must also be granted annual leave of not less than a full month, which they are not allowed to waive.280 A subsidiary order enacted under the provisions of the Labor Law for the Private Sector prohibits children under the age of 16 from working in more than 25 hazardous professions and sets a maximum allowable weight of 20 kilograms for juvenile workers to carry as part of their work.281 In addition, such children must obtain authorization from MOL and undergo a medical examination prior to their admission to employment.282
Although there is no law specifically prohibiting trafficking or other worst forms of child labor in Bahrain, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted.283 Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by the Constitution.284 Prostitution is illegal under the Penal Code, and the forced prostitution of a child younger than 18 years of age is punishable by up to 10 years of imprisonment.285 While there is no compulsory military service in Bahrain, juveniles can be recruited into the Bahraini Defense Force from the age of 17 years.286 Since 1999, the Government of Bahrain has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for implementing and enforcing child labor laws and regulations. The Labor Law for the Private Sector provides for the inspection of industrial workplaces and for legal sanctions against employers found in violation of child labor laws.288 Violators of the law or its implementing regulations are subject to fines between 50 and 200 Dinars (USD 132 and 526) for each occurrence and each worker. The same penalties apply to any person acting as a guardian of a juvenile who permits his or her employment in violation of the law’s provisions.289 The U.S. Department of State reported that MOL inspectors effectively enforce the labor legislation in the industrial sector;290 however, child labor outside the industrial sector is reportedly monitored less effectively.291

283 For example, trafficking may be prosecuted under laws on kidnapping, forced prostitution and immorality, and coercion. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Initial Reports of States Parties: Bahrain, para. 336.
284 Constitution of the State of Bahrain, (February 14, 2002), Article 13(c); available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000_.html. Article 5(a) of the Constitution makes the government responsible for protection of children from exploitation and neglect, as well as assisting their physical, moral, and intellectual growth.
286 Cadets of 15 years of age can be recruited for positions of non-commissioned officers, technicians, and specialized personnel. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention- Bahrain, CRC/C/11/Add.24, para. 302.
287 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
288 Ibid., Article 147.
289 Ibid., Article 163.
291 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bahrain, Section 6d. Foreigners make up two-thirds of the workforce. There have been reports of illegal underage domestic workers, who have entered the country with false documents indicating they were adults. Because domestic labor falls outside the jurisdiction of the inspection mechanisms in place to enforce labor laws that were designed to protect
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Bahrain has developed a national action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{292} In December 2003, the National Assembly approved the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.\textsuperscript{293} The government provides vocational training programs for preparatory schools (grades 7-9),\textsuperscript{294} and funds the Child Care Home for children whose parents can no longer provide for them.\textsuperscript{295} Bahraini citizens, inspectors do not monitor or control working conditions of foreign child domestic workers. See U.S. Embassy- Manama official, email communication to USDOL official, May 17, 2004.\textsuperscript{292} U.S. Embassy- Manama, unclassified telegram no. 143552, August 27, 2005. \textit{Bahrain: Update of Worst Forms of Child Labor Information}.\textsuperscript{293} U.S. Embassy- Manama official, email communication to USDOL official, May 17, 2004. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Bahrain}, Section 5.\textsuperscript{294} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Initial Reports of States Parties: Bahrain}, para. 263.\textsuperscript{295} \textit{Child Care Home}, Ministry of Social Affairs, [online] 2004 [cited May 18, 2004]; available from http://www.bah-molsa.com/english/prog2b-2.htm.
Bangladesh

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 13.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Bangladesh in 2002. Approximately 18.5 percent of all boys ages 5 to 14 were working compared to 7.9 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (62.3 percent), followed by services (23.2 percent), manufacturing (12.6 percent), and other sectors (2.0 percent). Children are frequently found working in the informal sectors. Children are also vulnerable to exploitation in a variety of potentially hazardous occupations and sectors, including bidi (hand-rolled cigarette) factories, construction, leather tanneries, fish and shrimp-farming, rickshaw-pulling, matches manufacturing, brick-breaking, the garment industry, and many others. Government reports indicate that children are found working in hundreds of different activities, 47 of which are regarded as harmful to the child’s physical and mental well-being. In 2004, approximately 1.3 million children were working under hazardous conditions. Many children work as domestic servants and are vulnerable to sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. Between 35,000 and 45,000 children are reported to be exploited by criminal gangs for the purposes of arms and drug trading and smuggling. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty.

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


301 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Child Soldiers: CRC Country Briefs -Bangladesh, 34th Session, CSC Briefing in response to reports submitted by States Parties to inform the Committee of the recruitment or use of children as soldiers, June 9-13, 2003, 3.
In 2000, 36 percent of the population in Bangladesh were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{302}

Children are trafficked internally, externally, and through Bangladesh to India, Pakistan, and the Middle East for purposes of domestic service, marriage, sale of organs, bonded labor, and sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{303} The problem of monitoring child trafficking is compounded by the low rate of birth registration, since children without legal documents have no proof that they are underage.\textsuperscript{304} Children are trafficked internally from the rural areas of Bangladesh to its larger cities for labor and sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{305} Young boys are trafficked to the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait to work as camel jockeys and beggars.\textsuperscript{306}

Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 to 10.\textsuperscript{307} Bangladesh has achieved near gender parity in primary school enrollment.\textsuperscript{308} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 96 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 84 percent.\textsuperscript{309} 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. In 2002, 82.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{310} As of 2001, 54 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{311} Universal primary education is hindered because many parents withdraw their children from school, preferring to have them work for money or assist with household activities.\textsuperscript{312}

\textsuperscript{304} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Concluding Observations}, para. 37. See also ECPAT International, \textit{Bangladesh}, Trafficking.
\textsuperscript{312} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Bangladesh}, Section 5.
quality of primary education in Bangladesh is poor,\textsuperscript{313} in part due to inadequately trained teachers, teacher absenteeism, and a lack of physical facilities.\textsuperscript{314}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The minimum age for employment varies by industrial sector. The Employment of Children Act prohibits children younger than 12 years of age from working in 10 sectors including the tanning, bidi, carpet, cloth, cement, and fireworks manufacturing sectors. The Act also prohibits children younger than 15 years of age from working in railways or ports.\textsuperscript{315} The Tea Plantations Labor Ordinance forbids the employment of children under 12 on tea plantations.\textsuperscript{316} The Mines Act prohibits children under 15 years of age from working in mines\textsuperscript{317} and the Road Transport Workers Ordinance prohibits children under 18 from working on roads and those under 21 from working as drivers.\textsuperscript{318} The Factories Act and Factories Rules establish 14 years as the minimum age for employment in factories.\textsuperscript{319} The majority of child workers are found in the agriculture and domestic work sectors, but there are no specific laws covering the informal sectors.\textsuperscript{320} The Constitution forbids forced labor.\textsuperscript{321} The minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years and there is no forced conscription in Bangladesh.\textsuperscript{322} The government lists 11 occupations as the worst forms of child labor: sexual acts, smuggling, bidi, battery and chemical factories, glass factories, tanneries, salt factories, transport, rag picking, welding, arms and drug trafficking, and slavery.\textsuperscript{323}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Bangladesh. Child trafficking for illegal or immoral purposes is illegal and carries penalties ranging

\textsuperscript{313} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 913rd Meeting, October 6, 2003, para. 33.
\textsuperscript{320} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{321} The Constitution of Bangladesh, Article 34.
from life imprisonment to death.\textsuperscript{324} The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act prohibits inducing children under the age of 18 into prostitution.\textsuperscript{325} The legal definitions of prostitution and trafficking do not account for male children.\textsuperscript{326} The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act, passed in 2000, protects children from sexual exploitation and maiming and imposes strict punishments on offenders.\textsuperscript{327} The Extradition Act enables the government to order traffickers who live in or have fled to other countries back to Bangladesh for trial.\textsuperscript{328} The recently passed Birth and Death Registration Act makes birth registration a requirement for attending school, receiving a marriage certificate or applying for a passport, making the identification of trafficking victims easier.\textsuperscript{329}

The Office of the Chief Inspector of Factories under the Ministry of Labor and Employment is responsible for implementation and enforcement of labor legislation.\textsuperscript{330} According to the U.S. Department of State, child labor laws are seldom enforced due to a lack of manpower. Within the formal sector, the Ministry has only 88 inspectors to monitor 21,500 registered factories and an unknown number of smaller shops and establishments.\textsuperscript{331} Government officials have arrested, prosecuted and given prison sentences to some traffickers. The government has created an anti-trafficking monitoring unit within the police force, and assigned prosecutors to deal exclusively with trafficking cases.\textsuperscript{332} Despite successes, public corruption is still widespread and the court system is slow. In addition, traffickers are often charged with lesser crimes such as crossing borders without proper documentation. This makes trafficking cases difficult to quantify.\textsuperscript{333} The government has intensified its efforts to investigate and prosecute public officials complicit in trafficking. Approximately 12 officials were charged and

\textsuperscript{324} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Bangladesh}, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{325} Government of Bangladesh, \textit{Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act of 1933 (Act No. VI of 1933)}, Sections 9-12, (1933).
\textsuperscript{326} ECPAT International, \textit{Bangladesh}, Child Prostitution.
\textsuperscript{328} Mina Neumuller, \textit{The Legal Framework on Trafficking in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka}, ILO-IPEC, Katmandu, October, 2000, 16.
\textsuperscript{331} A joint monitoring team comprising officials from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), ILO, and the Office of the Chief Inspector of Factories routinely inspects all 4,000 member factories of BGMEA. From January to July 2005, the team found 9 child labor violations in 5 factories, and fined each factory the local currency equivalent of USD 100. See U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, \textit{reporting}, 22 November, 2005.
\textsuperscript{332} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\textsuperscript{333} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Bangladesh}, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
prosecuted in 2005. In 2005, 192 child camel jockeys were repatriated from the United Arab Emirates and provided with reintegration services.

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

The Government of Bangladesh is working to eliminate child labor through the implementation of action programs, stipends, rehabilitation and reintegration for former child laborers, and promoting universal access to education. The National Children’s Council is responsible for enforcing laws related to children and is the highest authority for overall policy guidance on child development. The ILO-IPEC program in Bangladesh is currently implementing four programs totaling USD 8.2 million to eliminate child labor through the implementation of Timebound policies and programs. A USD 6 million USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to eliminate child labor in bidis, construction, leather tanneries, matches, and domestic service in third-party homes concluded in August 2005.

The Government of Bangladesh has increased its efforts to combat trafficking. These efforts include the establishment of a police anti-trafficking unit; arrests of several public officials for complicity in trafficking crimes; the rescue of more than 160 victims; and the creation of an inter-ministerial committee on trafficking. The government is also collaborating extensively with the NGO community on efforts to combat child trafficking in the areas of prevention, research, advocacy, awareness raising, enforcement, rehabilitation, and legislative reform. Bangladesh is one of six countries included in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC Asia project to combat child trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation. The government is supporting a major national anti-trafficking prevention campaign to increase awareness of the problem among vulnerable groups. The program includes radio and television advertisements and anti-trafficking training for religious leaders and the border patrol.

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335 Ibid.
338 ILO-IPEC Official, e-mail communication to USDOL Official, November 8, 2005.
342 The USD 3 million project, which also includes Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Thailand, is in its second phase and is scheduled to end in 2006. See ILO-IPEC, *Combating Child Trafficking for Labor and Sexual Exploitation (TICSA Phase II)*, project document, RAS/02/P51/USA, Geneva, February 2002.
343 U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*.
Women and Children Affairs launched a strategic initiative outlining a framework of action for the government, NGOs, and civil society to combat trafficking. IOM also collaborated with the Ministry of Home Affairs to organize training sessions in several districts to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies and immigration officials to address trafficking in Bangladesh.\(^{344}\)

The Government of Bangladesh has made progress in improving the quality of and access to basic education.\(^{345}\) The government is implementing a second phase of the National Plan of Action for Education for All for the period 2003 to 2015, which embraces all of the goals of Education for All (EFA) for making education compulsory, accessible, and all-inclusive.\(^{346}\) Recent government efforts have included the abolition of tuition fees for primary schools, the establishment of a 500 million taka (USD 7.6 million) stipend program, and a “food for education” program.\(^{347}\)

The Government of Bangladesh is also receiving intensified support to improve the education system from the World Bank, UNICEF, Save the Children and several other donors and NGOs.\(^{348}\) Multiple donors fund the USD 150 million Primary Education Development Program (PEDP II) that aims to enhance the quality, access, and efficiency of primary education by operationalizing key aspects of the government’s EFA initiative and Poverty Reduction strategies.\(^{349}\) The World Bank supports the USD 51 million Reaching Out-of-School Children Project to improve access and quality of education with a focus on disadvantaged children.\(^{350}\)

The government has also received support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its efforts to improve the education system. Current ADB technical assistance projects

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\(^{347}\) UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations*, para. 63. For currency conversion, see FX Converter, [online] [cited October 3, 2005]; available from http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm.


\(^{349}\) World Bank, *Primary Education Development Project II*.

include the Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project,351 the Strengthening Primary Education Development Program,352 and the Secondary Education Sector Improvement Project II.353 USAID is sponsoring an early childhood education program designed to introduce preschool programs to Bangladesh and create and distribute high-quality, educational television programs for young students.354

As part of its Country Program 2001–2005, the World Food Program provides meals for non-formal primary education students in areas with low enrollment. The School Feeding Program also provides supplementary snacks to adolescent girls.355

Belize

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 6.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Belize in 2001. Approximately 8.1 percent of all boys ages 5 to 14 years were working compared to 4.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (55.3 percent), followed by services (38.8 percent), and manufacturing (3.6 percent) in 2001. Approximately 74.6 percent of working children are found in rural regions, where they work on family plots and in family businesses after school, on weekends and during vacations. They also work in citrus, banana, and sugar fields. In urban areas, children shine shoes, sell food, crafts, and other small items, and work in markets. Teenage girls, many of whom have migrated from Honduras and other neighboring Central American countries, are reported to work as barmaids and prostitutes.

Belize is considered a transit and destination country for children trafficked for sexual exploitation. Girls are also trafficked internally for commercial exploitation and pornography. The practice of minors engaging in prostitution with older men in exchange for clothing, jewelry, or school fees and books is reported to occur throughout

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


359 Ibid.

360 Ibid.

361 Ibid.

the country. It is also reported that some instances of child sexual exploitation and trafficking are arranged by family members.

Education in Belize is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 14 years. In 2001, 93.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. The Education Act subjects parents to a fine of up to USD 100 if their children of compulsory school age fail to attend school regularly. Primary education is free, but related expenses, such as uniforms and books, are a financial strain on poor families. Secondary schools and apprenticeship and vocational programs can only accommodate one-half of children who complete primary school. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 122 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 99 percent. 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. As of 1999, 81 percent of children enrolled in primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Results from the Child Activity Survey indicate that 12 percent of working children ages 5 to 14 years do not attend school.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Act of Belize sets the minimum age for work as 12, 14, and 16 years in different sections of the text, and has been criticized as being unclear. According to the Labor Act, children ages 12 to 14 years may only participate in light work that is not harmful to life, health, or education; only after school hours and for a total of 2 hours on a

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364 Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report.*
365 *Education Act*, Chapter 36, (April 24, 1991), Section 2(b); available from [http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html](http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html).
367 Ibid., Section 37.
370 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, [http://wtatus.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51](http://wtatus.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51) (Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.
372 ILO-IPEC SIMPOC, *Child Labour and Education in Belize*, ix.
373 For example, Section 169 of the Labor Act, which is the most explicit section on minimum age, states that “no child shall be employed so long as he is under the age of twelve years.” On the other hand, Section 164 of the same Act states that “no one shall employ a child” and a child is defined as anyone under the age of 14. See SIMPOC and the Central Statistical Office of the Government of Belize, *Child Labour in Belize: A Qualitative Study*, ILO, February 2003, 11; available from [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/simpoc/belize/report/be_qual.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/simpoc/belize/report/be_qual.pdf). See also *Labour Act*, Chapter 297, (December 31, 2000), Section 169; available from [http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html](http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html).
school day or Sunday; and only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. The Labor Act applies to all employment in the formal sector, but not to self-employment or employment by family members. The minimum age for employment near hazardous machinery is 17 years. The Labor Act sets penalties for non-compliance with minimum age standards at USD 20 or 2 months of imprisonment for the first offense, and in the case of subsequent offenses, USD 50 or 4 months of imprisonment.

The Families and Children Act prohibits children (defined in this Act as persons below 18 years of age) from employment in activities that may be detrimental to their health, education, or mental, physical, or moral development. Forced and bonded labor are prohibited in Belize under the Constitution. Although there is no law establishing a minimum age for conscription into the military, the minimum age for voluntary enrollment is 18 years.

The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act punishes trafficking offenses with fines of up to USD 5,000 and imprisonment of up to 8 years. Traffickers can also be prosecuted under immigration and abduction laws. The Criminal Code prohibits procuring a female for sexual exploitation within or outside of Belize and provides for 5 years of imprisonment for the crime. Penalties for abduction range from two years to life imprisonment, depending on the age and gender of the victim and the intent of the perpetrator. Abduction of a female with intent to marry or “carnally know her, or to cause her to be married or carnally known…” is punishable by 13 years of imprisonment. The Criminal Code also prohibits sex with a female child younger than 14 years, and provides for a penalty of 12 years to life imprisonment. The sentence for the same act with a girl aged 14 to 16 years is 5 to 10 years of imprisonment.

Inspectors from the Departments of Labor and Education enforce child labor and school attendance regulations. Ministry of Education officials investigate complaints of truancy and some forms of child labor. The National Organization for the Prevention of

374 Labour Act, Section 169. See also U.S. Embassy- Belize, reporting, August 19, 2003.
376 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Belize, Section 6d.
377 Labour Act, Section 172.
381 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Belize, Section 5. Anti-trafficking law includes provisions for victim assistance; however, according to the U.S. State Department, a lack of resources and capacity limits these efforts. See U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
383 Ibid., Section 47.
Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN) receives complaints on the worst forms of child labor and refers them to the Department of Human Services and the police. The Department of Human Services is legally empowered to handle the protection of child labor victims. A newly created unit within the Belize Immigration Department is charged with investigating trafficking cases.

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

The Government of Belize has a National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC), which works with the National Human Advisory Committee to monitor the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents (2004-2015). The National Plan includes objectives, strategies, and activities intended to promote the development of children and adolescents in the areas of health, education, child labor and protection, family, HIV/AIDS and culture. The Ministries of Human Development, Labor, and Local Government head a sub-committee under the NCFC that deals with issues of child labor. With funding from the Canadian government, ILO-IPEC worked with the Government of Belize to implement two regional projects to combat the worst forms of child labor, and a pilot project to withdraw and rehabilitate children engaged in the worst forms of child labor in subsistence and commercial agriculture in Belize. This year, the Government of Belize began participating in a USDOL-funded regional project implemented by ILO-IPEC to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children. The government airs public service announcements and publishes newspaper ads to raise awareness of child trafficking and commercial exploitation.

385 Wendel D.J. Parham, Executive Director of Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, letter to USDOL official, September 9, 2002.
386 The department is part of the Ministry of Human Development and Housing. See Belize Labour Commissioner, electronic communication to USDOL official, August 26, 2005.
390 The multi-sectoral committee includes members from the Ministries of Labor, Human Development, Education, and Health, members from the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Immigration Department, the Police Department, the National Trade Union Congress of Belize, the Association of General Managers of Primary Schools and the Central Statistical Office. See U.S. Embassy- Belize, reporting, September 1, 2004. See also ILO Sub-regional office for the Caribbean, National child labour committees, [online] 2005 [cited June 29, 2005]; available from http://www.ilo.org/childlabour/committees.htm.
391 The regional projects are scheduled to closed December 31, 2005. ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, May 12, 2004.
393 ILO-IPEC, Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic Addendum, project document, RLA/05/P52/USA, September 2005.
sexual exploitation, and has a National Task Force to oversee efforts to combat trafficking.\textsuperscript{394}

The Government of Belize is implementing a 10-year Education Sector Strategy to achieve universal access to education for children ages 3 to 16 years.\textsuperscript{395} The government continues to offer tuition grants to primary and secondary school students and maintains a textbook lending program.\textsuperscript{396}

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\textsuperscript{394} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Belize}, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\textsuperscript{395} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Concluding Observations}, para. 60.
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Benin

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Benin are unavailable. In Benin, children work on family farms, in small businesses, on construction sites, in markets, and as domestic servants. Children also work in stone quarries. There are also reports of child prostitution, mainly involving girls and particularly in urban areas.

Benin is a source, destination and transit country for the trafficking of children. Children from Benin are trafficked into Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, and Nigeria; children from Burkina Faso, Niger, and Togo are trafficked into Benin. Trafficked children often work as agricultural workers, domestic servants, market vendors, in rock quarries, and are involved in commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficked Beninese children work on rock quarries in Nigeria, on cocoa plantations in Côte d’Ivoire, and as involuntary domestic servants in Gabon. Children are also trafficked within Benin for forced labor in construction, commercial enterprises, handicrafts, and street vending.

397 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.


403 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.

404 Ibid.
Many families facing poverty will place children in the care of an “agent” believing that the wages from this labor will be sent home to the family.405

The practice of *vidomegon*, in which poor children are placed in wealthier households, continues. In exchange for housing and food, these children work for the wealthy families, with income generated from the child’s activities being divided between the child’s host and natural families. In some cases, however, the situation degenerates into forced labor. *Vidomegon* children may be subjected to poor working and living conditions and are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, including being trafficked.406 In some cases, *vidomegon* children are trafficked to neighboring countries to work.407

The Constitution guarantees education to all children.408 Education in Benin is free for primary school children ages 6 to 11 years, but families are required to pay additional expenses associated with schooling, such as uniforms, transportation, and school stationery, which can be unaffordable for poorer families.409 The Government of Benin, however, offers reduced-price textbooks to improve access to and quality of education.410 Education is compulsory in primary school, but there is no mechanism for enforcement.411 In addition, teacher strikes disrupted the 2004-2005 school year.412

Boys enroll in primary school in Benin at higher rates than girls. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate in Benin was 109 percent, and in 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 58 percent.413 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 Benin.414 As of 2001, 68 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.415

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406 Approximately 90 to 95 percent of *vidomegons* were girls. See Ibid., Section 5.
407 Ibid.
414 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.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, including for apprenticeships, and prohibits forced labor.\(^{416}\) In addition, the Labor Code requires employers to maintain a register, including the birth date, of all employees under the age of 18 years.\(^{417}\) A labor inspector can require that young workers be examined by a doctor to determine that they are not working beyond their abilities.\(^{418}\) Beninese law also prohibits workers under 18 years from performing certain types of work, including transporting heavy loads, operating certain types of machinery, working with hazardous substances, and working in underground mines and quarries.\(^{419}\) Children between 12 and 14 years may perform domestic work and light work of a temporary or seasonal nature, provided that it does not interfere with their compulsory schooling.\(^{420}\) However, the U.S. Department of State reports that due to a lack of resources, enforcement of the Labor Code by the Ministry of Labor is limited and does not include the informal sector.\(^{421}\)

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Benin. The minimum age for recruitment into the military is 21 years.\(^{422}\) It is illegal to prostitute a minor in Benin.\(^{423}\) As of the end of 2005, children were protected from abduction under current legislation, but specific anti-trafficking legislation did not exist.\(^{424}\) Laws against prostitution, forced or bonded labor, and the employment of children under 14 years may also be used to prosecute traffickers.\(^{425}\) Since 1999, the Government of Benin has


\(^{417}\) Ibid., Article 167.


\(^{420}\) Ibid.


\(^{423}\) The penalty for prostituting a minor, or in any way assisting or protecting the prostitution of a minor is 2 to 5 years in prison and a fine of 1,000,000 to 10,000,000 CFA francs (USD 1,842.50 to USD 18,425). See Criminal Code, Section IV - Indecent Behavior, Articles 334, 334b, (April 13, 1946); available from http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/Beninf.pdf. Currency conversion performed using FX Converter, [online] n.d. [cited June 27, 2005]; available from http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm.

\(^{424}\) U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*. The Criminal Code provides that a person who has abducted, concealed, or suppressed a child will be punished by imprisonment. See The Government of Benin, *Crimes and offenses tending to hinder or destroy proof of the civil status of a child, or to endanger its existence; abduction of minors; violations of burial laws*, Criminal Code, Section VI, Article 345; available from http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/Beninf.pdf. In addition, decree No. 95-191 (1995) states that adults wishing to exit the country with a child under 18 years of age must register with the proper local authority and pay a fee held in escrow until the child has been returned to the village. See ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children (Phase II) Country Annex I: Benin*. See U.S. Embassy-Cotonou official, electronic communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.

\(^{425}\) U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 

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submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

426 The government’s Brigade for the Protection of Minors has jurisdiction over all law enforcement matters related to children, including child labor and child trafficking. 427 Between January and October 2005, 59 child trafficking cases were tried, resulting in 44 convictions. 428 However, the Brigade is understaffed and lacks the necessary resources to carry out its mandate. 429 In addition, according to U.S. Department of State, enforcement of child prostitution laws is often inadequate. 430

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

The Government of Benin is participating in a regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative labor in West and Central Africa. 431 The government also participates in a USD 2 million education initiative funded by USDOL to improve access to quality, basic education for victims of child trafficking and children at risk of being trafficked. 432 With assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice, officials from the Brigade for the Protection of Minors will receive training on identifying and preventing trafficking in persons. The 2-year, USD 200,000 project also seeks to improve the Government of Benin’s capacity to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases and to protect trafficking victims. 433 In addition, the Government of Benin is participating in an ILO-IPEC project funded by France to combat child labor in Francophone Africa, 434 as well as one funded by Denmark to combat trafficking in children for labor exploitation in Benin, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. 435

In July 2005, Benin was one of 9 countries to sign a multilateral cooperative agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa. 436 Additionally, as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between Benin and Nigeria to cooperate to protect and repatriate

426 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
432 The 4-year project was funded in 2003. See International Child Labor Program U.S. Department of Labor, Education First Project, Project Summary, 2003.
433 U.S. Department of State, reporting, March 9, 2005.
434 The countries participating in this project include Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. See ILO- IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.
435 ILO-IPEC official, IPEC projects from all donors except USDOL, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.
trafficking victims, and to identify, investigate, and prosecute agents and traffickers, joint border patrols have been established to curb smuggling and banditry.\textsuperscript{437} In June 2005, Benin and Nigeria agreed to continue this cooperation. The objectives of this agreement include establishing joint security surveillance patrols and awareness raising campaigns along border areas, and rehabilitating and reintegrating trafficking victims. A joint committee has been set up to implement the agreement, and a joint plan of action against trafficking in persons has been adopted.\textsuperscript{438} The government also collaborates with Gabon and Togo to address cross-border trafficking and repatriate trafficking victims.\textsuperscript{439} Also, the government works with UNICEF and NGOs to prevent child trafficking.\textsuperscript{440}

The government is implementing a National Plan of Action on behalf of women and children.\textsuperscript{441} The Ministry of Family, Social Protection and Solidarity collaborates with donors and NGOs to provide child trafficking victims with reintegration support and to place them in educational and vocational programs.\textsuperscript{442} USAID supports a variety of educational efforts in Benin, including the development of a new national primary school curriculum and the professional development of teachers and teacher trainers.\textsuperscript{443}

The government continues to raise awareness of child labor through media campaigns, regional workshops, and by collaborating with a network of NGOs and journalists.\textsuperscript{444} The government has also provided resources, training, and logistical support to local anti-trafficking committees,\textsuperscript{445} and the ministry charged with children’s affairs has set up an Observatory of Children, Women, and the Family.\textsuperscript{446} The Brigade for the Protection of Minors operates a free hotline for children to report abuse or other problems.\textsuperscript{447} The Brigade also acquired a new building that can accommodate up to 160 victims of child trafficking and other abuses, though it remains unused.\textsuperscript{448} Both the Brigade and the Judicial Police have been trained on how to identify and protect trafficking victims.\textsuperscript{449} A government-established national child protection committee oversees the fight against

\begin{footnotes}
\item 441 Catholic Relief Services, \textit{Education First technical progress report - March 2004}, 2. See also ECPAT International, \textit{Benin}.
\item 444 U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Benin}, Sections 5 and 6d.
\item 446 ECPAT International, \textit{Benin}.
\item 448 Ibid.
\end{footnotes}
child trafficking. The Ministry of Family operates centers in urban areas that offer education and vocational training opportunities to victims of *vidomegon.*

UNICEF is implementing programs that support training for teachers and PTAs, and allow the community to become directly involved in school administration and girls’ education. The education component of Benin’s poverty reduction strategy (PRSP) for 2003-2005 focuses on equal opportunity for all students, improving quality, strengthening institutional framework, and controlling education costs, and includes special provisions to promote girls’ education. The PRSP also calls for strengthening local capacity to combat child trafficking. The World Bank is supporting the implementation of Benin’s PRSP through a project that addresses basic education. The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, together with partners, developed a new strategy for increasing girls’ education in Benin and an outline of roles and responsibilities of key actors in ensuring the availability of resources to implement the strategy.

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450 The committee is comprised of representatives of the government, child welfare organizations, and the police. See U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Benin,* Section 5.
451 Ibid.
454 Ibid., 70.
Bhutan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children in Bhutan are unavailable. Children are found working in agriculture, particularly on family farms. Foreign child workers are found in road construction. In cities, children are found working as domestics and child care workers. Children also work as doma sellers, street vendors, in shops and restaurants, auto mechanic shops, transportation services, and other family and private enterprises. Children are also involved in commercial sexual exploitation.

Primary education is free and compulsory. Primary education comprises 7 years, including a year of preparatory education and grades 1 through 6. Basic education has been raised through grade 10, which includes four years of lower and middle school.

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457 The Government of Bhutan is not a member of the ILO, and is thus unable to ratify ILO conventions.
458 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.
461 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bhutan, Section 6d.
462 Doma is a mixture of doma or areca nut, pani or betel leaf, with a dash of lime (calcium carbonate). It is ubiquitous in Bhutan, although its use appears to be on the decline among the younger generation. See http://www.raonline.ch/pages/bt/visin2/bt_doma01.html.
464 Interview with Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Executive Director, National Commission of Women and Children, by EnCompass LLC, for the U.S. Department of Labor, on April 11, 2005, Bhutan Country File Section III, 19.
468 Interview with Ms. Yandey Penjor, Director; and Ms. Dorji Ohm, Project Co-ordinator; Youth Development Fund, Thimphu, on April 4, 2005, and Mr. Bap Kuenga, Vice President Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, on April 5, 2005, by EnCompass LLC for U.S. Department of Labor, Bhutan Country File, Section III, 3 and 8.
secondary education.\textsuperscript{469} In 2004, Bhutan had a gross primary enrollment rate of 84.2 percent.\textsuperscript{470} While the primary school enrollment is increasing more rapidly for girls than boys,\textsuperscript{471} the gross enrollment rate was still significantly higher for boys (82.1 percent) than girls (61.5 percent).\textsuperscript{472} The net primary enrollment rate was 52.9 percent in 1998, with 58.4 percent for boys and 47.2 percent for girls.\textsuperscript{473} 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. In 2004, the completion rate for primary education, 7 years of schooling, was 86 percent for girls and 73 percent for boys.\textsuperscript{474} In 2000, 91 percent of children enrolled in primary school reached grade 5.\textsuperscript{475}

The education system suffers from lack of teachers and classrooms.\textsuperscript{476} However, the government is focusing on education and teacher training in the formal and non-traditional sectors.\textsuperscript{477}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Regulation for Wage Rate, Recruitment Agencies and Workmen’s Compensation Act (1994) prohibits the employment of children and states that candidates seeking employment shall have attained the age of majority, 18 years, to be eligible for appointment to any post in a business establishment.\textsuperscript{478} The Government of Bhutan is in the process of reforming its labor laws to include prohibitions against the worst forms of

\textsuperscript{469} Interview with Mr. Jambey Wangchuk, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Education, on April 1, 2005, by EnCompass LLC for the U.S. Department of Labor, Bhutan Country File, Section III, 17.


\textsuperscript{473} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{474} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Bhutan}.

\textsuperscript{475} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (School life expectancy, % of repeaters, survival rates; accessed December 2005). This percentage may hide the fact that many children promoted to grade 5 may combine school and work. In addition, little is known in regard to Bhutanese standards for promoting children through primary school.


child labor. Children are permitted to enlist in the armed forces, however, at 15 years of age.

Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by Bhutanese law. In 2004, the National Assembly passed the Bhutan Penal Code, which criminalizes sex crimes and offenses against children. According to the Penal Code of Bhutan, trafficking of children is a felony of the third degree with a minimum penalty of three years; prostitution is a felony with penalties varying according to the age of the child: a felony of the first degree for a child under 12 with the penalty being 15 years to life in prison. The Ministry of Labor, created in 2003, is responsible for analyzing the country’s labor situation and providing vocational training. The ministry conducts 10 to 15 inspections per week, most of which are in the construction sector where most imported child labor is found.

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

In August 2004, the National Assembly ratified the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention (SAARC) on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. The government is working with the UNDP to improve policies that address the needs of the country’s poor and impoverished. The Youth Development Fund established by King Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1998 provides assistance for new youth activities and programming.

UNICEF is working with the government to improve the country’s education system, with special emphasis on women, children, and disadvantaged students. Efforts are focused on improving primary, non-formal, and special education, as well as providing teacher training and essential school supplies. The World Bank financed an education

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479 Ugyen Doma, email communication to USDOL official, November 28, 2005. See also Labour and Employment Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, (2005 draft), paras. 5 and 90.
482 U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, reporting, September 17, 2004.
484 Ibid., para. 3(a).
485 Ibid., para. 380.
487 Ibid.
490 UNICEF, Second Chance at Literacy, UNICEF in Bhutan, [online] [cited May 21, 2004]; available from http://www.unicef.org/bhutan/educat.htm. In addition, the Education Department is launching an “inclusive education” program that will integrate students with disabilities into regular schools by renovating one school in each of the 20 school districts to provide basic facilities for disabled students and
program with an emphasis on strengthening basic education in rural areas through June 2004. The Ministry of Health and Education implemented the project, which is designed to construct new schools, upgrade existing facilities, expand and improve teacher education, revise curriculum and examinations, and introduce decentralized school monitoring and evaluation through the training of central staff and head-teachers.\textsuperscript{491} The World Bank is supporting another project to improve access to primary and secondary education, by financing the capital costs of schools, and improving the quality and relevance of education at all levels. The project is scheduled to run through 2009.\textsuperscript{492} The Asian Development Bank and the Government of Germany are financing a USD 12.5 million skills training project, targeting unemployed youth in rural areas, with an emphasis on women and economically disadvantaged. The Government of Bhutan’s National Technical Training Authority serves as executing agency for the project, and the Government of Bhutan will contribute approximately USD 3 million to this project.\textsuperscript{493}


Bolivia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 23.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Bolivia in 2000. Approximately 25.5 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 21.8 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work in agriculture, including in the production of sugar cane and Brazil nuts. Children also engage in activities such as begging, street vending, shining shoes, and assisting transport operators. Children work in industry, construction, small business, hotels and restaurants, and small-scale mining. Children have been used to traffic drugs. Some children are brought or sent by their parents from rural to urban areas to work as domestic servants for higher-income families, often in situations that amount to indentured servitude. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, 14.4 percent of the population in Bolivia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, is a problem in Bolivia. Trafficking of children internally from rural to urban areas for commercial

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494 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


499 Ibid. See also Erick Roth U. and Erik Fernandez R., Evaluación del tráfico de mujeres, adolescentes y niños/as en Bolivia, IOM, OAS, and Scientific Consulting SRL, La Paz, 2004, 10 and 51.


sexual exploitation occurs.\textsuperscript{502} Children are also trafficked to work in sugar cane production in Santa Cruz and Tarija.\textsuperscript{503} There have also been reports of children trafficked to work in small scale mines.\textsuperscript{504} A 2004 study sponsored by IOM and the OAS found that there were girls from Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia working as prostitutes in urban centers in Bolivia.\textsuperscript{505} Children are also trafficked from Bolivia to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Japan, Spain, and the United States for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{506}

The Constitution of Bolivia provides for free public education, and primary school, which covers ages 6 to 13, is compulsory.\textsuperscript{507} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 115 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 95 percent.\textsuperscript{508} 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. In 2000, 89.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{509} As of 2002, 81 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{510}

The U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement of and compliance with educational requirements are generally weak.\textsuperscript{511} An ILO-IPEC rapid assessment of child work in the sugar cane harvest found that 90 percent of children working in sugar cane in the Tarija region did not attend school.\textsuperscript{512}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Child and Adolescent Code and the Labor Code set the minimum age for employment at 14 years, except in the case of apprenticeships.\textsuperscript{513} The ILO Committee of


\textsuperscript{503} Ibid. See also Erick Roth U. and Erik Fernandez R., *Evaluación del tráfico de mujeres*, 51-52.

\textsuperscript{504} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*.

\textsuperscript{505} Erick Roth U. and Erik Fernandez R., *Evaluación del tráfico de mujeres*, 47.


\textsuperscript{508} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{509} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


\textsuperscript{513} Government of Bolivia, *Ley del Código del Niño, Niña y Adolescente*, Ley No. 2026, (October 27, 1999), Article 126; available from http://www.iло.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/55837/68387/S99BOL01.htm. See also Government of
Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has noted that Bolivian law does not provide a minimum age for apprenticeships. Children 14 to 18 years must have the permission of their parents or of the government authorities in order to work. The Child and Adolescent Code prohibits children ages 14 to 17 years from taking part in hazardous activities such as carrying excessively heavy loads, underground work, work with pesticides and other chemicals, or work at night. The code also requires employers to grant adolescent workers time off to attend school during normal school hours. The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor; the Constitution specifically prohibits any kind of labor without consent and just compensation. Bolivian men who have reached the age of 18 are required to perform military service for 1 year. The law allows children ages 15 and older to volunteer for certain military activities if they have completed 3 years of secondary education.

The Government of Bolivia has several laws that regulate the worst forms of child labor. The Penal Code prohibits the prostitution of minors and calls for penalties of 4 to 8 years of imprisonment if the victim is 14 to 17 years of age, and 5 to 10 years of imprisonment if the victim is less than 14. The code also prohibits trafficking for prostitution and establishes the penalties of 5 to 10 years of imprisonment if the victim is 14 to 17 years of age, and 6 to 12 years if the victim is under 14. In July, the Bolivian Congress approved legislation strengthening the Penal Code’s trafficking provisions, and at the end of the year, the Vice Ministry of Justice was drafting additional trafficking legislation. Since 1999, the Government of Bolivia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor provisions. The ministry has 15 labor inspectors working throughout the country. Questions regarding child labor have been incorporated into the inspection checklists they use. Municipal Defender of Children and Adolescents offices, the Public Ministry, and the police also work to protect

Bolivia, Ley General de Trabajo, (December 8, 1942), Article 58; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/46218/65057/S92BOL01.htm#4c6.
515 Ley General de Trabajo, Article 8.
516 Ley del Código del Niño, 134, 146, 147.
518 See also Constitución Política del Estado, Article 5.
522 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
Children’s rights. The U.S. Department of State reports, however, that child labor and related laws such as the Child and Adolescent Code are not effectively enforced due to resource constraints. The government has established special anti-trafficking police and prosecutor units in the major cities of La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba, and six individuals were arrested between April and September on charges related to trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of minors.

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

The government has engaged in a public information campaign against child prostitution and some educational efforts to combat trafficking. The Vice Ministry of Youth, Childhood and Senior Citizens implements a Plan for the Prevention of and Attention to Commercial Sexual Exploitation, with a focus on efforts in the country’s largest cities.
Also, during the year, the government established a National Commission against Trafficking to develop a plan to combat trafficking.534

The government participated in a USD 1.6 million regional ILO-IPEC project to eliminate child labor in small-scale mining in the Andean region, which ended in February 2005,535 and continued to participate in a USD 1.5 million 4-year project to improve access to and quality of basic education for children engaged in mining in Bolivia.536 UNICEF and ILO-IPEC are also working with the government to implement an approximately USD 115,000 project to combat child labor in sugar cane in Tarija and Santa Cruz.537 The Ministry of Education supports mobile schools to provide education to children involved in the project.538 The government is also developing a database to better understand the situation of working children; by the end of 2005, the database included only information on children working in sugar cane.539

The Government of Bolivia is working with UNICEF to provide free birth registration and identity documentation to citizens, in order to facilitate their access to social services such as education and reduce their vulnerability to trafficking.540

The Ministry of Education’s Vice Ministry of Alternative Education provides night classes that are accessible to working children and adolescents.541 The Government of Bolivia, with USD 36 million in assistance from the IDB, continued to implement its educational reform program during 2005, which aims to promote local-level participation in education, among other goals.542 Also during the year, the government received World Bank support for a USD 100 million Education Quality and Equity Strengthening Project that aimed to improve infrastructure and educational processes as well as increase public participation in the country’s education reform, among other goals. The government also

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534 Vice Ministry of Youth, Childhood, and Senior Citizens, interview, with USDOL official, September 13, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, reporting, September 2, 2005, 2.
535 The project included Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Phase I of this project began in 2000. See ILO-IPEC, Phase I: Program to Prevent and Progressively Eliminate Child Labor in Small-scale Traditional Gold Mining in South America, project document, (ILO) LAR/00/05/050, Geneva, April 1, 2000. See also ILO-IPEC, Phase II: Prevention of Child Labor in Gold Mining, project document. See also ILO-IPEC, USDOL-funded ILO Project: Project Revision Form, April 1, 2004.
536 See also CARE, Combating Child Labor in Bolivia Through Education, project document, 2002.
537 U.S. Embassy- La Paz, reporting, August 30, 2005, 2.
538 Ministry of Education official, interview, with USDOL official, September 13, 2005.
542 IDB, Education Reform Program: Second Stage.
received World Bank support through a Social Sector Programmatic Development Policy Credit that includes approximately USD 3.75 million in funding for education.\textsuperscript{543}

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 17.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2000. Approximately 19.3 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 15.7 percent of girls in the same age group. Children occasionally assist their families with farm work and various jobs, and some beg on the streets, especially in larger cities. A UNICEF survey published in 2002 found that less than 1 percent of children between ages 5 and 14 participated in paid work, about 6 percent of children did unpaid work for someone who was not a family member, and 15.1 percent of children worked on the family farm or in the family business. Such surveys may not capture children working in the worst forms of child labor. A significant number of children, especially Roma, live or work on the streets, often being compelled or forced to do harmful and exploitative work. The majority of these children are under 14; most of the children do not attend schools.

The prostitution and trafficking of girls to, from, and within the country continues to be a problem. The country was a destination and transit point for girls and some teenage boys trafficked for sexual exploitation. It was also a country of origin, though to a lesser

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544 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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, please see the section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources.”

545 Romani children in particular rely on begging for subsistence. The Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, estimated to be between 40,000 and 80,000, are an ethnic minority who face discrimination and lack access to social support. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Washington, D.C., February 28, 2005; available from http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41673.htm.


 Trafficked women and children most commonly come from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Romania and, increasingly, Serbia and Montenegro. They are often transit en route to Slovenia, Croatia, and Western Europe. Many are trafficked throughout the former Yugoslav republics and back again in a seasonal pattern.

Education is free and compulsory until age 15. The right to education is guaranteed by the constitutions of the country’s two political entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). Each entity established compulsory education requirements in its own specific laws. Gross and net enrollment statistics are not available for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2000, 76.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. Access to education remains especially limited for Roma children who frequently face hostile learning environments due to verbal harassment from other students, language barriers, segregated classrooms, and the inability to pay for the costs associated with schooling. Though international efforts have been made to remove discriminatory material from textbooks, abolish school segregation, and enact other reforms, these efforts often are obstructed by government officials and nationalist politics.

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549 Ibid., Section 5.
553 The 1995 Dayton Accords (formally known as the General Framework Agreement for Peace [GFAP]) established two distinct entities within Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH): the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). See U.S. Department of State, Background Note: Bosnia and Herzegovina, [online] August 2005 [cited September 28, 2005]; available from http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm.
554 Article 2(3)(l) of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina establishes the right to education for all persons, but compulsory education laws and curricula are established separately by each entity. The GFAP Annex 4 Article III lists the responsibilities of the institutions of BiH and the entities. GFAP Annex 4 Article III 3(a) states that “all government functions and powers not expressly assigned in this Constitution to the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be those of the Entity.” Consequently, the entities, not the state-level government, are responsible for such matters as education, health, and intra-entity law enforcement. In the FBiH, each of the 10 cantons also is responsible for health and education. See Ibid. See also The General Framework Agreement: Annex 4: Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, (December 14, 1995), Article 3; available from http://www.ohr.int/dpa/default.asp?content_id=372.
555 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.
556 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
557 Ibid., Section 5.
558 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Section 5.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

In both FBiH and RS, the Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, and minors ages 15 to 18 must provide a valid health certificate in order to work. The law also prohibits minors from working jobs that could have harmful effects on their health, life or psycho-physical development. Night work by minors is banned, although temporary exemptions may be granted by the labor inspectorate in cases of machine breakdowns, force majeure, and threats to the country’s two political entities. In FBiH, an employer found in violation of the above prohibitions must pay a fine ranging from 2,000 to 14,000 convertible marks (USD 1,224 to 8,568). In the RS, fines range from 1,000 to 15,000 convertible marks (USD 612 to 9,178). The minimum age for compulsory military service in FBiH is 18; it is 16 years of age in times of war. In RS, the minimum age for compulsory military service is 18. For voluntary military service in both entities, 17 is the minimum age.

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the government has been working to combat child trafficking. Neither FBiH nor RS has developed a list of the worst forms of child labor, but both entities follow the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the relevant labor laws in each sub-entity. The government does not keep statistics on child labor violations, nor are there separate child labor inspectors. Rather, violations of child labor laws are investigated as part of a general labor inspection. According to both entities’ labor inspectorates, no significant violations of child labor laws have been found in the workplace; however, they did not conduct any reviews of children working on family farms.

The Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina criminalizes trafficking in persons. The State Prosecutor’s Office has sole jurisdiction over all trafficking cases and has the authority to decide which cases to prosecute at the state level or to send to the entity

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560 The Labour Law (FBiH), Articles 15, 32, and 51. Articles 15, 32 and 51. See also The Labor Law (RS), Articles 14, 41, and 69.
561 The Labour Law (FBiH), Articles 15, 51. See also The Labor Law (RS), Article 69.
562 The Labor Law of the BiH Federation refers to protections of the interests of the Federation, while the Labor Law of the RS refers to protection of the interests of the Republic. See The Labour Law (FBiH), Article 36., Article 36. See also The Labor Law (RS), Article 46.
563 As of June 20, 1 USD = 1.62 convertible marks (BAM). See The Labour Law (FBiH), Article 140, as revised by FBiH Law on Amendments to the Labor Law., Article 49. For currency conversions, see http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi.
564 The Labor Law (RS), Article 150.
567 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Section 6d., Section 6d.
Under the Criminal Codes of the two entities and the Brcko District, procuring a juvenile or seeking opportunity for illicit sexual relations with a juvenile is specifically prohibited. In FBiH, persons caught recruiting or luring juvenile females into prostitution face imprisonment of between 1 and 10 years, while having sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 14 is punishable by imprisonment of between 6 months and 5 years. In the RS, the punishment for persons convicted of rape or having sexual intercourse with a child is 1 to 15 years of imprisonment. Under the RS Criminal Code, imprisonment of 1 to 12 years is authorized for individuals who, for profit, compel or lure persons under the age of 21 into offering sexual services, including by threat or use of force or by abusing the situation originating from the persons’ stay in another country.

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued steady application of its anti-trafficking statute in 2004, the most recent date for which such information is available. Of 47 cases investigated and submitted to prosecutors, the courts handed down a total of 18 verdicts, 12 of which resulted in convictions. The length of sentences imposed by the courts improved somewhat, but many continued to be one year or less. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, corruption among government officials has made it difficult to combat trafficking.

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

Recent state-level efforts have been made to address education and child rights, including the 2003 Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education, and the Action Plan for Children 2002-2010. Additionally, the government’s 13 Ministries of Education developed an Action Plan in 2004 to address the participation of Romani children in education, though the plan has yet to be implemented. In July 2005, the government addressed the inclusion of Roma in Bosnian society by adopting a National Roma Strategy. One component of the strategy is to prevent child begging and to enhance school enrollment.

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568 Ibid., Section 5.
570 Criminal Code (FBiH). Articles 224, 229.
572 Ibid., Article 188.
574 Ibid.
575 Ibid.
578 Ibid., Section 2.
However, there are concerns about implementation constraints caused by a lack of financial resources, lack of political will, political divisions and the fragmentation of government policies. Implementation of the Action Plan for Children, for example, suffers from technical and authority constraints. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended the government undertake a national survey of the number of children who work and who live in the streets in order to design policies to prevent their exploitation. It also recommended that street children be provided with adequate nutrition and housing, as well as opportunities in health care and education, including vocational and life-skills training.

A regional program also has been under way since February 2003 to combat worst forms of child labor in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other nearby countries. Titled “Combating Child Labor in the Stability Pact Countries,” the ILO-IPEC program is scheduled for completion in January 2007.

The National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator has a mandate to coordinate victim protection efforts among NGOs, police, and government institutions, as well as law enforcement initiatives. The government is collaborating with IOM and UNICEF to implement anti-trafficking assistance and prevention programs within the country. The IOM, in cooperation with government authorities, the United Nations and NGOs, is operating a project to protect and assist trafficking victims by providing them with transportation, housing, and financial assistance. The project targets women and girls working in the commercial sex industry. The IOM also trains government officials in counter-trafficking methods, law enforcement, and the proper treatment of victims. In July 2005, the Bosnian government, along with local NGOs, adopted a referral system that links trafficking victims with available shelter services and legal assistance. In its project on protection from extreme forms of violence, UNICEF is working with various international, private-sector and government bodies to protect children at risk of being trafficked or who are trafficking victims. The government in 2005 also provided funding for six NGO-operated shelters throughout FBiH. However, the government did not implement a systematic screening system, allowing some subjects of trafficking to be

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580 Ibid., Section 11.
581 Ibid., Section 66.
582 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.
583 Ibid.
584 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Section 5.
588 Sarajevo, reporting, August 2005, Section 3.
denied proper protections and become subject to potential deportation. Deportation orders were rarely enforced in practice. 590

The government is attempting to raise public awareness about trafficking. Working with NGOs and international organizations, the government aired public service announcements, sponsored talk shows on trafficking, and conducted educational campaigns targeting potential victims and school children. 591

In January 2005, the State Border Service provided a 24-hour hotline for anonymous members of the public to report crime and unprofessional behavior by border agents. 592

There were no social programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent the engagement of children in exploitative child labor. 593 The Action Plan for Children addresses discrimination in education against Roma children, but there is still concern about school drop-out rates, inadequate teaching staff and facility space. 594

590 Ibid.
591 Ibid.
592 Ibid.
593 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Section 6d.
Botswana

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Botswana are unavailable.\(^ {595} \) In remote areas, young children work as cattle tenders, domestic workers, and childcare providers.\(^ {596} \) Many are also employed in agriculture, predominately subsistence farming, and family businesses.\(^ {597} \) Some children in urban areas who are orphaned by HIV/AIDS are exploited in prostitution.\(^ {598} \) In the past year, children were reportedly trafficked to work as maids or cattle herders.\(^ {599} \) According to NGOs, Botswana is both a country of origin and a country of transit for children trafficked into South Africa for exploitative child labor.\(^ {600} \)

Primary education is free for the first 10 years of schooling, but is not compulsory.\(^ {601} \) In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 103 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 81 percent.\(^ {602} \) Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of

\(^ {595} \) 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.


\(^ {598} \) U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Botswana*, Section 5. According to Botswana’s 2001 Population and Housing Census, there are 111,828 children in Botswana who had lost one or both of their parents. See U.S. Embassy- Gaborone official, email communication to USDOL official, May 26, 2005.


students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Botswana. As of 2001, 86 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. In Botswana’s education system, girls and boys have equal access to education. Girls, however, are likely to drop out of secondary school due to pregnancy.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Employment Act sets the minimum age for basic employment at 14 years, and for hazardous work, at 18 years. Under the law, children who have attained the age of 14 years and are not attending school may be employed in light work not harmful to their health and development by family members or as approved by the Commissioner of Labor. Children and young persons may not be employed in underground work, night work, or in any work that is harmful to their health and development. Without the express permission of the Commissioner of Labor, children may not work more than 3 consecutive hours and young persons more than 4 in industrial undertakings. Children and young persons are also prohibited from working on rest days and public holidays. The Employment Act prohibits forced labor, although it does not specifically mention children. Child prostitution and pornography are criminal offenses and “defilement” of persons less than 16 years of age is punishable by a 10-year minimum prison sentence. The law specifically protects adopted children from being exploited for labor and orphans from being coerced in prostitution. Military service is on a voluntary basis and recruits who appear to be under the age of 18 may not be enlisted.

The Department of Labor is tasked with investigating workplaces that are suspected of violating child labor laws. The Employment Act authorizes the Commissioner of
Labor to terminate the unlawful employment of children. The child welfare divisions of the district and municipal councils are also responsible for enforcing child labor laws. The maximum penalty for illegally employing a child is imprisonment for up to 12 months, a fine of 1500 Pula (USD 274), or a combination of the two.

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

The Government of Botswana is working with ILO-IPEC to implement a USDOL-funded, regional child labor project in Southern Africa. Activities in Botswana include research on the nature and incidence of exploitative child labor and efforts to build the capacity of the government to address child labor issues. The American Institutes for Research, with the support of the Government of Botswana, is implementing another regional, USDOL-funded project. This USD 9 million project aims to improve quality of and access to basic and vocational education for children working or at-risk of working in the worst forms of child labor.

The government is working with NGOs, IOs, community-based organizations, and the private sector on a National Orphan Program to provide social services for orphaned children. Specific activities under this program include developing a national database of orphaned children, identifying needs of foster children and parents, training community volunteers, providing HIV/AIDS counseling, and developing child protection priorities. A major goal of the National Orphan Program is to develop a National Orphan Policy based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The government is implementing a National Action Plan for Education which aims to address issues of access, quality, and equity in Botswana’s educational system. The government collaborates with UNICEF on efforts to improve schools, strengthen services for orphans and vulnerable children, and increase awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF also implements a girls’ education program in Botswana.

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616 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Botswana, Section 6d.
aimed at improving the primary school curriculum, supporting the development of early childhood education policy and pregnancy prevention policies and programs, and improving the learning environment at boarding schools in remote areas.623


Brazil

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 5.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Brazil in 2003. Approximately 7.1 percent of all boys 5-14 were working compared to 3.4 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (59.8 percent), followed by services (30.9 percent), manufacturing (7.3 percent) and other sectors (2.1 percent).\(^{624}\) Child labor is more prevalent in northeastern Brazil than in any other region, and it is more common in rural areas than in urban areas.\(^{625}\) Children work in approximately 100 urban and rural activities,\(^{626}\) including mining, fishing, producing charcoal, and harvesting sugar cane, and other crops. In urban areas, common activities for working children include shining shoes, street peddling, begging, and working in restaurants, construction, and transportation.\(^{627}\) The ILO has estimated that between 400,000 and 500,000 minors are employed as domestic servants in Brazil. This corresponds to more than 8 percent of all working children. It is estimated that roughly a third of domestics begin to work before the age of 12, and over half work more than 40 hours per week. Many children and adolescents are employed as domestic servants in third-party homes,\(^{628}\) and others work as trash pickers,\(^{629}\) drug traffickers,\(^{630}\) and prostitutes.\(^{631}\) Child labor is one of many

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<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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624 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


627 Ibid., section 6d.


629 Ibid., 65.


problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 8.2 percent of the population in Brazil were living on less than USD 1 a day.632

Women and girls are trafficked internally and externally for the purpose of sexual exploitation.633 Common external destinations are neighboring countries within South America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East, Japan and Europe.634

Basic education is free and compulsory for children through the age of 15.635 The Ministry of Education, in conjunction with state and municipal governments, is expanding the scope of basic education to include one year of kindergarten.636 For adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 who did not attend or complete primary school, basic education is also free, but not compulsory.637 In 2001, the most recent year for which this information is available, 11.9 percent of working children ages 5 to 15 years were not attending school.638 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 147 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 97 percent.639 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. In 2003, 93.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were attending school.640 The primary school completion rate in 2003 was 112 percent.641 However, child labor contributes to the widespread “age-to-grade” distortion of children in the Brazilian education system.642

634 Ibid.
635 Resolução CNE/CEB N° 1, De 5 De Julho De 2000 Estabelece as Diretrizes Curriculares Nacionais para a Educação e Jovens e Adultos., (July 5), Article 7.
639 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/Viewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
640 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
641 The Primary completion rate is the number of students that complete the last year of (or graduate from) primary school in a given year, divided by the number of children of official graduation age in the population. The World Bank Group, Brazil Data Profile, [online] April, 2005 [cited June 27, 2005]; available from http://devdata.worldbank.org/external/CPPProfile.asp?SelectedCountry=BRA&CCODE=BRA&CNAME=Brazil&PCTYPE=CP.
642 This distortion refers to the large number of children in the country who are enrolled and/or attending school at a grade level below that which is considered appropriate for their age group.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for general employment in Brazil is 16 years and the minimum age for apprenticeships is 14 years. The 1990 Statute on Children and Adolescents prohibits employees under the age of 18 from working in unhealthy, dangerous, and arduous conditions; for long hours that impede school attendance; at night; or in settings where their physical, moral, or social well-being is adversely affected. Adult prostitution is legal in Brazil, but the Penal Code provides for imprisonment and fines to anyone caught prostituting another individual or running a prostitution establishment, punishable by prison terms of 2 to 10 years when adolescents less than 18 years of age are involved. The Penal Code also provides for fines and prison terms of 3 to 10 years to anyone caught trafficking women or children internally or across national borders for the purposes of prostitution. Penalties are increased when adolescents less than 18 years of age are involved. The Penal Code does not address forced labor directly but proscribes imprisonment from two to eight years and a fine for subjecting a person to slave-like conditions and transporting workers by force from one locale to another within the national territory. Punishment is increased by half if the crime is committed against a child or adolescent. The minimum age for conscription into the military service is 18 years, or 17 years on a voluntary basis. Since 1999, the Government of Brazil has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor and Employment (MLE) is responsible for inspecting work sites for child labor violations. Inspections increasingly target informal employment, in part due to the declining number of children working in the formal sector. Employers who violate Brazil’s child labor laws are subject to monetary fines, but fines are rarely applied because inspectors typically negotiate agreements to have employers desist from labor law violations before levying fines. The MLE’s Special Groups to Combat Child

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643 U.S. Consulate - Sao Paulo, reporting, September 18, 2000. Minors who work as apprentices are required to attend school through the primary grades and to provide proof of parental permission to work. U.S. Department of State, Country Reports 2004, Section 6d.
646 Decreto-Lei, 2,848, (December 7), Articles 228-9; available from https://www.presidencia.gov.br/ccivil_03/Decreto-Lei/Del2848.htm.
648 Penal Code, Articles 149 and 207.
650 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
651 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports 2004, Section 6d.
652 ILO-IPEC, Análise e recomendações, 30.
653 U.S. Consulate- Sao Paulo, reporting, October 23, 2002.
Labor and Protect the Adolescent Worker organize child labor inspection efforts, conduct awareness-raising activities, and cooperate closely with other agencies involved in protecting children’s rights. Most inspections result from complaints made to labor inspectors by workers, NGOs, teachers, the media, and other sources. Data from the Special Groups reports is used by the MLE’s Secretariat of Labor to update a map of child labor, which is used for planning future child labor eradication programs.

Labor inspectors from the MLE often work closely with prosecutors from the Federal Labor Prosecutor’s Office (Ministério Público do Trabalho—MPT). MPT prosecutors may investigate cases of child labor, bring charges against violators, and levy fines. In many municipalities, labor inspectors and prosecutors are aided by a network of legally-mandated Guardianship Councils that serve as reference centers for at-risk children and adolescents. The Statute on Children and Adolescents requires all municipalities to establish at least one Guardianship Council (Conselho Tutelar) to refer vulnerable children to the appropriate service providers. Although the Statute has been in effect since 1990, only 3,477 of Brazil’s 5,578 municipalities had established such councils by 2003. The lack of greater compliance with the law has been blamed on a lack of resources and political will at the local level.

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

Brazil’s National Commission to Eradicate Child Labor (CONAETI) developed the 2004-2007 National Plan to Eradicate Child Labor and proposed a series of legal reforms to help bring national laws into full compliance with the conventions.

655 Ministry of Labor and Employment, Trabalho Infantil no Brasil.
The Government of Brazil implements a number of innovative programs to prevent and eradicate child labor. The principal program to remove children from working in the most hazardous forms of child labor is the Program to Eradicate Child Labor (Programa de Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil—PETI), which is administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Combating Hunger (Ministério de Desenvolvimento Social—MDS), in conjunction with state and local authorities. Through PETI, families with children working in select hazardous activities (as identified by the Ministry of Labor and Employment) receive stipends to remove their children from work and maintain them in school. In addition, PETI offers an after school program to prevent children from working during non-school hours, which provides tutoring, nutritional snacks, sports, art and cultural activities. As of June 2005, PETI provided services to over 930,000 children. The program has estimated it will reach more than 1 million children and adolescents by the end of 2005.

While PETI focuses on removing children from hazardous work, the Family Stipend (Bolsa Família) program aims to prevent child labor by supplementing family income and encouraging at-risk children and adolescents to regularly attend school. The program provides a monthly monetary stipend ranging from 15 to 95 Brazilian Reals (USD 6 to 40) to impoverished families, who agree to keep their children in school and meet other requirements related to health and nutrition. More than one million families were assisted by the program in November 2003.

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662 Children between the ages of 7 and 15 years are eligible to participate. Families receive 40 Brazilian reals (USD 14) per month in urban areas and 25 Brazilian reals (USD 9) in rural areas for every participating child. In addition, families of PETI beneficiaries are required to participate in income generating activities as provided by the local government. See Ministry of Social Development and Combating Hunger, Programa de Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil - PETI.


The National Plan to Fight Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents provides the policy framework for the government’s programs to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.669 These efforts are carried out by a number of government agencies, including the National Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH), and include initiatives to assist victims and raise awareness.670 The primary program to assist child victims of commercial sexual exploitation is the Sentinel Program, which establishes local reference centers to provide victims with psychological, social, and legal services, and raises awareness through informational campaigns, workshops and partnerships.671 A program in collaboration with the Government of Portugal focuses on improving investigation and prosecution methods to combat trafficking in persons and the training of law enforcement officials and includes pilot programs in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Goiás, and Ceará.672 The SEDH also implements a telephone hotline in every state for reporting sexual violence against children and adolescents, and the Ministry of Tourism has developed a Code of Conduct to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the tourism industry.673 The Federal Police is addressing trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation with their counterparts in Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Canada and Portugal.674

The Government of Brazil, in coordination with ILO-IPEC, is implementing a Timebound Program to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in domestic service, prostitution, hazardous work in agriculture, and other informal sector activities. Another program, implemented by Partners of the Americas in coordination with the Government

669 The National Committee to Fight Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents was created to monitor the implementation of the plan. See Ibid., 18.
671 The Sentinel program is being coordinated at the federal level by the MDS. See Ministry of Social Development and Combating Hunger, Programa Enfrentamento ao Abuso e Exploração Sexual de Crianças e Adolescentes, Sentinel, [online] 2005 [cited June 23, 2005]; available from http://www.mds.gov.br/programas/programas03_01.asp. See also ILO-IPEC, Análise das Políticas e Programas Sociais no Brasil, 57.
673 Ministry of Justice Subsecretary for the Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Setor do turismo debate a exploração sexual infanto-juvenil, [online] 2005 [cited June 28, 2005]; available from http://www.mj.gov.br/sedh/ct/spdcna/noticias2_teste.asp?id=519. In addition, the Sao Paulo State Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in collaboration with the travel and hospitality industry, NGOs and the U.S. Consulate, are implementing a public information program to combat sex tourism aimed at the commercial sexual exploitation of minors. The program provides certification and a seal to participating hotels, taxi and truck drivers. See U.S. Consulate- Sao Paulo, reporting, January 24, 2005.
674 The President has declared the fight against human trafficking as a national priority. See U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
of Brazil, aims to strengthen basic education in areas of northern and northeastern Brazil with high incidence of hazardous child labor.675 In July 2005, USAID, in cooperation with the National Secretaries for Human Rights and Social Welfare, funded a program that supports the creation of new Sentinel reference centers, which will provide services to children adolescent victims of commercial sexual exploitation, in seven states.676

Other federal social assistance initiatives targeting at-risk youth include the MDS’ Youth Agent (Agente Jovem) project, which provides training in personal, social, community development, and job skills for youth between the ages of 15 and 17 years and aims to reintegrate and retain them in school.677 The Ministry of Education, through the National Education Development Fund, offers literacy and basic education programs and a “weekend school” to at-risk youth and other marginalized groups.678 The Ministry of Labor and Employment’s First Employment Program (Programa Nacional de Estímulo ao Primeiro Emprego) stimulates access to the labor market by generating work opportunities for Brazilian youth of legal working age.679

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677 The Youth Agent of Social and Human Development (Projeto Agente Jovem de Desenvolvimento Social e Humano) program is aimed particularly at those adolescents who have “graduated” out of other social programs, including PETI. See Ministry of Social Development and Combating Hunger, Projeto Agente Jovem de Desenvolvimento Social e Humano, 2005 [cited June 22, 2005]; available from http://www.mds.gov.br/programas/programas07.asp.


In addition, the Ministry of Education provides a school lunch program for young children enrolled in school that seeks to promote children’s school attendance.680 The Ministry also implements a school transportation program that facilitates school access and persistence among children in rural regions.681

In January 2004, Brazilian president Luis Inácio Lula Da Silva proposed the Child-Friendly President Action Plan 2004-2007. The plan details nearly 200 activities to benefit children, including efforts to combat child exploitation. The plan’s budget is 55.9 billion Brazilian Reals (USD 19.7 billion), but these funds must first be approved by the Brazilian Congress.682 With the support of ILO-IPEC, the Government of Brazil and the other governments of MERCOSUL683 developed the 2002–2004 regional plan to combat child labor. The plan includes an awareness raising campaign, which was officially launched in April 2004.684

The World Bank supports various programs in Brazil to improve the quality and management of education and reduce poverty, including a USD 572 million loan to assist Brazil in its implementation of the Family Stipend (Bolsa Família) program.685 In June 2003, the Bank approved a USD 60 million loan to the state of Bahia for a second phase of a program to improve access, quality and management of primary and secondary schools in the region.686 In October 2004, the Bank approved a USD 31.5 million loan to support the state of Pernambuco’s efforts to improve and modernize its education system.687

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683 MERCOSUL is the Brazilian acronym for MERCOSUR (Mercado Comum del Sur, or “the common market of the south”).
Bulgaria

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Bulgaria are unavailable. Most working children are employed at home, in family-owned shops, and on family farms, some engaging in heavy or dangerous labor. Children also work in restaurants, shops, hotels, agriculture, forestry, transportation, communications, construction, periodical sales, and industry, particularly in small-scale textiles. The majority of paid child labor occurs in the commercial and services sector. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 4.7 percent of the population of Bulgaria were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Children are involved in prostitution and drug trafficking in Bulgaria, sometimes working with organized crime rings. Trafficking in children is a problem, with Bulgaria serving primarily as a transit country, including for girls trafficked for prostitution and sexual exploitation. Bulgarian women and children are trafficked from Central Asia Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine into Western, Southern and Eastern Europe. To a lesser extent, Bulgaria serves as a country of origin for trafficking victims, and there are cases of internal trafficking. The majority of trafficked children come from the

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<td>Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking) U</td>
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688 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


690 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bulgaria, Section 6d. See also ILO-IPEC, Problems of Child Labor, 31, 32.

691 ILO-IPEC, Problems of Child Labor.


694 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.

poorest families, many within the ethnic minority Roma community.697 Most young girls who are trafficked are lured by “get rich quick” promises at the ages of 14 and 15 when they cannot afford to continue their schooling beyond the required, basic education.698 However, no official statistics on trafficking of children are available.699

Under its Constitution and the National Education Act of 1991, education is free and compulsory up to the age of 16.700 Bulgaria traditionally places high value on education and literacy, contributing to its relatively competitive educational system.701 Children typically start school at the age of 6 or 7,702 and gender inequality in education is generally not a problem.703 Rural and Roma children tend to have low attendance and high dropout rates.704 Roma children also attend segregated schools offering inferior education.705

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 100 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 90 percent.706 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 Bulgaria.707

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702 National Education Act, Article 7, para. 2.
703 UNDP, Millennium Development Goals Report, 19.
704 Ibid. See also ILO-IPEC, Problems of Child Labor, 31, 32.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution protects employees from discrimination, forced labor, and hazardous working conditions. The Government of Bulgaria is generally committed to children’s welfare, but is seriously constrained by budgetary limitations.

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, but children ages 13 to 16 years may engage in light work and perform certain jobs with government approval. Children younger than 16 years must undergo a medical examination to receive government approval. Children under 18 are permitted to work only reduced hours and are prohibited from hazardous, overtime, and night work. Amendments to the Criminal Code in 2004 stipulate 6 months of imprisonment and a fine of 500 Leva (USD 335) for illegally employing children under 18 years, and 1 year imprisonment and a fine of 1000 Leva (USD 670) for illegally employing children under 16 years. The Family Code establishes legal protections for children working in family businesses, including situations when a parent “jeopardizes the personality, upbringing, health or property of the child.” The Child Protection Act prohibits the involvement of children in activities that might harm their development. It was amended in 2003 to strengthen protections for adopted children or children deprived of the care of their families pursuant to Article 20 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. An Ordinance for the Elimination of Child Labor that provides annual allowances for children and students was approved in August 2004. Since 1999, the Government of Bulgaria has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182

708 Constitution of Bulgaria, Articles 6, 48.
709 Ibid.
711 Ibid., Articles 301, 302.
712 Ibid., Article 302.
713 No overtime work; night work only between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; length of work week not to exceed 40 hours for employees under the age of 18. See Ibid., Articles 113, 137, 140, 147, 304, 305.
714 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bulgaria, Section 6d.
or Convention 138.719 The minimum age for compulsory and voluntary military service is 18.720

There is a trafficking provision in the Bulgarian Criminal Code and witness protection legislation that covers victims of trafficking.721 The Bulgarian Law on Combating the Illegal Trafficking in Human Beings covers children and mandates the creation of a national commission to coordinate and construct policy on trafficking.722 The Anti-trafficking Commission held its first meeting in December 2004.723 The penalty for trafficking a minor is 2 to 10 years of imprisonment and up to 10,000 Leva (USD 6670).724 However, the law contains gaps in regard to the victim’s well-being and overall situation. These gaps are impossible to assess given the lack of reliable information on the trafficking of women and children.725 There is also a substantial lack of space in shelters established for temporary housing of victims.726

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy’s (MLSP) Chief Labor Inspectorate enforces all labor laws, including those concerning child labor.727 According to the US Department of State, child labor laws are generally well-enforced in the formal sector.728 However, official corruption hampers enforcement of anti-trafficking efforts.729

719 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005. A copy of the Government of Bulgaria's list of hazardous work prohibited to minors was requested from the government, but no response was received. See U.S. Department of Labor, "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor," Federal Register 70, no. 141, 43014 (July 25, 2005); available from http://frwebgate4.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=98311525998+10+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve.
721 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
722 Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, (January 1, 2004), Articles 1(a) and 2(a); available from http://www.legislationline.org/data/Trafficking/DOMESTIC_LEGISLATION/bulgaria/Bulgaria_trafficking_law_english.doc.
724 Ibid.
725 Hamburg Institute of International Economics, EU-Enlargement, Migration and Trafficking in Women, 5-6. 23. 86.
726 Ibid., 86, 97.
728 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bulgaria, Section 6d. From October 2002 to August 2004, there was a 62 percent increase in the number of inspectors (from 271 to 440 inspectors); In 2004, five regional labor inspectorates identified child labor as a priority. U.S. Embassy- Sofia, unclassified telegram no. 1616, August 24, 2004. See also U.S. Embassy- Sofia, unclassified telegram no. 2498, October 25, 2002.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor


Bulgaria is a member of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and has participated in regional anti-trafficking efforts through SECI’s Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime, an organization that promotes cooperation among law enforcement authorities. In cooperation with the government, the IOM supports six counter-trafficking projects in Bulgaria, including regional efforts to provide mental health assistance to victims of trafficking. In May 2005, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, of which Bulgaria is a member, adopted a European Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings that focuses on a cooperative framework for the protection and assistance of trafficked persons.

The government and various NGOs conduct awareness programs and crisis centers for trafficked victims. With participation from the government, USAID supports a Rule of

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730 U.S. Embassy- Sofia, unclassified telegram no. 2498.
731 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Bulgaria, Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Sofia, unclassified telegram no. 1616.
733 Hamburg Institute of International Economics, EU-Enlargement, Migration and Trafficking in Women, 138.
735 Ibid.
736 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 73.
738 IOM, Online Project Compendium: Bulgaria, [online] [cited June 1, 2005]; available from http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Project/ServletSearchProject.. See also IOM, IOM Counter Trafficking Strategy for the Balkans and Neighboring Countries, January 2001, 4-6; available from http://www.iom.int/en/PDF_Files/other/Balkan_strategy.pdf.
Law program to advance judicial reform, anti-corruption, and anti-trafficking efforts.\textsuperscript{741} IPEC works with the government on a national and regional program that targets the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{742} The World Bank Group funds a Child Welfare Reform Project that targets child abandonment and monitors sub-projects for street children.\textsuperscript{743}

To increase the attendance of ethnic minorities in public schools, the government and NGOs provide subsidies for school expenses (e.g., school lunches, textbooks, tuition fees, and teaching assistants) and implement busing programs.\textsuperscript{744} In June 2004, the Ministry of Education and Science announced a Strategy for the Education and Integration of Children and Pupils from Ethnic Minorities for the 2004 – 2009 period.\textsuperscript{745} In February 2005, Bulgaria along with eight other eastern European countries, the World Bank, and Open Society Institute launched the Decade of Roma Inclusion Program (2005-2015) for improving the economic status and social inclusion of Roma.\textsuperscript{746} Moreover, among its Millennium Development Goals, Bulgaria has pledged to achieve universal primary education and to eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education by 2015.\textsuperscript{747}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{744} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Bulgaria}, Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{745} The program concludes in 2009. Save the Children UK, \textit{NGO Alternative Report}, 13, 14.
\end{itemize}
Burkina Faso

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 66.3 percent of children ages 10 to 14 were counted as working in Burkina Faso in 1998. Approximately 65.3 percent of all boys 10 to 14 were working compared to 67.5 percent of girls in the same age group. Most working children are found in agriculture, gold washing and mining, and informal sector activities. Many girls are found working as vendors and in domestic service, and some children are reported to work as domestic servants for no pay. Children also work in small, family-owned businesses, and as apprentices. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 44.9 percent of the population in Burkina Faso were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Burkina Faso is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked children. Studies indicate that a significant proportion of trafficking activity is internal. Children are trafficked to work in domestic service, street vending, and agriculture, and to be exploited in prostitution. Boys are trafficked within Burkina Faso for agricultural labor, domestic service, metal working, wood working, and mining. Trafficked children are often subject to violence, sexual abuse, and forced prostitution, and lack access to

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


food, shelter, education, and medical care. Burkina Faso also receives children trafficked from Benin, Mali, and Togo, and the country serves as transit point for children trafficked from Mali to Côte d’Ivoire. Children from Burkina Faso are trafficked into Côte d’Ivoire to work on cocoa plantations and also to Benin, Ghana, Mali, and Nigeria. However, the number of Burkinabe children trafficked into Côte d’Ivoire has reportedly declined since the closing of the border between the two countries following the September 2002 rebellion in Côte d’Ivoire, with many children going instead to Benin or to Mali to work on rice plantations or study in Islamic schools.

The Education Act makes schooling compulsory from age 6 to 16. By law, education is also free, but the government does not have adequate resources to provide universal free primary education. Children are required to pay for school supplies, and communities are frequently responsible for constructing primary school buildings and teachers’ housing. Children from poor families can continue to receive tuition-free education through junior high and high school, if their grades qualify. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 46 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 36 percent. 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. In 1998, 26.5 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 66 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

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

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years of age and prohibits children under 18 from working at night.\textsuperscript{764} The Labor Code also outlines and prohibits the worst forms of child labor for children under 18. Its definition of the worst forms of child labor follows ILO Convention No. 182. A decree adopted under Article 147 of the Labor Code lists the types of businesses in which children under 18 years of age may not work.\textsuperscript{765} Under the Labor Code, children and adolescents under 20 years may not undertake work that threatens their reproductive capability.\textsuperscript{766} Slavery and slavery-like practices; inhumane and cruel treatment; and physical or emotional abuse of children are forbidden by the Constitution.\textsuperscript{767} The Labor Code also prohibits forced and compulsory labor.\textsuperscript{768} The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the military is 20 years.\textsuperscript{769} Since 1999, the Government of Burkina Faso has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{770}

Child trafficking for economic or sexual exploitation; illegal adoption; early or forced marriage; or any other purpose that is harmful to a child’s health, well-being, or physical or mental development, is proscribed by law. Anyone who engages in child trafficking, or who is aware of a child trafficking case and does not report it, is subject to 1 to 5 years of imprisonment and a fine of 300,000 CFA francs to 1,500,000 CFA francs (USD 553.57 to USD 2,767.86). The penalty is increased to 5 to 10 years of imprisonment if the child is under 15 years, or if the act was committed using fraud or violence. The perpetrator is subject to a life sentence if the victim dies or is permanently disabled, or if the purpose of the trafficking was for the removal of organs.\textsuperscript{771} However, reports indicate that the law has not been applied. In 2004, 41 child traffickers were arrested, of which 16

\begin{footnotesize}


\textsuperscript{766} \textit{Code du Travail}, Article 145.

\textsuperscript{767} Ibid., Article 148.

\textsuperscript{768} However, certain types of work, such as military service and prison labor, are not included in this prohibition. See Ibid., Articles 5, 6.


\textsuperscript{770} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

\end{footnotesize}
were convicted.\textsuperscript{772} Also, kidnapping and violence toward children is prohibited by the Penal Code.\textsuperscript{773} The Penal Code forbids direct and indirect involvement in the prostitution of persons, and explicitly prohibits the prostitution of persons less than 18 years of age. Violations are punishable by 2 to 5 years of imprisonment and a fine of 2,000,000 CFA francs to 25,000,000 CFA francs (USD 3,690.49 to USD 46,131.10).\textsuperscript{774} Contributing to the corruption or debauchery of a minor is also illegal and is subject to the same penalties.\textsuperscript{775} Penalties specified for these crimes apply regardless of the country in which the offenses are committed.\textsuperscript{776}

The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor’s Directorate of Labor Health and Security, Child Labor, and Trafficking Division are responsible for enforcing child labor laws, but, according to the U.S. Department of State, they lack the means to do so adequately. Violations of minimum age and forced labor laws are subject to fines of 50,000 CFA francs to 300,000 CFA francs (USD 92.26 to USD 553.57) and imprisonment of 1 month to 3 years, and violations of laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor are governed by the penalties set forth by the child trafficking legislation.\textsuperscript{777} The national police, gendarmes, customs service, and labor inspectors share responsibility for investigating child labor violations.\textsuperscript{778} In late 2004, a law was passed to establish juvenile courts to address child rights issues.\textsuperscript{779} Due to resource constraints, the government provides minimal support to Burkinabe trafficking victims, and deports foreign victims.\textsuperscript{780}

\section*{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

\textsuperscript{772} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\textsuperscript{774} Indirect or direct involvement is meant to describe the action of a person who does any of the following: “knowingly aids, assists, or protects the prostitution of others or the solicitation for the purposes of prostitution; shares, in any manner whatsoever, in the profits, or receives subsidies from [the prostitution of others]; knowingly lives with a person regularly engaged in prostitution; engages, entices, or supports a person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or debauchery, or delivers a person into prostitution or debauchery; or serves as an intermediary . . . between persons engaging in prostitution or debauchery and individuals who exploit or remunerate the prostitution or debauchery of others.” See Government of Burkina Faso, \textit{Penal Code, Section IV-Offenses against Public Morals}, (April 13, 1946), Articles 334, 334-1; available from http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/BURKINAFASO.pdf. For currency conversion, see FX Converter.
\textsuperscript{775} Article 334-1 of the Burkina Faso Penal Code makes illegal the \textit{regular} contribution to the corruption of a juvenile under age 21 and the \textit{occasional} contribution to the corruption of a juvenile under age 16. See Government of Burkina Faso Penal Code.
\textsuperscript{776} Ibid., Articles 334 and 334-1.
\textsuperscript{777} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Burkina Faso}, Sections 5, 6d. See also \textit{Code du Travail}, Articles 388, 390. For currency conversions, see FX Converter.
\textsuperscript{779} In November 2004, two courts were set up, and more are envisioned. See Save the Children-Canada, \textit{Training and Education Against Trafficking (TREAT)}, March 2005 TPR, technical progress report, Toronto, March 11, 2005, 3.
\textsuperscript{780} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}. 
The Government of Burkina Faso participates in a regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative labor in West and Central Africa. The government also takes part in a USD 3 million USDOL-funded education initiative to promote education for victims of child trafficking and children at risk of being trafficked, and a USD 3 million regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat child labor in small-scale gold mining. The U.S. Department of State is funding an ILO-IPEC project in Burkina Faso to provide socioeconomic rehabilitation to 70 trafficked children. The Government of Burkina Faso is also participating in an ILO-IPEC project funded by France to combat child labor in Francophone Africa, as well as one funded by Denmark to combat trafficking in children for labor exploitation in Benin, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. In addition, the government is collaborating with ILO-IPEC to conduct a survey of child labor in the country.

The government works to raise awareness among children and parents about the dangers of child trafficking. With funding from UNICEF, the government produced a TV and radio series on child labor and child trafficking. There is one reintegration center in the capital for at risk children, and the government has collaborated with UNICEF to establish 19 transit centers throughout the country for trafficked children. The government also cooperates with NGOs and international organizations to reintegrate child trafficking victims. The government supports Vigilance and Surveillance Committees throughout the country and has trained them on how to identify and assist trafficking victims. As a result of the bilateral agreement Burkina Faso signed with Mali in 2004 to combat cross-border child trafficking, 20 trafficked children were repatriated. In July 2005, Burkina Faso was one of 9 countries to sign a multilateral cooperative agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa.

784 The countries participating in this project include Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.
785 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.
789 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
790 The Committees have been established in 39 of the country’s 45 provinces. See Ibid.
The Government of Burkina Faso is implementing a 10-Year Basic Education Development Plan (2001-2010) as part of its Poverty Reduction Strategy supported by the World Bank. The plan focuses on improving primary school enrollment and attendance as well as literacy rates. The World Bank is supporting the plan through a project that focuses on improving access to and quality of basic education, and improving management and capacity within the Ministry of Education. The government is also working in partnership with the Millennium Challenge Corporation to improve girls' primary education completion rates in the 10 provinces with the lowest completion rates. At a regional conference in Ethiopia in September 2005, the government pledged to place a high priority on education in rural areas when working to meet their poverty eradication targets.

UNICEF also works with the government to construct satellite schools in an effort to improve access to basic education. The government promotes primary education for girls by implementing school feeding programs and information campaigns to change attitudes about sending girls to school. It also encourages scholarships from donors. In addition, the Government of Burkina Faso is utilizing USD 12.1 million provided by the U.S. government to improve girls schooling, including building wells, latrines, and community nurseries in schools.

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795 The 2-year project will include the construction of 132 schools, including latrines, wells and canteens, as well as housing and incentives for teachers. See Millennium Challenge Corporation, Millennium Challenge Corporation Board Approves First Threshold Program, press release, Washington, DC, July 8, 2005; available from http://www.mcc.gov/public_affairs/press_releases/pr_070805.shtml. See also U.S. Embassy- Ouagadougou official, email communication to USDOL official, September 30, 2005.
799 Save the Children-Canada, TREAT, September 2005 TPR, 3.
Burundi

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 31.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Burundi in 2000. Approximately 32.3 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 30.1 percent of girls in the same age group. \(^800\) Children work in subsistence agriculture, the informal sector, domestic services, mining and brick-making industries, and family-based businesses. \(^801\) The Ministry for the Promotion of Women and for Social Action estimated that there were approximately 5,000 street children in Burundi at the end of 2004. \(^802\) Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 54.6 percent of the population in Burundi were living on less than USD 1 a day. \(^803\)

Reports indicate that underage soldiers continue to serve among the ranks of government and rebel armed forces. Reports indicate that rebel groups recruit children; the government stopped conscripting children in 2004. Some underage children reportedly join the government armed forces using falsified documents. These children engage in combat and work as spies, domestic workers, \(^804\) and porters. Girls in some armed groups are forced to provide sexual services. \(^805\) In May 2004, UNICEF estimated that approximately 3,000 child soldiers continued to serve in government or former rebel groups. \(^806\)

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\(^800\) UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


\(^804\) U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Burundi*, Sections 5 and 6d.


\(^806\) Estimates on the number of child soldiers vary by organization, and changed throughout the year, partly reflecting the results of demobilization efforts. The demobilization effort is coordinated by the Transitional Government’s National Structure for the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Prevention of
Burundi is a source and transit country for children trafficked for exploitation in forced soldiering. Street children, children from broken or displaced families, and children living in refugee camps are believed to be especially vulnerable to trafficking.\textsuperscript{807} Child soldiers from Burundi also serve as soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.\textsuperscript{808}

Primary education is now free in Burundi.\textsuperscript{809} In August of 2005, the President of Burundi announced the government’s decision to eliminate all fees for primary school.\textsuperscript{810} Over 500,000 new children enrolled in primary school for the 2005-2006 school year, prompting the government to postpone the first day of classes for Grade 1 students in areas throughout Burundi, due to shortages of classroom space.\textsuperscript{811} Schooling is compulsory until the age of 12, but this requirement is not enforced.\textsuperscript{812} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 77 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 57 percent.\textsuperscript{813} 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. In 2000, 41.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{814} As of 2001, 68 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{815} Enrollment and attendance have been adversely affected by the military conflict. In some areas, schools have been destroyed, populations displaced, teachers killed, and students traumatized. Finding qualified teachers to work in some parts of the country...
continues to be a challenge. The conflict and the rising incidence of HIV/AIDS have left many children orphaned or homeless and, as a result, less likely to attend school.

**Child Labor Law and Enforcement**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years. There is a gap between the minimum legal age that children are allowed to work and the age at which schooling is no longer compulsory, 12 years. Exceptions are made for light, non-hazardous work or apprenticeships, provided that the work is not dangerous to the health of the child and does not interfere with normal childhood development or education. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from working at night. Since 1999, the Government of Burundi has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138. The Labor Code amendment of 1993 calls for inspections of workplaces and permits medical examination to determine if a child’s work causes undue physical stress. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Ministry of Labor only enforces child labor laws when complaints are filed.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Burundi. The Penal Code prohibits prostitution. The minimum age of compulsory recruitment to armed forces is 16. Recruitment of children under 15 is considered a war crime and violators may face the death penalty. The law does not specifically prohibit trafficking; however, traffickers can be prosecuted under laws against assault, kidnapping, smuggling, rape, prostitution, slavery, and fraud.

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820 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.


823 An individual who entices or forces a person under the age of 21 into prostitution faces a fine of 10,000 to 100,000 francs (USD 9.30 to 93.04) and a prison sentence of up to 15 years. See Government of Burundi, *Offenses Against Public Morals*; available from http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/BurundiF.pdf. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Burundi).


are reportedly difficult to enforce due to instability within the country. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Government of Burundi is making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

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

As of February 2005, the National Structure for the Disarmament, Reintegration, and Prevention of Child Soldiers (SNES) had demobilized and reintegrated 2,920 child soldiers. The government worked with international organizations and NGOs to help reintegrate former child soldiers into civilian life by providing many types of material support. The government also conducted awareness-raising campaigns to facilitate former child soldiers’ reintegration into their local communities. The SNES conducted additional awareness-raising campaigns to prevent the further recruitment and use of child soldiers, with support from UNICEF, the World Bank, and NGOs. The larger Burundi Emergency Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration Program was launched in December 2004, and provides reintegration assistance to both adults and children. Burundi is one of seven countries participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC program to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict and support the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. A Juvenile Bureau of the police protects children against abuse and sexual exploitation.

In coordination with UNICEF, the Government of Burundi launched the “Back to School” campaign in late 2004 that aims to increase enrollment in primary schools. The World Bank is funding several projects that include education components.
Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 44.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Cambodia in 2001. Approximately 45 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 44.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (76.5 percent), followed by services (17.7 percent), manufacturing (4.9 percent) and other sectors (0.9 percent). Children work in hazardous conditions on commercial rubber plantations, in salt production, in fish processing, portering, brick-making, and as garbage pickers. Street children engage in scavenging, begging, and shoe polishing. Children, primarily girls, also work as domestic servants. Most of these child domestics are girls ages 14 to 17, though it is not uncommon to find them as young as 8 or 9; they typically work 12 to 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1997, the most recent year for which data are available, 34.1 percent of the population in Cambodia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Cambodia is reported to be a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking in children for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and various other forms of

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834 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources.”


work, including forced labor and begging. Cambodian children are trafficked to Thailand and Malaysia, and Vietnamese children are trafficked to Cambodia, for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. Children are also exploited in pornography. Article 68 of the Constitution guarantees the right to 9 years of free, non-compulsory education to all citizens. However, costs such as uniforms, books, fees, and teacher demands for unofficial fees make schools unaffordable for many families. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 124 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 93 percent. 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. In 2001, 69.5 percent of children ages 5-14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 61 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Education is often inaccessible to minority groups who do not speak Khmer, as classes are conducted only in that language. While girls legally have equal access to schooling, many families with limited income choose to send male children rather than females, and the distance some must travel to school is a deterrent for families who fear for the safety of female children.

841 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Cambodia, Section 5.
844 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
845 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
848 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Cambodia, Section 5.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Cambodia. The Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, although a later 1999 ministerial decree set the minimum age at 14 years. The Labor Law allows children ages 12 to 15 years to perform light work that is not hazardous and does not affect regular school attendance or participation in other training programs. Employers who violate the law may be fined 31 to 60 days of the base daily wage. Night work is generally prohibited for children. The Labor Law prohibits work that is hazardous to the mental and physical development of children under the age of 18 and prohibits all forced or compulsory labor, including in agriculture and domestic work. A Prakas (Ministerial Order) on the Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labor lists 38 types of hazardous work such as tanning, logging, chemical use in textile production, etc., in which children under age 18 are not permitted to work. The Prakas separately identifies domestic work as hazardous, states children under age 12 shall not carry out domestic work, and sets guidelines for children ages 12 to 14 undertaking domestic work. Additionally it states no one under age 18 shall work in underground mines or quarries, or work during the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. Lists of working children must be kept by employers and submitted to labor inspectors, and children who have parents or guardians must have their consent in order to work.

The Cambodian Constitution prohibits prostitution and the trafficking of human beings. The 1996 Law on the Suppression of the Kidnapping, Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings penalizes brothel owners, operators, and individuals who prostitute others with prison terms of between 10 to 20 years, depending on the age of the victim.

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850 U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, August 30, 2005.
851 Ibid., Article 177(4).
852 The base daily wage is defined by the law as “the minimum wage set by a joint Prakas [Ministerial Order] of the Ministry in charge of Labour and the Ministry of Justice.” Cambodian Labor Law, Articles 360, 368.
853 Ibid., Articles 175-176.
855 The law also prohibits hiring people to work to pay debts. Cambodian Labor Law, Articles 15-16.
856 A Prakas is a Ministerial Order. The government issues such orders, decrees, and circulars to clarify regulations that are not explicitly contained in existing relevant legislation. The Labor Advisory Committee has been tasked with defining the criteria for “light” and “hazardous” work in Cambodian legislation, but has not completed this task. See U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, August 30, 2005. See also Kingdom of Cambodia’s Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSALVY), Prakas on the Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labor, Prakas No. 106, (April 28, 2004). In July 2004, there was a governmental reorganization and MOSALVY was divided into two ministries, including the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT), which is currently responsible for enforcement of child labor issues, and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSAVY).
857 Cambodian Labor Law, Articles 179, 181.
858 The Constitution refers to “the commerce of human beings, exploitation by prostitution and obscenity which affect the reputation of women.” Constitution, Article 46.
victim.\textsuperscript{859} The Law outlaws acts of debauchery, though the legal definition of debauchery does not explicitly include pornography. However, the courts have prosecuted several cases of child pornography under this law.\textsuperscript{860} The minimum age for conscription into military service is 18 years.\textsuperscript{861}

Since 1999, the Government of Cambodia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{862}

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT) is responsible for enforcing child provisions of the Cambodian Labor Law.\textsuperscript{863} Since 2000, questions on child labor have been incorporated into routine labor inspections.\textsuperscript{864} However, the Labor Law only applies to formal employer-employee relationships, not covering many areas of informal sector work, where the most serious child labor problems exist.\textsuperscript{865} No employer has ever been prosecuted for violating child labor laws.\textsuperscript{866} Local police are responsible for enforcing laws against child trafficking and prostitution;\textsuperscript{867} however, the U.S. Department of State reports that counter-trafficking efforts are hampered by corruption, a weak judiciary system, lack of transparency, inadequate resources, and staffing shortages. Some improvement was indicated in prosecution and conviction rates in 2004.\textsuperscript{868} In September 2005, the President determined that due to Cambodia’s continued failure to meet standards established in the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act, it would be subject to restrictions on certain non-humanitarian and non-trade assistance.\textsuperscript{869}

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

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSAVY) Action Program 2004-2008 places strong emphasis on child welfare and protection. Specific issues include combating child labor and trafficking, development of national plans, and

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\textsuperscript{859} The Law also stipulates 10 to 15 years of imprisonment for traffickers and their accomplices. If the victim is under 15 years, violators face penalties of 15 to 20 years of imprisonment. *Law on the Suppression of the Kidnapping, Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings*, Royal Decree No. 0296/01, (1996), Article 3.

\textsuperscript{860} U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, August 30, 2005.


\textsuperscript{862} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14 2005.

\textsuperscript{863} U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, August 23, 2004.

\textsuperscript{864} U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, December 6, 2001.

\textsuperscript{865} U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, November 6, 2003. The Labor Law does not cover family business, begging, scavenging, hauling, day labor, the commercial sex industry, or participation in any illegal activities. See U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Cambodia*, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{866} U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, August 30, 2005.

\textsuperscript{867} U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, reporting, August 23, 2004.


improving enforcement mechanisms for violators of child labor and trafficking laws. The Government of Cambodia is undertaking a final assessment of its first 5-year plan against trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in order to finalize and implement its second 5-year plan (2005-2009). The 2005-2009 Plan would expand the scope of the initial plan to include trafficking for both sexual and labor exploitation purposes. The 2003-2005 National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) identifies combating child labor, trafficking and prostitution as a strategic objective and defines measures to address these problems.

The Government of Cambodia has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Government of Thailand on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women. The Government of Cambodia also signed a similar MOU with the Government of Vietnam in October 2005. Additionally, Cambodia is signatory to a multilateral MOU pledging cooperation on trafficking. Other signatories to this “Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT)” include Burma, Laos, Peoples Republic of China, Thailand, and Vietnam. The members held their first meeting in March 2005 to draft their Sub-regional Plan of Action.

The Government of Cambodia is participating in a USD 4.75 million USDOL-funded Timebound Program supported by ILO-IPEC to eliminate child labor in specified worst forms, and to create a platform for eliminating all forms of child labor. The program targets children involved in the brick-making, portering, rubber-making, domestic work, salt production, fish processing, and services. Cambodia is also part of a USDOL-funded global project that aims to substantially reduce the engagement of children ages 5

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875 U.S. Embassy-Phnom Penh official, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
877 ILO-IPEC, Support to the Cambodian National Plan of Action, project document.
to 17 in the worst forms of child labor.\footnote{878}{Winrock International, \textit{The Regional Community-based Innovation to Reduce Child Labor through Education (CIRCLE)}, [online] September 2005 [cited September 28, 2005]; available from http://www.winrock.org/where/display_country.cfm?CountryID=360.} USDOL has also launched a USD 3 million project that focuses on providing education opportunities to those children who have been or have the potential to be trafficked.\footnote{879}{World Education, \textit{OPTIONS: Combating Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation through Education in Cambodia}, status report, March 2005. The project is scheduled to close August 2007.}

Cambodia is included in a regional ILO-IPEC anti-trafficking project with funding from the Government of Japan and the UK. In addition to ongoing anti-trafficking funding from the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia, the U.S. Presidential Anti-Trafficking in Persons Initiative allocated USD 5.6 million to support programs to combat trafficking in Cambodia through 2006. Cambodia also participates in a project between ASEAN and AUSAID on the elimination of trafficking in women and children in four Southeast Asian countries and China’s Yunnan Province.

The Government of Cambodia is implementing its Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2004-2008. The plan prioritizes expanding access to quality education, non-formal education skills training for young people, and upper secondary and post-secondary education opportunities. The ESP is carried out in conjunction with the Education Sector Support Program (ESSP) 2002-2006. The ESSP is considered a companion to the ESP, and focuses on programs and activities to achieve Education for All by 2015. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) is implementing priority action programs through 2006 that operate nationwide and include activities such as HIV/AIDS education, non-formal education expansion, and program monitoring and capacity building. The Non-Formal Education Department within MOEYS focuses on improving the reach, quality and impact of non-formal education to meet the needs of people of all ages, including working children.

The government also works with various donors and NGOs on education issues, focusing on improving the quality of education and access to primary school. The ADB is providing support to MOEYS’ efforts to implement its ESP 2004-2008, which includes technical assistance for nationwide policy reforms, community-based skills training for

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889 Under this project, special anti-trafficking units have been established with national law enforcement agencies. Additionally the project strengthens regional cooperation and legal policy frameworks. Australian Embassy Bangkok, *AUSAID Program in Thailand Overview*, [online] May 2005 [cited May 20, 2005]; available from http://www.austembassy.or.th/agency/ausaid/overview_eng.php.
out-of-school youth, and an initiative to increase equitable access to education. The ADB supports two other education projects. The first focuses on educational assistance to girls and indigenous populations through awareness raising and the development of scholarship programs for lower secondary schooling. The second aims to improve primary school access in disadvantaged communities through community mobilization, capacity building, and facilities improvements. The World Bank launched a Basic Education Project in support of the government’s ESSP, addressing access to education issues and targeting the most disadvantaged. The World Bank also signed a grant in September 2005, funded through the Japan Social Development Fund, which will support the government’s efforts to provide basic education services to girls, disabled children, and other marginalized groups. The USAID has an ongoing basic education program focused on improving the quality and proficiency of the education system.


896 The ADB provided a grant of USD 3 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Relief; the project is slated to end in October 2005. ADB, Cambodia: Targeted Assistance for Education of Poor Girls and Indigenous Children, (GRANT: CAM 36152-01), [online] December 11, 2002 [cited May 20, 2005]; available from http://www.adb.org/Documents/Profiles/GRNT/36152012.ASP.

897 The ADB provided a grant of USD 1.87 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Relief; the project targets girls and ethnic minorities and is slated to end in December 2007. ADB, Cambodia: Improving Primary School Access in Disadvantaged Communities, (GRANT CAM: 38107-01), [online] March 7, 2005 [cited May 20, 2005]; available from http://www.adb.org/Documents/Profiles/GRNT/38107012.ASP.


Cameroon

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 15.9 percent of children ages 10 to 14 years were working in Cameroon in 2001. Approximately 14.5 percent of all boys 10 to 14 were working compared to 17.4 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (88.2 percent), followed by services (7.1 percent), manufacturing (2.1 percent), and other sectors (2.6 percent). Only 5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years worked for wages. Of those children who performed domestic work, 11 percent work more than 4 hours a day on these tasks. According to a study conducted jointly by the ILO, the Ministry of Labor, and NGOs, children in Cameroon work in the agricultural sector in informal activities such as street vending and car washing, as domestic servants, in prostitution, and in other illicit activities. The ILO found that 7 percent of working children in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, and Bamenda were less than 12 years of age, and 60 percent of these had dropped out of primary school. Children employed in the cocoa industry engage in hazardous tasks such as application of pesticides and use of machetes. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 17.1 percent of the population of Cameroon were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Cameroon is a source, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of women and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation. While most of the trafficking occurs

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901 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


903 Ibid.


905 Ibid. The study found, however, that the rate of child labor is lowest in the metropolitan areas of Yaounde and Douala. See Ministère de l’Economie et des Finances, Rapport Principal. Enquête à Indicateurs Multiples (MICS) au Cameroun 2000, 41.


within the country, children are also trafficked to the United Kingdom for commercial sexual exploitation. Girls in particular are trafficked from Anglophone areas to the Francophone cities of Yaoundé and Douala to work as domestics, street vendors or prostitutes. Children are also trafficked internally to work in forced labor in the production of cocoa. Cameroon is a destination country for children trafficked from Nigeria and Benin and a transit country for the movement of children between Nigeria, Gabon, Togo, Chad, Niger, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo, to work as indentured or domestic servants, on farms, and for sexual exploitation. According to a 2004 study by the Institute for Socio-Anthropological Research, children who have been trafficked in Cameroon are forced to work in agriculture, domestic service, sweatshops, bars and restaurants, and in prostitution.911 There have been credible reports of child slavery in Cameroon, particularly in the Rey Boubia Division of North Province. In some cases, parents offered their young girls to the Lamido (chief) of the Rey Boubia Division as gifts.912 The Ministry of Social Affairs also reports that children of some large rural families are “loaned” to work as domestic servants, baby sitters, vendors, or prostitutes in urban areas in exchange for monetary compensation.

Education is compulsory through the age of 14 years. Primary school education has been free since 2000 however, families must pay for uniforms and book fees. Tuition and fees at the secondary school level remain unaffordable for many families. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 108 percent. Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2001, 84.6 percent of children ages 10 to

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909 Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Cameroon, Section 5.
914 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Cameroon, Section 5.
917 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Cameroon, Section 5.
918 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rates in the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.
14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 64 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

Fewer girls enroll in primary school in Cameroon than boys. In 2001, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child identified a number of problems with the educational system in Cameroon, including rural/urban and regional disparities in school attendance; limited access to formal and vocational education for children with disabilities; children falling behind in their primary education; a high dropout rate; lack of primary school teachers; and violence and sexual abuse against children in schools. Early marriage, unwanted pregnancy, domestic chores and certain socio-cultural biases also contribute to low education rates. Domestic workers are generally not permitted by their employers to attend school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. The law prohibits youths between the ages of 14 to 18 from moving heavy weights, performing dangerous and unhealthy tasks, and working in confined areas. The Labor Code also specifies that children cannot work in any job that exceeds their physical capacity. Labor law also requires that employers provide training to children between 14 and 18 years. Under the Labor Code, the Labor Inspectorate may require women and children to be examined by a medical professional to make sure their work does not exceed their physical capacity.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Cameroon. The government does not explicitly prohibit forced or compulsory labor by children. The Penal Code prohibits a person from requiring another person to perform work for which they have not freely applied. Violation of this law is punishable by imprisonment.

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919 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*. Attendance figures do not necessarily indicate that a child is progressing through various grade levels and thus may exceed statistics on persistence to grade 5.


927 Cameroon Labor Code, Part V, Ch. III, Section 87.


929 Cameroon Labor Code, Part V, Chapter III, Section 87.

of 5 to 10 years and/or a fine. The Penal Code prohibits slavery. The Code also prohibits procuring, as well sharing in the profits from another person’s prostitution. The penalty includes fines and prison sentences of up to 5 years, which double if the crime involves a person less than 21 years of age. In December 2005, the National Assembly passed legislation prohibiting child trafficking. Military conscription is not compulsory in Cameroon, and the voluntary recruitment age is 18. Enlistment under age 18 is permitted with parental consent. Since 1999, the Government of Cameroon has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor enforce child labor laws through site inspections of registered businesses. In 2004, 58 labor inspectors were responsible for investigating child labor cases in Cameroon. However, the U.S. Department of State reports that a lack of resources and inadequate legal provisions covering domestic labor hindered efforts to combat child labor.

The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Insurance (Ministry of Labor), is the government agency responsible for anti-trafficking efforts, including the implementation of a national strategy on child trafficking which involves the participation of 10 governmental agencies.

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

Cameroon is one of five countries collaborating with ILO-IPEC on a USDOL-funded West African regional project to combat hazardous and exploitative child labor in the production of cocoa. With the support of the Department of State, the Government is participating in an ILO designed program to develop anti-trafficking legislation and train law enforcement and judicial officials on anti-trafficking strategies.

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932 Ibid.
933 Ibid.
934 Ibid.
935 U.S. Embassy – Yaounde Official, email correspondence to USDOL Official, August 17, 2006
937 ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
The Government of Cameroon has worked over the past year to raise awareness of and working to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government has worked closely with the International Labor Organization, UNICEF, and Plan International to better understand the causes of child labor and to find long-term solutions to the problem. The government has also developed revisions to its Family Code that would raise the minimum age for marriage from 15 to 18. Since early marriage is a common threat to girl’s completion of education, this can be regarded as a positive government action to support education and anti-child labor efforts.

The Minister of Social Affairs has pledged support for UNICEF, which plans to conduct a sociological study on victims and perpetrators of child trafficking to help address the problem in the country. To raise awareness about the need to combat exploitative child labor, the government participated in various child labor awareness raising activities in conjunction with the ILO’s World Day Against Child Labor and Red Card Against Child Labor Initiative and UN’s Day of the African Child.

In June 2004, the government collaborated with NGOs to launch several initiatives to issue birth certificates to children to enable school enrollment in Cameroon’s northern and central provinces. In August 2004, WFP began a 3-year program to distribute food to female students and their families in the northern and eastern provinces. This program not only helps to mitigate food insecurity in the region, but also encourages girls to attend school in areas with particularly low rates of attendance.

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946 Ibid.
947 Ibid.
Cape Verde

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Cape Verde are unavailable.\(^\text{948}\) The Ministry of Employment, Training and Social Integration, however, estimates that 3.3 percent of children 5 to 13 years old are engaged in paid or unpaid work inside or outside the home.\(^\text{949}\) Children work as street vendors and car washers in urban areas including Mindelo, Praia, and Sal.\(^\text{950}\) These children are vulnerable to abuse and commercial sexual exploitation.\(^\text{951}\)

Article 73 of the Constitution guarantees the universal right to education, and regulations call for compulsory primary education until the age of 11.\(^\text{952}\) Education is free for the first 6 years of primary school, which typically cover the ages of 6 to 12.\(^\text{953}\) In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 121 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99 percent.\(^\text{954}\) 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 Cape

\(^{948}\) This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


\(^{954}\) UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
As of 2001, 88 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Constitution, the Legal Regime for Labor Regulations (decree-law 62/87, as amended by law 10/IV/93), the Civil Code, and the Penal Code regulate child labor in Cape Verde. The minimum age for employment is 16 years, and the minimum age for apprentice contracts is 14 years. The law prohibits children under the age of 16 from working at night or in enterprises that produce toxic products. Children between the ages of 14 and 18 may not work more than 38 hours per week or more than 7 hours per day. The Constitution prohibits children of compulsory school age from working, and forbids the exploitation of child labor. The compulsory recruitment age for military service is 18 years, but 17 year olds may volunteer with parental consent.

The Director-General for Labor and Inspector-General for Labor implement and enforce child labor laws and regulations, while the courts enforce the laws against forced work. The legal remedies for violating child labor laws include civil compensation for the victims, as well as criminal penalties of up to 10.5 years of imprisonment and seizure of the violator’s assets. There are no inspectors who deal exclusively with child labor issues.

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

Since 2003, the Government together with UNICEF has been preparing a comprehensive policy and national program of action on child labor. It is not yet completed. These requirements are enforced through awareness raising campaigns, and government supported radio and television programs that promote access to primary schooling and

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955 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.
957 U.S. Embassy-Praia, Reporting, August 26, 2005.
958 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2003: Cape Verde, Section 6d.
959 Gregorio Semodo, letter to USDOL official, October 26, 2001. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Cape Verde, Section 6d.
960 CONSTITUIÇÃO DA REPÚBLICA, Lei Constitucional n.º 1/IV/99 de 23 de Novembro, Article 89 (2) and (3), (1999); available from http://www.parlamento.cv/constituicao/const00.htm. It is noted that the legal age for employment, 16 years, is inconsistent with the age for completing education requirements, 12 years. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Cape Verde, Section 6d.
962 U.S. Embassy- Praia, reporting, August 26, 2005.
963 U.S. Embassy- Praia official, electronic communication to USDOL official, October 4, 2005.
964 The criminal penalties are outlined in Cape Verde’s Penal Code. U.S. Embassy-Praia, reporting, August 26, 2005.
965 Ibid.
enhance its quality and relevance. On June 16, 2005, the Government, in cooperation with UNICEF, organized a meeting on children’s rights, in which the need for institutional awareness was recognized.

The Ministry of Education and the World Food Program (WFP) continued to collaborate on primary school feeding programs through 2005. The WFP provides free meals in over 450 primary and pre-primary schools to help boost school enrollment and improve student performance. Government institutes that encourage attendance are ICASE (Instituto Caboverdiano de Accao Social e Escolar), ICM (Instituto Cabo Verdiano de Menores), and ICS (Instituto Caboverdiano de Solidariedade). UNICEF and the Government have also launched a variety of initiatives to improve access to schooling, particularly for girls, including programs that provide educational materials and address gender bias.

966 Ibid.
967 Ibid.
970 Embassy of the Republic of Cape Verde, e-mail to USDOL official, October 4, 2005. ICASE guarantees full meal and school material for the most impoverished children; ICM promotes, protects and enforces all children’s rights, amongst them, the right to the basic education; ICS supports social integration of children and teenagers into the school system.
Central African Republic

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 61.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in the Central African Republic in 2000. Approximately 60.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 61.7 percent of girls in the same age group. UNICEF reports that 53 percent of children are engaged in work in urban areas and 71 percent of children are engaged in work in rural areas. Although children work in many sectors of the economy, most children work in agriculture. Some children work on farms at school. Such work is reportedly considered to prepare children for agricultural work as adults. The proceeds earned on the farms are used for school supplies and activities. Children also reportedly work alongside adult relatives in diamond fields. In the capital city of Bangui, the number of street children, many of whom are orphaned by HIV/AIDS, is estimated at more than 2,500. Such children are vulnerable to early entrance into work. Street children are engaged in various economic activities including grinding, nuts, selling small items, washing dishes in small eateries, and begging. Children from some indigenous groups are forced into agricultural, domestic and other forms of labor by other ethnic groups in the country.

| Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Ratified Convention 182 | 6/28/2000 | U |
| ILO-IPEC Member | | |
| National Plan for Children | | U |
| National Child Labor Action Plan | | |
| Sector Action Plan | | |

972 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, "Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates," (October 7, 2005). 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


976 Ibid.


978 Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic.

Reports indicate that children fought for both pro-government and rebel forces during the March 2003 coup.\textsuperscript{980} Child soldiers were also used by armed groups from neighboring countries operating in the Central African Republic until early 2003.\textsuperscript{981} The security situation in the country was generally stable during 2005, and there were no reports of children involved in armed conflict during the year.\textsuperscript{982} Children in the Central African Republic are also involved in prostitution.\textsuperscript{983}

Children are trafficked to the Central African Republic generally from Chad, Nigeria and Sudan for work in domestic services, small shops, and agriculture.\textsuperscript{984} Traveling merchants, herders, and other foreigners working in and transiting through the country sometimes brought boys and girls with them. Such children did not attend school and were not paid for their work. There are some reports that children are trafficked from the Central African Republic to Nigeria and other nearby nations for work in agriculture.\textsuperscript{985}

Education in public institutions is free and compulsory from ages 6 to 16.\textsuperscript{986} However, truancy is rarely punished.\textsuperscript{987} In September 2004, the government signed a decree setting fixed fees for public primary education at 600 francs CFA (USD 1) and secondary education at 1500 francs CFA (USD 2.77).\textsuperscript{988} These fees are a one-time-only expense and apply to all of the children in a family who attend the same school.\textsuperscript{989} The government hopes that fixed education fees will increase primary school enrollment.\textsuperscript{990}

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 66 percent.\textsuperscript{991} Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2000, 38.5 percent of children ages 5

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\textsuperscript{980} In the weeks preceding the 2003 coup, for example, many street children were enrolled in security forces to repel the rebellion. See UN Commission on Civil and Political Rights, \textit{List of issues prepared in the absence of the second periodic report of the State party, due on 9 April 1989}. September 3, 2003; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/880ce0a9e81c0a75c1256da90022b550?Opendocument. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic}.


\textsuperscript{985} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{986} \textit{Journal Officiel de la Republique Centrafricaine: Projet de Constitution}, (October 21). See also \textit{Portent Orientation de l'Education}, 97/014, (December 10, 1997).


\textsuperscript{989} Government of the Central African Republic, \textit{Decision No 190}.

\textsuperscript{990} Mary Gutmann, \textit{TDA In-Country Data Collection for Central African Republic}, May 31, 2005.

to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{992} The net primary attendance rate for children living in urban areas in 2000 was almost double the rate for children living in rural areas.\textsuperscript{993} Many reports indicate that male teachers from the primary to the university levels pressure female students into sex in exchange for good grades.\textsuperscript{994}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 125 of the Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years.\textsuperscript{995} However, children who are at least 12 years of age may engage in light work.\textsuperscript{996} Children under 18 years are forbidden to perform certain kinds of work, including work in mines and work that involves carrying heavy loads, or work at night between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.\textsuperscript{997} Article 153 of the Mining Code prohibits a company or parent from using children in mining. Violators are subject to a fine of 100,000 to 3,000,000 francs CFA (USD 185 to USD 5,551.65) and/or imprisonment of 6 months to 3 years.\textsuperscript{998} Forced labor was prohibited under the former Constitution; it is unclear whether this provision is included in the new Constitution approved by referendum in December 2004.\textsuperscript{999} The minimum age for enlisting in the armed forces is 18 years.\textsuperscript{1000} In November 2004, the government issued a special Constitutional bill adopting a series of articles which seek to improve basic social services, including education and the protection of women and children.\textsuperscript{1001} Since 1999, the Government of the Central African Republic has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1002}

\textsuperscript{992} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, "Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates."

\textsuperscript{993} Government of the Central African Republic, 	extit{Enquête a Indicateurs Multiples en République Centrafricaine}, 10-11.

\textsuperscript{994} U.S. Department of State, 	extit{Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic}, Section 5.

\textsuperscript{995} \textit{Instituant le Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine}, 61/221, (June 2, 1961). See also U.S. Department of State, 	extit{Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic}, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{996} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 	extit{Initial reports of States parties due in 1994: Central African Republic}, November 18, 1998; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/fb066e7732d518c0802567a03b7aad?Opendocument. Children may work in traditional agriculture or home services starting at age 12. See also U.S. Department of State, 	extit{Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic}, Section 6d.


\textsuperscript{998} \textit{Le Code Minier}, (February 1, 2004).


\textsuperscript{1000} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 	extit{Initial reports of States parties due in 1994}, para. 61.

\textsuperscript{1001} \textit{Journal Officiel de la Republique Centrafricaine: Projet de Constitution}.

\textsuperscript{1002} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
The Penal Code prohibits the procurement of individuals for sexual purposes, including assisting in or profiting from prostitution, with penalties that include imprisonment of 1 month and a day to 1 year and/or a fine of 100,000 to 1,000,000 francs CFA (USD 185 to USD 1,850). Those found guilty of engaging in such acts with minors, which the code defines as persons less than 15 years of age, face penalties of imprisonment from 1 to 5 years and a fine of 200,000 to 2,000,000 francs CFA (USD 370.11 to USD 3,701.10). The Penal Code also establishes penalties including imprisonment from 2 to 5 years and 100,000 to 800,000 francs CFA (USD 185 to USD 1,480.44) if a school official commits a sex offense involving a female student.\textsuperscript{1003}

The labor law does not specifically prohibit trafficking.\textsuperscript{1004} However, traffickers can be prosecuted under anti-slavery laws, mandatory school-age laws, the prostitution provisions of the Penal Code, and the Labor Code.\textsuperscript{1005} In addition, Article 212 of the Penal Code established a penalty of imprisonment from 5 to 10 years for any person who abducts or causes the abduction of a child younger than 15 years of age.\textsuperscript{1006} Revised text of the Penal Code on child trafficking was submitted to the Ministry of Justice in January 2003, but it has not yet been approved.\textsuperscript{1007}

The U.S. Department of State reported that enforcement of child labor laws occurs infrequently, and the government lacks sufficient resources for enforcement.\textsuperscript{1008} Community brigades have been established to punish persons responsible for forcing children into prostitution. However, few cases have been prosecuted due to the reluctance of victims’ families to press charges.\textsuperscript{1009} The government does not currently investigate trafficking cases.\textsuperscript{1010}

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

The government issued a decree at the end of 2004 authorizing the establishment of a national committee on orphans and other vulnerable children and established a variety of programs with the assistance of international donor institutions in an attempt to

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{1004} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic*, Section 5.
  \item \textsuperscript{1005} CEACR, *Direct request*.
  \item \textsuperscript{1006} *Code Penal de la Republique Centrafricaine*, Article 212.
  \item \textsuperscript{1008} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic*, Section 6d.
  \item \textsuperscript{1009} UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record of the 658th Meeting*, Section 28.
  \item \textsuperscript{1010} ibid., Section 6f. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Central African Republic*, Section 5.
\end{itemize}
rehabilitate the social services in the country, including education.\textsuperscript{1011} The government acknowledges the incidence of child labor in the country and is seeking to raise awareness about this issue.\textsuperscript{1012} The government has also established a plan to combat trafficking by creating a mobile border unit to regulate the entry and exit of children.\textsuperscript{1013}

The government has committed to improving the crippled educational system and specifically focusing on educating girls.\textsuperscript{1014} The government endorsed the country’s National Plan of Action for Education in April 2004, which runs until 2015 and is intended to achieve the following goals: protection and education of pre-school-aged children; universal basic education; the availability of relevant training for youth and adults; increased literacy; a reduction in the disparity between boys and girls’ participation in education; improved educational quality; and widespread citizen education on HIV/AIDS.\textsuperscript{1015} Additionally, the government has issued a National Education Plan, funded by UNICEF, targeting the education of girls.\textsuperscript{1016}

The World Bank provided assistance in the educational sector, including refurbishment of schools, provision of supplies such as textbooks, training for teacher and institutional management.\textsuperscript{1017} The IMF approved a package of aid programs for the country, which includes financing for education, including salaries for teachers.\textsuperscript{1018} UNICEF continues to support a non-formal community schools program that is intended to promote girls’ education as well as distribute supplies to students and teachers.\textsuperscript{1019}


\textsuperscript{1013} Interview with Jean Pierre Sapoua, Labor Inspector and Social Laws, Director of Studies and External Relationships, May 12, 2005.


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action plan to provide care to AIDS orphans, who are often compelled to begin working at an early age.  

UNICEF continued to provide access to water, sanitation, and school meals in the country’s education system. The UNDP, UNICEF, and the Office of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children within the Ministry of Labor have proposed a 4-year project aimed at providing a better environment for orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS. The project targets approximately 5 percent of the estimated 110,000 HIV/AIDS orphans in the country to receive medical, nutritional and economic support in the hopes that the number of street children will decrease.


Chad

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 53 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Chad in 2004. Approximately 56.1 percent of boys ages 5 to 14 years were working compared to 49.7 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work in agriculture throughout the country, and as smugglers, street vendors, manual laborers, iron workers and blacksmiths, helpers in small shops and domestic servants. There have been reports of children being contracted out by their parents to nomadic herders to tend their animals. A 2003 study estimated that many Chadian children live and work on the streets and often fall victim to violence, including sexual exploitation.

Chad is a country of origin and destination for trafficking in children. Children are trafficked to Chad from Cameroon, Togo, Benin, and Central African Republic and from Chad to Nigeria. Girls are trafficked for prostitution in the oil-producing area of Doba, and into domestic servitude in urban areas. According to a 2005 UNICEF survey in N’Djamena, 62 percent of child domestic workers between the ages of 5 and 18 are boys. Young girls migrate to N’Djamena from southern Chad to earn money to

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1023 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, "Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates," (October 7, 2005). 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


1025 These children are often abused and poorly compensated. Their families benefit by receiving livestock in exchange for their children’s labor. U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Chad, Section 6d.


1028 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.

buy household goods in preparation for marriage in the villages.\textsuperscript{1030} Children are also sold into forced labor by their families to work in farming and herding.\textsuperscript{1031} There are reports that \textit{mahadjir} children, who attend Islamic schools, are forced by their teachers to beg for food and money.\textsuperscript{1032} In 2003, UNICEF estimated 600 child soldiers to be in the country. There have been no reports of further recruitment of children for use as soldiers.\textsuperscript{1033}

Article 35 of the Constitution provides that citizens are entitled to free education and training and education is compulsory for children starting at the age of 6 years for a period of 9 years. However, the government is unable to adequately fund education, and parents in practice make significant payments for tuition and teacher salaries.\textsuperscript{1034} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 76 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 61 percent.\textsuperscript{1035} 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. In 2004, 39.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{1036} Educational opportunities for girls are limited, mainly due to cultural traditions. Fewer girls enroll in secondary school than boys, primarily due to early marriage.\textsuperscript{1037} In 1999, 54.0 percent of children starting primary school primary school reached grade 5.\textsuperscript{1038}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment in Chad at 14 years and the minimum age for apprenticeships at 13 years, but according to the State Department, the law is not enforced due to lack of resources.\textsuperscript{1039} According to the labor law, children under 18 years are prohibited from doing work that is likely to harm their health, safety,
or morals. The minimum age for dangerous work is set at 18 years.\textsuperscript{1040} Also, children younger than 18 years are prohibited from working at night.\textsuperscript{1041}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Chad. The Penal Code prohibits trafficking. Child traffickers are subject to a punishment of from six months to life in prison with hard labor and fines ranging from $100,000 to two million CFA (USD $180 to $3,600).\textsuperscript{1042} Revisions in the Penal Code in 2004 established new penalties for the prostitution of a minor, ranging from two months to ten years of imprisonment and fines from $50,000 to one million CFA (USD $90 to $1,800).\textsuperscript{1043} The Labor Code prohibits forced and bonded labor.\textsuperscript{1044} Children must be at least 18 years old to volunteer for the armed forces and 20 years to be conscripted.\textsuperscript{1045} Since 1999, the Government of Chad has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1046}

In 2004, there were 30 labor inspectors in Chad, and the government reportedly investigates only 10 to 15 child labor cases each year.\textsuperscript{1047} The government’s ability to effectively investigate and prosecute child labor violations is hampered by a lack of training and resources.\textsuperscript{1048}

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

The Government of Chad is revising its legal code to conform with the requirements of ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Employment and ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.\textsuperscript{1049} These changes include increasing the penalties for both employing children under the age of 14 and the prostitution of minors.

The Government of Chad is working with UNICEF to implement a program to reduce the prevalence of young children working in domestic service.\textsuperscript{1050} In February 2005, a UNICEF-funded survey of child domestic workers between the ages of five and eighteen

\begin{footnotes}
\textsuperscript{1041} The Labor Code also stipulates that workers under 18 get a break of at least 12 consecutive hours daily, and that they, as well as apprentices, are entitled to Sundays off. See *Code du travail tchadien*, Article 206.
\textsuperscript{1044} *Code du travail tchadien*, Article 5.
\textsuperscript{1046} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1047} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Chad*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{1049} ibid.
\textsuperscript{1050} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 
\end{footnotes}
was released. The survey recommended that the Government of Chad combat child labor by providing universal access to free education, stabilizing family situations, enforcing government regulations prohibiting child work, launching a multi-ministerial child labor awareness raising campaign and implementing protection measures, such as centers for exploited children.1051

The government is focusing its efforts on preventing trafficking.1052 In January 2005, the Ministry of Justice held a public sensitization conference on trafficking in persons.1053 The Government of Chad has a national action plan to combat child sexual exploitation. Local officials in Kome and the State of Doba have made efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children in communities surrounding oil-producing facilities.1054

The Ministries of Labor and Justice conducted awareness campaigns and training seminars on the worst forms of child labor for religious leaders, traditional chiefs, and parliamentarians. In March, 2005 the Governor of Moyen Chari raised awareness about the dangers of child labor in the herding sector.1055 During the year, 256 child herders in forced labor were rescued by non-governmental organizations, local authorities and religious institutions. Other children involved in exploitative child labor were rescued by military, police and non-governmental organizations.1056

On March 21, 2005, the Government of Chad ratified ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Employment.1057

With support from the World Bank, the government is implementing an Education Sector Reform Project. The project’s main objectives for improving basic education are to promote gender and geographic equity; enable communities to repair school infrastructure; enhance quality of teaching and the educational environment; and create programs for literacy, early childhood development, school health and nutrition, non-formal education, bilingual education, and interactive radio instruction.1058 The government also has an Education for All plan that includes among its objectives

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1052 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Chad, Section 5.
1053 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
1054 Ibid.
1055 Ibid.
ensuring free and compulsory primary education for all children, particularly girls, by 2015, and eliminating gender and ethnic disparities in education.\textsuperscript{1059}

Chile

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 3.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Chile in 2003. Approximately 4.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 2.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the services sector (66.6 percent), followed by agriculture (24.7 percent), manufacturing (6.6 percent), and other sectors (2 percent). The rate of child work is higher in rural than in urban areas, although the absolute number of working children is higher in urban areas. Frequent activities undertaken by children in urban areas are working in supermarkets, waiting tables in restaurants, selling goods on the street, and caring for parked automobiles. Children also work in fishing, and assist others in construction, industrial, and mining activities. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2 percent of the population in Chile were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Children are also victims of commercial sexual exploitation, in some cases as a result of internal trafficking. In 2003, the Government of Chile estimated that there were approximately 3,700 children involved in some form of commercial sexual exploitation. The commercial sexual exploitation of boys appears to be increasing.

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1060 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


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Education in Chile is free and compulsory for 12 years for all children and adolescents through the age of 20 years.\textsuperscript{1065} In 2003, the gross primary enrollment rate was 98 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 85 percent.\textsuperscript{1066} 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. In 2003, 97.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{1067} However, attending school does not preclude children in Chile from working. A 2003 child labor survey conducted by the National Statistics Institute in coordination with ILO-IPEC found that 78.9 percent of children performing “unacceptable work” also attend school.\textsuperscript{1068} As of 2002, 99 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1069}

\section*{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{1070} In order to work, children 15 and 16 years of age must have completed obligatory schooling and must obtain permission from their parents or guardians. Such children may only perform light work that will not affect their health or development.\textsuperscript{1071} Children ages 16 to 18 years may work if they receive authorization from their parents or guardians and may not work in occupations that may be dangerous or require excessive force. Children under age 18 are also not permitted to work more than 8 hours per day, at night between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (excluding work in a family business), or in nightclubs or similar establishments in which alcohol is consumed.\textsuperscript{1072} All persons under the age of 21 are prohibited from working underground without undergoing a physical exam.\textsuperscript{1073} The minimum age for compulsory military service in Chile is 18.\textsuperscript{1074}

\begin{footnotes}
\item[1065] Length of compulsory education was extended to 12 years in May 2003. See Ministry of Education, \textit{Hito Sin Precedentes en América Latina}, [online] [cited June 29, 2005]; available from http://biblioteca.mineduc.cl/documento/12_anos.pdf.
\item[1067] UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.
\item[1068] The survey defines unacceptable child work as work performed by children less than 12 years of age, work performed by children between 12 and 14 years of age who do not attend school, work beyond legal working hours, and work at night. See Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, National Statistics Institute, and National Minors Service, \textit{Trabajo infantil y adolescente en cifras: Síntesis de la primera encuesta nacional y registro de sus peores formas}, ILO-IPEC, Santiago, 2004, 11-12, 44; available from http://www.oitchile.cl/pdf/tra022.pdf.
\item[1071] Children under the age of 15 may work in theatrical and artistic productions with the proper legal authorization. See Ibid., articles 13, 15 and 16.
\item[1072] Boys between the ages of 16 and 18 are excepted from this regulation in certain industries. See Ibid., articles 13, 15 and 18.
\item[1073] Ibid., article 14.
\end{footnotes}
The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Chile. The Chilean Constitution and the Labor Code prohibit forced labor. The prostitution of children and corruption of minors are prohibited under the Penal Code, providing for substantial prison sentences and fines. The Penal Code contains a prohibition against the sale, distribution, and exhibition of pornography and calls for fines and imprisonment for those convicted of such acts. In 2004, Law No. 19.927 was established, which aims to combat child pornography, including on the Internet. Although there is no single law that generally addresses trafficking in persons, the Penal Code does prohibit trafficking for prostitution and imposes increased prison terms and fines if the victim is under the age of 18 years. In addition, current laws governing sexual crimes, kidnapping, and criminal association could be used to prosecute traffickers. Since 1999, the Government of Chile has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor's Inspection Agency enforces child labor laws. The National Service for Minors within the Ministry of Justice investigates exploitative child labor related to pornography, the sale of drugs, and other related criminal activities. The Investigations Police’s Sexual Crimes Brigade investigates complaints involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children, internet pornography and the trafficking of persons for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. The government has launched investigations against some traffickers but lacks a nationally coordinated

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1076 Chilean Penal Code, Articles 367 to 372, as found in Interpol, Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offenses against Children: Chile, [database online] [cited June 29, 2005]; available from http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaChile.asp. See also Codigo Penal de la Republica de Chile; available from http://www.unifr.ch/derechopenal/legislacion/cl/cpchindx.html.

1077 Chilean Penal Code Article 374, as found in Interpol, Legislation of Interpol Member States. See also Chilean Penal Code.

1078 This law modifies the Penal Code on matters of child pornography and other offenses. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, National Statistics Institute, and National Minors Service, Trabajo infantil y adolescente en cifras. See also Modifica el Codigo Penal, El Codigo de Procedimiento Penal, y el Codigo Procesal Penal en Materia de Delitos de Pornografia Infantil, 19,927, (January 5), article 1.14; available from http://www.anuariocdh.uchile.cl/anuario/documentos/10.Ley%2019927_DelitoPornografiaInfantil_CHILE.pdf.

1079 Chilean Penal Code, Article 367 BIS, as found in Interpol, Legislation of Interpol Member States. See also Chilean Penal Code, article 367 and 367 bis.


1081 ILO-IPEC official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.


1083 Delitos contra la Familia: Brigada Investigadora de Delitos Sexuales y Menores, Brigada Investigadora de Delitos Sexuales y Menores, [online] [cited October 3, 2005]; available from http://www.investigaciones.cl.

\textbf{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

As part of its 2001 to 2010 National Policy on Childhood, the Government of Chile has adopted a national child labor action plan that focuses on awareness-raising, data collection, promotion of legislative reform in compliance with ILO conventions, development of targeted intervention programs, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, \textit{Plan de Prevención y Erradicación Progresiva del Trabajo Infantil y Adolescente en Chile}, National Plan, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Santiago de Chile, 2001, 3, 20, 24, 26, 30, 32-36; available from http://www.oit.org.pe/ipec/doc/documentos/plch.doc. See also ILO-IPEC, \textit{Ficha Pais: Chile}, Lima, 2003; available from http://www.oit.org.pe/spanish/260ameri/oitreg/activid/proyectos/ipec/documentos/fichachile.pdf.} The national action plan was developed by the National Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Progressive Eradication of Child and Adolescent Labor. This committee is composed of representatives from the government, civil society, workers and employers organizations and is coordinated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, \textit{Chile: National Plan}, 12. See National Minors Service, \textit{Trabajo Infantil: Las respuesta de SENAME}, [online] [cited June 28, 2005]; available from http://www.sename.cl/interior/trabajo/trabajo_05.asp. In addition to the national advisory committee, 11 of Chile’s 13 regions have state advisory committees. See Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, \textit{Preguntas frecuentes}, [online] [cited June 15, 2005]; available from http://www.trabjoinfantil.cl/faq.html.} In addition, the Government of Chile, along with ILO-IPEC and MERCOSUR\footnote{MERCOSUR comes from “Mercado Comun del Sur”, or “Common Market of the South.”} governments, is implementing the 2002-2005 regional plan to combat child labor. This regional effort is funded by the Government of Spain.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, \textit{Ficha Pais: Chile}. Efforts include a study of social policies in the region with a view to addressing child labor and the design of indicators to measure progress on the issue. See Government of Chile, \textit{Information Sought}, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (July 14, 2004) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Santiago, October 2004, 7.} The Government of Chile also collaborates with ILO-IPEC on projects to address the worst forms of child labor. In 2004, with technical assistance from ILO-IPEC, the National Institute of Statistics released the results of a child labor survey\footnote{See the first section of this country report for information on the results of this survey. See Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, \textit{Resultados generales.}; available from www.trabjoinfantil.cl/resultados.html.} and the National Institute for Minors (SENAME) published the results of a study on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.\footnote{The study was conducted by academics at the Arcis University in Chile. National Minors Service, \textit{Explotación Sexual Comercial Infantil.}; available from http://www.sename.cl/interior/publicaciones/explotacionsexual.pdf} Also in 2004, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the National Statistics Institute and SENAME, in collaboration with ILO-IPEC, published a qualitative study on the worst forms of child
labor in Chile.  In September 2004, USDOL funded a USD 5.5 million ILO-IPEC regional project to continue to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Chile and in other countries in the region.

The government has increased funding for programs targeting at-risk children, adolescents and families. SENAME oversees ten projects to benefit street children and adolescents, providing them with services including drug treatment and prevention, school reinsertion and skills building. Government agencies including SENAME, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Police have developed a list of the worst forms of child labor. Based on this list, SENAME developed and maintains a register of documented worst forms of child labor cases with input from the Chilean police forces and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children are coordinated under the country’s action plan to combat child labor. SENAME is expanding its provision of services to children and adolescents engaged in commercial sexual exploitation to four new regions. The Investigations Police’s Sexual Crimes Brigade educates the public on topics related to sexuality, including the sexual exploitation of children.

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1092 The project also combats the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child domestic labor in Colombia, Paraguay, and Peru. See ILO-IPEC, Prevention and elimination of child domestic labour (CDL) and of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru, Geneva, September 8, 2004, 6.
1093 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
1094 These projects also provide families and guardians of beneficiaries with classes in parenting and problem solving skills. See National Minors Service, Niños de la Calle, Proyectos, [online] [cited June 29, 2005]; available from http://www.sename.cl/interior/ninos/t_subportada.html.
1095 Chilean Ministry of Labor, Report on Labor Rights in Chile and its Laws Governing Exploitative Child Labor, Santiago, March 2003. The list includes street vendors, waiters, supermarket baggers and construction workers in urban areas. In rural areas, the list includes children involved in the planting, harvest and selling of agricultural goods, caring for livestock, and handling heavy and dangerous machinery. See Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, National Statistics Institute, and National Minors Service, Trabajo infantil y adolescente en cifras, 17.
The government operates various programs to encourage school attendance. The *Chile in Solidarity* program provides families in extreme poverty with psychosocial services, various subsidies, (including for children under the age of 18 years), and access to social services such as health and education. In addition, the Ministry of Education implements the Full School Day Reform program. The program, adopted in 1996, extends the school day by four hours and provides a new curriculum framework, incentives for teacher professionalism, and a network to model and disseminate innovative teaching, learning, and managerial practices at the secondary level.

The Ministry of Education currently implements four programs that promote improved learning in urban and rural areas of high vulnerability. In order to encourage students to stay in school for a full 12 years as now required under Chilean law, the government recently instituted the “Pro-retention Specialized Subsidy” for schools that serve low income populations. Through this program, the government provides additional resources to target schools, enabling them to provide extra support to at-risk students so that they can complete the obligatory 12 years of schooling. At the same time, the government has instituted a scholarship program under the “Degree Program for All,” in order to encourage students with very limited resources to finish secondary school.

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Colombia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 10.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Colombia in 2001. Approximately 14.1 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 6.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the services sector (49.9 percent), followed by agricultural (35.6 percent), manufacturing (12.6 percent) and other sectors (1.9 percent).\footnote{UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.} In urban areas children work in sectors such as commerce, industry, and services.\footnote{National Administrative Department of Statistics, Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil: Análisis de los resultados de la encuesta sobre caracterización de la población entre 5 y 17 años en Colombia, Bogota, November 2001, 55; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/spanish/standards/ipec/simpoc/columbia/report/co_rep_2001_sp.pdf.} Many children, especially girls, work as domestic servants.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Elimination of Child Domestic Labour (CDL) and of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CESC) in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru, project document, Geneva, September 8, 2004, 13.} In rural areas, children work in sectors including agriculture and commerce.\footnote{National Administrative Department of Statistics, Encuesta Nacional, 55.} Children work in clay, coal, emerald, and gold mining operations.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Small-Scale Mining, project document, Geneva, September 21, 2001, 5-6. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2005: Colombia, Washington, D.C., March 8, 2006, Section 6d; available from http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61721.htm} They also harvest coca and work in other aspects of the drug trade.\footnote{Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, Colombia’s War on Children, New York, February 2004, 21; available from http://www.watchlist.org/reports/colombia.report.pdf. See also Colombian Ombudsman’s Office, Informe Sobre Los Derechos Humanos De La Niñez en Colombia Durante El Año 2001, 2001, 26; available from http://www.defensoria.org.co/?_s=d1. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Colombia, Section 6d.} Child labor is especially a problem in the informal sector.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2005: Colombia, Section 6d.} More than half of working children do not receive financial remuneration.\footnote{National Administrative Department of Statistics, Encuesta Nacional, 61-63.} Child labor is one of many problems

\begin{table}[h]
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Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments & \\
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Ratified Convention 138 & 2/2/2001 & U \\
Ratified Convention 182 & 1/28/2005 & U \\
ILO-IPEC Member & U & \\
National Plan for Children & U & \\
National Child Labor Action Plan & U & \\
Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation) & U & \\
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\end{table}
associated with poverty. In 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, 8.2 percent of the population in Colombia were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{1113}

Children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Colombia. Sexual tourism involving children in Cartagena and resorts on the Caribbean coast is a problem.\textsuperscript{1114} Colombia is a major source country for the trafficking of girls for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Colombian girls are trafficked internally from rural to urban areas, throughout the Americas, and to locations including the Caribbean, Western Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, and the Middle East. Trafficking victims from other South American countries may pass through Colombia before reaching Europe and the United States. Populations displaced due to armed violence are at increased risk for trafficking.\textsuperscript{1115}

Children in Colombia are recruited, sometimes forcibly, by insurgent and paramilitary groups.\textsuperscript{1116} Many are forced to participate in and are victims of human rights violations such as torture and murder.\textsuperscript{1117} Child soldiers also act as messengers and guards, and carry and assemble explosives.\textsuperscript{1118} Many girl child soldiers are subject to sexual exploitation by other members of insurgent and paramilitary armed groups.\textsuperscript{1119} Reportedly, children have been used by government armed forces as informants, although the government does not recruit children and there are no reports of children serving in government armed forces.\textsuperscript{1120}

The Constitution requires children ages 5 to 15 years to attend school. It states that education is to be free in state institutions, but allows state institutions to impose school

\textsuperscript{1118} Ibid., 6 and 61-67.
fees for those that can afford them. In practice, the costs of enrollment, books, school supplies, and transportation are often prohibitive. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 110 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 87 percent. 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. In 2001, 90.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 69 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Education is less accessible for rural, Afro-Colombian, indigenous, and displaced children. Teachers, among other groups, have been the targets of murders, threats, and violence by paramilitary and guerilla groups, and this may affect children’s education.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution states that children are to be protected against exploitative and hazardous labor. The Minors’ Code defines minors as those under age 18, and sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, with certain exceptions. Authorization from a labor inspector or other designated authority is required for all those under age 18 to work. Under exceptional circumstances children ages 12 and 13 may obtain

1122 Katarina Tomašeski, Report of the Special Rapporteur, para. 16.
1124 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Rations, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance 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.
1125 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
1128 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Colombia, Section 2d. In the capital, displaced children do not have to pay enrollment fees for one year, but must pay fees for following years. Katarina Tomašeski, Report of the Special Rapporteur, para. 25.
1129 In 2004, 68 teachers were murdered and 17 were kidnapped. Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Informe Anual de Derechos Humanos y DIH 2004, Colombia, June 2005, 204-205; available from http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/modules.php?name=informacion&file=article&sid=501. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Colombia, Sections 2a and 6a. See also Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, Colombia's War on Children, 18-19.
1130 Constitución Política de Colombia, Article 44.
authorization to work. 

The Code requires parents to ensure that youths under age 14 attend school, limits children’s working hours, protects against the firing of pregnant or lactating minors, and prohibits employers from moving minors from their homes except with authorization for temporary training programs. The Code establishes that minors are afforded the same labor protections as adults in matters not addressed by the Minors’ Code. Also under the Code, the Ministry of Social Protection (MSP) is required to inspect businesses in order to determine if they are in compliance with child labor laws. Penalties for violating child labor laws range from 1 to 40 times the minimum monthly salary and can include the temporary or permanent closure of the violating establishment.

The Minors’ Code prohibits children from various types of work that pose health risks, with certain exceptions for those older than 14 years, and authorizes the MSP to prohibit minors from additional forms of labor. In 2005, an MSP resolution established a list of work prohibited to minors. This list includes the types of work prohibited by the Minors’ Code. Minors are prohibited from working in agriculture, livestock, fishing, hunting, forestry, mining, and construction. Certain types of work involving the industrial manufacturing, transport, health, and security sectors are also prohibited for children. Children may not work as shoe shiners, domestic laborers, or in ambulant sales. Minors are also prohibited from working under specific conditions, including those that involve risks to a child’s physical or psychological well-being, health risks, and exposure to dangerous chemicals. Work that is unpaid or interferes with education is prohibited, as is work involving separation from a child’s family, abuse, or illegal situations. According to the MSP resolution, minors may not work between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., with the exception of those who are 16 and 17 years of age. However, the Minors’ Code permits 16 and 17 year olds, like other minors, to work only until 8 p.m. Work affecting children’s morality, such as work in places of prostitution and where alcohol is served is prohibited. Those with knowledge of children engaging in prohibited work are mandated to report such situations to MSP. Since 1999, the Government of Colombia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document

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1133 Código del Menor, Articles 262-263.
1134 Ibid., Article 245.
1135 Resolución No 004448: por la cual se desarrolla la facultad contenida en el numeral 23 del artículo 245 del Decreto 2737 de 1989 o Código del Menor, (December 2, 2005); available from http://www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co/MseContent/images/news/DocNewsNo648901.doc. See also Código del Menor, Articles 262-263.
1136 Resolución 004448, Article 1.
1137 Ibid., Article 2.
1138 Código del Menor, Article 242.
1139 Ibid., Article 246.
1140 Ibid., Article 247.
identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 and Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1141}

Trafficking is prohibited by the Constitution\textsuperscript{1142} and is punishable by 13 to 23 years of incarceration and fines up to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary; penalties are increased under aggravated circumstances which include cases in which the victim is a minor.\textsuperscript{1143} Penalties for pimping and forced prostitution range from 2 to 13 years of incarceration and fines of 66 to 750 times the minimum monthly salary, with increased penalties if the victim is under age 14, if the crime involved moving the victim outside of the country, or if the perpetrator is a family member.\textsuperscript{1144} Operating an establishment in which minors practice sexual acts is punishable by 8 to 12 years of incarceration and fines of 66 to 750 times the minimum monthly salary, with increased penalties if the crime was committed by a family member.\textsuperscript{1145} Child pornography is punishable by fines from 133 to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary and 8 to 12 years of imprisonment, with increased penalties if the crime was committed by a family member.\textsuperscript{1146} The use of the mail or internet to obtain or offer sexual contact with a minor is punishable by 5 to 10 years of incarceration and a fine of 50 to 100 times the minimum monthly salary, with increased penalties if the minor involved is under age 12.\textsuperscript{1147} Internet pornography depicting minors is punishable by fines up to 100 times the minimum monthly salary and the cancellation or suspension of the web site.\textsuperscript{1148} Law 679 states that tourist agencies that engage in activities related to sexual tourism of minors can be penalized by fines of up to 300 times the minimum monthly salary and the suspension or cancellation of their registration in the National Tourism Registry.\textsuperscript{1149} Forced prostitution and sexual slavery in relation to the country’s ongoing conflict is punishable by imprisonment from 13 to 27 years and a fine of 666 to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary.\textsuperscript{1150} The minimum voluntary and compulsory recruitment age for the armed forces is 18.\textsuperscript{1151} Recruitment of children under age 18 by armed groups is punishable by 8 to 15 years in prison and fines ranging from 800 to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary.\textsuperscript{1152} Children are also prohibited from performing intelligence activities.\textsuperscript{1153} The law regards child soldiers as

\textsuperscript{1141} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.  
\textsuperscript{1142} Constitución Política de Colombia, Article 17.  
\textsuperscript{1144} Código Penal, (July 24, 2000), Articles 213, 214, and 216; available from http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/compendio_legislativo.HTM  
\textsuperscript{1145} Ibid., Article 217.  
\textsuperscript{1146} Ibid., Article 218.  
\textsuperscript{1148} Decree 1524, (July 24, 2002); available from http://www.i-uris.com/leyes/dec/1524.htm. See also Law 679, Articles 9-10.  
\textsuperscript{1149} Law 679, Articles 19-20.  
\textsuperscript{1150} Código Penal, Article 141.  
\textsuperscript{1151} Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Child Soldiers Global Report}. See also Resolución 004448, Article 1, 9.1.  
\textsuperscript{1152} Código Penal, Article 162.  
\textsuperscript{1153} Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Child Soldiers Global Report}.  

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Armed groups that collectively enter the government’s demobilization process must place all minor recruits with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF). The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the MSP conducts child labor inspections, but does not have sufficient resources to inspect all establishments that employ children. ICBF is responsible for child protection programs. This includes providing services to former child soldiers. The Minors’ Police, the Prosecutor’s Office for the Protection of the Child and Family, and Family Commissioners are also authorized to implement and enforce child labor laws and regulations. The Prosecutor General’s Office has a unit dedicated to combating trafficking.

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

The Colombian Government’s National Development Plan 2002-2006 establishes the eradication of exploitative child labor as a priority. Colombia’s Plan for Childhood (2004-2015) contains provisions relating to exploitative child labor, specifically to child trafficking, the recruitment of children into armed groups, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor implemented the Third Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor and the Protection of Working Youth 2003-2006. The plan’s objectives include increasing knowledge, improving public policy, raising awareness, and improving legislation regarding child labor. The MSP works to eradicate exploitative child labor through activities including awareness raising campaigns. With support from ILO-IPEC and Canada,

1154 Ley 782, (December 23), Article 15; available from http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gob.co/juridicos/ley_782.pdf.
1156 Constitución Política de Colombia, Article 17.
1158 Ibid., Section 5.
1159 Decreto 4760, Article 3, para. 3.
1164 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Colombia, Section 6d.
the government is working to improve cooperation and coordination among national, regional, and municipal governments in combating child labor. In 2005, the government ratified ILO Convention 182, the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

ICBF administers a reinsertion program for former child soldiers. Its programs are assisted by the IOM through funds from USAID and the governments of Canada and Italy. The Colombian Ministry of Interior operates a program that finds housing for and provides grants and training to demobilized child combatants. The Government of Colombia participates in a 3-year inter-regional ILO-IPEC project funded by USDOL that aims to combat the involvement of children with armed groups.

The Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the National Police, and the IOM conducted a trafficking awareness raising program in schools. The government has an interagency trafficking advisory committee whose activities include information campaigns, training, and coordination with Interpol. The committee created a database to maintain information regarding trafficking cases. Immigration officials and NGOs collaborated to provide information to potential trafficking victims. Colombian missions in countries such as Japan assist trafficking victims. The government has worked to include business, especially those in the travel industry in anti-trafficking activities. The Inspector General’s Office implemented a trafficking monitoring system in 10 departments.

The government participates in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional project to combat children’s involvement in both domestic labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

The National Police’s program “Colombia without Prostitution” uses family and


1169 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Colombia, Section 5. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Child Soldiers Global Report.


1171 Human Rights Watch, You’ll Learn Not to Cry, 113-114.


1173 U.S. Embassy- Bogota, reporting, December 5, 2005.


1175 U.S. Embassy- Bogota, reporting, December 5, 2005.


1177 Ibid.

1178 Ibid.

1179 U.S. Embassy- Bogota, reporting, December 5, 2005.

1180 ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Elimination of CDL and CSEC, project document, 68 and 72.
community education to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children. ICBF operates shelters and treatment centers for children.\textsuperscript{1181} The Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining is implementing a project to eradicate child labor in mining in cooperation with the UNDP.\textsuperscript{1182} The government also participates in a USD 3.5 million, 4-year USDOL-funded project to combat child labor in hazardous agriculture through improved access to quality, basic education for children working or at-risk of working in hazardous agriculture.\textsuperscript{1183}

Colombia’s National Development Plan and the Education Development Plan 2003-2006 list increasing educational access and improving educational quality and efficiency as priorities.\textsuperscript{1184} The Ministry of Education implements programs to improve school infrastructure in conflict zones, to promote the efficient use of human and financial resources, to improve literacy, and to increase access to basic and secondary education for rural, displaced, minority, and border communities.\textsuperscript{1185} The Colombian Federation of Educators and the government have begun a program to assist violence-threatened teachers through investigations and teacher relocations.\textsuperscript{1186} In November of 2005, the government of Colombia signed an agreement with the World Bank for a USD 86.4 million loan, part of which will be used to provide payments to families that meet certain conditions such as ensuring their children attend school.\textsuperscript{1187} Through another loan from the World Bank, the government is working to improve educational quality and access in the country’s rural areas.\textsuperscript{1188} Additional funds from the World Bank are being used to improve basic and secondary education in the department of Cundinamarca.\textsuperscript{1189}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Colombia; accessed June 30, 2005).
\item Katarina Tomašeski, Report of the Special Rapporteur, para. 12 and 18.
\item The U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Colombia, Section 2a.
\item The loan will provide cash payments to families from December 2005 to December 2006. See World Bank, Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan in the Amount of US$86.4 Million to the Republic of Colombia for a Social Safety Net Project, 7-8.
\item The USD 40 million, 5-year, 8-month loan was awarded in 2000. See World Bank, Rural Education Project, [online] [cited June 1, 2004]; available from http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=104231&piPK=73230&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=228424&Projectid=P050578.
\end{enumerate}
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Comoros

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 35.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Comoros in 2000. Approximately 35 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 36.2 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work in agriculture and family enterprises, particularly in subsistence farming and fishing. Children, some as young as 7 years old, also work as domestic servants in exchange for food and shelter. There are also growing numbers of working street children.

Primary education is compulsory until the age of 14. According to the U.S. Department of State, however, the government does not enforce attendance, and boys are often given preference. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 90 percent and in 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 55 percent. 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. In 2000, 44.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. There is a general lack of facilities, equipment, qualified teachers, textbooks

1190 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005, Section 6d. 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.


1192 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 666th Meeting: Comoros, CDC/C/SR.666, Geneva, June 2001, para. 3. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Comoros, Section 6d.

1193 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations, para. 39. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record, para. 3.


1197 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
Salaries for teachers are often so far in arrears that many refuse to work.\textsuperscript{1199}

\section*{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{1200} The Constitution prohibits forced and bonded labor, but the U.S. Department of State reports that the government does not prohibit forced or compulsory labor by children.\textsuperscript{1201} Laws protecting the rights and welfare of children do not appear to be enforced due to the lack of inspectors.\textsuperscript{1202}

Unmarried children under the age of 18 are considered minors, and the law protects them from sexual exploitation, prostitution, and pornography.\textsuperscript{1203} The Criminal Code provides for 2 to 5 years of imprisonment and a fine of 150,000 to 2,000,000 francs (USD 364 to 4852) for anyone who is complicit in the prostitution of a minor or uses threats, coercion, violence, assault, or the abuse of authority.\textsuperscript{1204} Article 323 of the Criminal Code also provides for the same penalties for complicity in international trafficking.\textsuperscript{1205} A juvenile court can impose protective measures for persons under 21 years discovered engaging in prostitution.\textsuperscript{1206}

\section*{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

The Government of Comoros is working to improve educational infrastructure with the assistance of a World Bank loan that supports the Service Support Credit Project. The project is scheduled to run through 2008.\textsuperscript{1207}

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item \textsuperscript{1199} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Summary Record}, para. 23.
\item \textsuperscript{1200} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Comoros}, Section 6d.
\item \textsuperscript{1201} Ibid., Section 6a.
\item \textsuperscript{1202} Ibid., Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{1203} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{1204} \textit{Criminal Code of Comoros}, Article 323; available from http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/Comorosf.pdf.
\item \textsuperscript{1205} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{1206} Ibid., Article 327.
\end{itemize}
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Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 39.8 percent of children ages 10 to 14 years were counted as working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2000. Approximately 39.9 percent of all boys 10 to 14 were working compared to 39.8 percent of all girls in the same age group.\(^\text{1208}\) Children work in the informal sector and in subsistence agriculture, which constitutes the largest part of the economy.\(^\text{1209}\) Some parents made their children hunt, fish, engage in prostitution, or beg in the streets to support their families instead of attending school.\(^\text{1210}\) Children have also been used as forced laborers in the illegal exploitation of natural resources.\(^\text{1211}\)

Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been negatively affected by continuing armed conflict.\(^\text{1212}\) In November 2003, the UN Special Rapporteur to the Democratic Republic of Congo reported that there were large numbers of child refugees and war orphans engaged in street work, including begging and prostitution. The Rapporteur estimated that there were 25,000 to 50,000 street children.\(^\text{1213}\) Armed groups recruited children into forced labor, sexual exploitation, and armed conflict.\(^\text{1214}\)

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\(^\text{1208}\) UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


\(^\text{1210}\) Ibid.


\(^\text{1212}\) The fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo is said to be the world’s deadliest conflict since the Second World War. Within a 5-year period, 3.3 million people have been killed and many others have died from starvation or disease. Families trying to escape the fighting found themselves far from water, shelter and other basic services. See UNICEF, *At a glance: Congo, Democratic Republic of the*, UNICEF, [online] n.d. [cited June 30, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/drcongo.html.

Girls were often assaulted, raped, and infected with HIV/AIDS. Combatants also forced girls to provide sexual services and domestic labor for extended periods of time. In 2004, the Congolese Government demobilized approximately 3,080 children; it is no longer recruiting child soldiers. However, there were reports that the Government provided support to militia groups which continued to recruit and use children as soldiers. The total number of children associated with armed groups is unknown, but estimates vary from 20,000 to 40,000 children.

Primary school education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is neither compulsory, free nor universal, and many children were not able to go to school because parents were unable to pay the enrollment fees. Parents were customarily expected to pay teachers’ salaries. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, the gross primary enrollment rate was 50 percent. Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2000, 65 percent of children ages 10 to 14 years were attending school. As a result of the 6-year civil war, over 5.2 million children in the country receive no education.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 6 of the Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years. Children between the ages of 15 and 18 may work with the consent of a parent or guardian. Children under 16 may work up to 4 hours per day. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from working at night. The Labor Code defines and prohibits the
worst forms of child labor under penalty of imprisonment for a maximum of six months and a fine of 30,000 CF (72 USD). Some statutes allow prosecution of the worst forms of child labor. The Transitional Constitution and the Labor Code prohibit bonded labor. The Labor Code also bans the recruitment of anyone under the age of 18 into the armed forces or their use in hostilities. The Labor Code prohibits the use of children as a means for trafficking drugs or other illicit activities such as prostitution or the production of pornographic materials. Since 1999, the government has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138. The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws, but, according to the U.S. Department of State, has not effectively enforced them.

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

The government is implementing a national plan for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of combatants including children, supported by the World Bank. World Bank programs include two directed specifically at child soldiers. These are the Support for the Reunification and Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers in the DRC, implemented by Save the Children; and Situation Assessment and Pilot Projects for Demobilization and Reintegration of Child Soldiers in Orientale, Northern Katanga and Maniema Provinces, implemented by the IRC, the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), and CARE International. The government participates in a regional ILO-IPEC project funded by USDOL to demobilize and rehabilitate children involved in armed conflict, and working with UNICEF to issue demobilization

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1224 According to the government, the definition of the worst forms of child labor in the DRC Labor Code is the same as the definition in the ILO Convention No. 182. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Public Comments, January 7, 2005.
1226 Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Public Comments, January 7, 2005.
1227 ILO-IPEC Geneva official, to USDOL official, email communication, November 14, 2005.
1228 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: DRC, Section 6d.
certificates for former child soldiers. The certificates are intended to guarantee that any child under the age of 18 is protected from military recruitment.  

The Ministry of Family Affairs and Labor began to implement an action plan against sexual exploitation in conjunction with an international organization, and the Government has attended regional meetings on trafficking and sought to coordinate with neighboring governments to address the problem of trafficking in the region.

The Congolese Government and UNICEF are implementing a national campaign to promote girls’ education. UNICEF provided basic school supplies to 1.5 million students and teaching materials to 17,000 teachers throughout the 2004-2005 school year. In June 2004, UNICEF re-opened schools for 1,000 children in two regions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and is providing equipment to keep the schools open. Also in 2004, the African Development Bank approved a USD 7.7 million education grant aimed at strengthening institutional capacities through training, and through the provision of equipment, tools, and teaching materials. In 2005 UNICEF provided USD 3.3 million to provide 3.25 million school children with notebooks, pens and educational equipment, to repair schools, and to provide teaching materials and training for up to 22,000 teachers.

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Congo, Republic of

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in the Republic of Congo are unavailable. 1237 Children work with their families on farms or in informal business activities. 1238 In Brazzaville there are significant numbers of street children, primarily from neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, who engage in street vending, begging, and petty theft. There were isolated cases of children involved in prostitution. 1239 There have been no reports of recruitment of child soldiers since the rebels and the government signed a peace accord in March 2003. 1240 As of March 2004, however, a comprehensive process of disarmament had not begun because of continued hostilities between warring parties. 1241

The Constitution establishes free and compulsory education up to the age of 16 years. Families, however, must cover the expenses of uniforms, books, and school fees. 1242 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 80 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 54 percent. 1243 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 the Republic of Congo. 1244 As of 2001, 66 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. 1245 School infrastructure was significantly damaged during

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1237 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

the country’s ongoing conflicts; in addition, schools have few educational materials and lack hygiene and sanitation systems. Teacher training is also inadequate. These conditions have contributed to high dropout rates. There are also some reports that teenage girls are coerced by school officials into exchanging sex for better grades.\textsuperscript{1246}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment, including apprenticeships, at 16 years. Exceptions may be permitted by the Ministry of Education after an inspection of the place of employment.\textsuperscript{1247} The code prohibits forced or compulsory labor.\textsuperscript{1248} The minimum age of enlistment for service in the armed forces in the Republic of Congo is 18, although children were recruited by government forces during the conflicts that occurred from 1998 to 2002.\textsuperscript{1249}

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in the Republic of Congo, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. Since 1999, the Government of the Republic of Congo has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1250} The Penal Code criminalizes procuring a person for the purpose of prostitution and establishes penalties of 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of 10,000,000 CFA (USD 17,847.60) if such an act is committed with respect to a minor.\textsuperscript{1251} While the law does not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons, under existing laws, traffickers could be prosecuted for slavery, rape, prostitution, forced labor, and illegal immigration. However, there were no reports that the government had prosecuted any traffickers under these laws.\textsuperscript{1252} The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and monitors businesses in the formal sector, but most child labor occurs in the informal sector or in rural areas that lack effective government oversight, according to the U.S. Department of State.\textsuperscript{1253}

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\item \textsuperscript{1248} There are some exceptions for military service and other civic duties. See Ibid., Article 4.
\item \textsuperscript{1249} Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Child Soldiers Global Report 2004}.
\item \textsuperscript{1250} ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\item \textsuperscript{1252} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Congo}, Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{1253} Ibid. Section 6d.
\end{footnotes}
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Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of the Republic of Congo is participating in a 3-year inter-regional ILO-IPEC project, funded by USDOL in 2003, to reintegrate children involved in armed conflicts into communities and prevent children from becoming involved in armed conflicts. USDOL is providing USD 7 million to the 7-country project. The government has also established the High Commission for Reintegration of Ex-Combatants, which has worked to demobilize child soldiers and offers them financial support and technical training. With funding from UNICEF, the Department of Social Action established the Traumatized Children Project, which provides counseling for former child soldiers.

The government is implementing a National Plan of Action for Education for All that, among other goals, aims to improve quality of and access to preschool, primary, non-formal, and vocational technical education by the year 2015. The plan also includes specific goals for increasing girls' school attendance. The World Bank is providing funding for an emergency reconstruction project that includes financing for school rehabilitation in Brazzaville and will run until 2007, and a basic education project which will run until 2008. This support to the education sector will provide school materials and rehabilitate buildings as well as provide training to teachers and school administration. In 2003, the Ministry of Territorial and Regional Development worked with the European Union and UNESCO to implement a school reintegration project for children displaced by natural disasters and the civil war. The project aims to promote non-formal literacy, rehabilitate schools, and provide HIV-AIDS and civics education to youths over an 18-month period. In 2005, the EU pledged a grant for the rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools in Brazzaville to which parents would contribute 25 percent. The WFP announced in 2004 that it would continue providing school meals for 2 years in regions of the country affected by past conflicts. USDA is providing over $14 million over fiscal years 2006 to 2008 to support various programs.
operated by an American NGO, International Partnership for Human Development (IPHD). These programs support school feeding, malaria prevention in schools, distribution of school supplies, scholarships for girls, construction of water cisterns for schools, development of parent-teacher associations (PTAs), and school rehabilitation.\textsuperscript{1261}

\textsuperscript{1261} U.S. Embassy – Brazzaville Official, email correspondence to USDOL Official, August 11, 2006
Costa Rica

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 5.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Costa Rica in 2002. Approximately 8.3 percent of all boys ages 5 to 14 years were working compared to 3.2 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (57.0 percent), followed by services (30.9 percent), manufacturing (7.8 percent), and other sectors (4.8 percent). The rate of work is higher in rural than in urban areas, with 9.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years working in rural areas, compared to 2.7 percent in urban areas. Children ages 5 to 14 also work in trade and repair of vehicle and appliances (19.5 percent), manufacturing (7.3 percent), hotels and restaurants (4.9 percent), construction (4.8 percent), and domestic service (2.8 percent). Among working males ages 5 to 17 years, agricultural (46.9 percent) and trade and repair work (21.4 percent) are followed by manufacturing (9.7 percent) and construction (9.6 percent). Among working females ages 5 to 17, agricultural (34.4 percent) and trade and repair work (22.6 percent) are followed by domestic work in third-party households (19.6 percent) and employment in hotels and restaurants (10.7 percent). Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2.0 percent of the population in Costa Rica were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a continuing problem in Costa Rica, and is often associated with the country’s sex tourism industry. Costa Rica is a

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1262 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.

1263 For adolescents ages 15 to 17 years, work rates are 34.5 percent in rural areas, and 15.3 percent in urban areas. INEC, MTSS, and ILO-IPEC, *National Report on the Results of the Child and Adolescent Labour Survey in Costa Rica*, San José, 2003., 26

1264 Ibid., 31.

1265 Ibid., 31.


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<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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source, transit and destination country for children trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{1269} Most trafficking victims originate from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama, while others come from China, Cuba, Eastern Europe, Ecuador, Peru, the Philippines, and Russia. Cost Rica is also a transit point for individuals trafficked to the United States, Mexico, Canada, Japan, and Europe for commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{1270}

Education is compulsory and free for 6 years at the primary level and 3 years at the secondary level, until age 15.\textsuperscript{1271} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 108 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 90.6 percent.\textsuperscript{1272} 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. In 2002, 90.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{1273} As of 2001, 92 percent of children enrolled in primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1274} Schools in areas of high concentrations of immigrants are often over-crowded and have students over the age for their grade level.\textsuperscript{1275} In some rural and urban schools, classroom instruction has been split into three 3-hour shifts because of space and personnel limitations.\textsuperscript{1276} There are reports that the quality of education suffers because of a lack of pre-school and secondary coverage, a high percentage of unlicensed teachers, infrastructure problems, and outdated curriculum materials.\textsuperscript{1277}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Childhood and Adolescence Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{1278} The Code prohibits minors under the age of 18 from working in mines, bars,
and other businesses that sell alcohol; in unsafe and unhealthy places; in activities where they are responsible for their own safety or the safety of other minors; and where they are required to work with dangerous equipment, contaminated substances, or excessive noise.\textsuperscript{1279} Also, under the Childhood and Adolescence Code, adolescents are not allowed to work at night or more than 6 hours a day or 36 hours a week.\textsuperscript{1280} Forced and bonded labor is prohibited under the law.\textsuperscript{1281} Costa Rica does not have armed forces, and the minimum age for recruitment to the police is 18 years.\textsuperscript{1282}

The Government of Costa Rica has several laws that regulate the worst forms of child labor. The Children’s Bill of Rights affirms the right of children and adolescents to protection from all forms of exploitation, including prostitution and pornography.\textsuperscript{1283} The Law Against the Sexual Exploitation of Underage Persons, establishes penalties for those engaged in the commercial sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{1284} The Penal Code provides for a prison sentence of 4 to 10 years if the victim of sexual exploitation is under the age of 18. The Penal Code also provides punishments for trafficking minors into and out of the country for prostitution, ranging from 8 to 10 years of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{1285} Costa Rican law prohibits Internet services from exposing children to pornography.\textsuperscript{1286} Since 1999, the Government of Costa Rica has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1287}

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS), through the Inspections Directorate, is responsible for investigating and enforcing labor violations.\textsuperscript{1288} To address child labor on a local level, a head labor inspector is appointed in each Regional Office of the National Directorate of Labor Inspection.\textsuperscript{1289} The Ministry of Labor reports that all labor inspectors are trained to identify and investigate child labor abuses.\textsuperscript{1290}

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\textsuperscript{1279} Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, 1998, Article 94. See also Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States Jamie Daremblum, letter to USDOL official, October 23, 2001.

\textsuperscript{1280} Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, 1998, Article 95. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Costa Rica, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{1281} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Costa Rica, Section 6c.


\textsuperscript{1283} U.S. Embassy- San José, reporting, August 2000.

\textsuperscript{1284} Ministry of Foreign Trade, Submission to the U.S. Department of Labor of a Report and Comments on Child Labor Issues, official submission to USDOL Official, June 5, 2003, 5.

\textsuperscript{1285} These provisions are found in Articles 170 and 172 of the Penal Code. See Interpol, Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children: Costa Rica, [online] [cited June 22, 2005]; available from http://www.interpol.int/public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/esaCostaRica.asp.


\textsuperscript{1287} ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

\textsuperscript{1288} U.S. Embassy- San José, reporting, September 5, 2005.

\textsuperscript{1289} Ministry of Foreign Trade, Submission to the US Department of Labor of a Report and Comments on Child Labor Issues, 6.

\textsuperscript{1290} U.S. Embassy- San José, reporting, August 25, 2004.
U.S. Department of State reports that inspections are restricted by a lack of human and capital resources.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- San José, reporting. September 5, 2005.} Child labor investigations can be initiated after an inspection, or in response to complaints filed by government, NGOs, or civil society (including exploited children and adolescents).\footnote{Jamie Daremblum, letter to USDOL official, October 23, 2001, 3.} From January to August 2004, the Office of Eradication of Child Labor, an office within the Ministry of Labor principally responsible for drafting and implementing action strategies and education programs, reported that it registered 740 child labor cases in its child labor database, of which 350 were children below the legal employment age of 15 years.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Costa Rica, Section 6d.}

The government has been enforcing its prohibitions against the sexual exploitation of minors by raiding brothels and arresting clients.\footnote{Ibid., Section 5.} The National Institute of Children (PANI, \textit{Patronato Nacional de la Infancia}), in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, carries out investigations aimed at capturing abusers and providing protection to child victims.\footnote{Government of Costa Rica, Submission to the US Department of Labor of a Report and Comments on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Costa Rica, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (July 14, 2004) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Embassy of Costa Rica in the United States, August 23, 2004.} PANI and the Judiciary are responsible for addressing non-work-related cases of exploitation of children. The Public Prosecutor for Sexual Offenses is responsible for investigating and indicting cases of sexual exploitation of children.\footnote{Jamie Daremblum, letter to USDOL official, October 23, 2001.} Although the government has been making efforts to raise awareness on commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking and to improve enforcement, the U.S. Department of State reports that lack of resources has hampered these efforts.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Costa Rica, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.}

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

government and Save the Children-Sweden launched an awareness-raising campaign against trafficking and exploitation at Costa Rica’s Juan Santamaria International Airport.\textsuperscript{1301} The government also has a Master Plan on Children and Adolescents, which includes a chapter on the commercial sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{1302} The Commission against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children established a sub-committee to specifically work on legislation and enforcement issues.\textsuperscript{1303}

The Government of Costa Rica is participating in USDOL-funded projects implemented by the ILO-IPEC. These include a USD 3 million regional project to combat child labor in commercial agriculture,\textsuperscript{1304} and a USD 8.8 million regional project aimed at combating commercial sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{1305} The Government of Costa Rica is also participating in a USD 5.5 million USDOL-funded regional Child Labor Education Initiative Program implemented by CARE, which seeks to strengthen government and civil society’s capacity to address the educational needs of working children.\textsuperscript{1306} With funding from the Government of Canada, ILO-IPEC has collaborated with the Government of Costa Rica to implement a USD 1 million Timebound Program from 2003 to 2005. The Timebound Program focused on creating an enabling environment at the national level to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, as well as activities to withdraw children from work in the Brunca Region.\textsuperscript{1307} The United States is supporting the Costa Rican Supreme Court of Justice with funds to establish an investigative and prosecutorial team mandated to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{1308}

In the area of education, programs have focused on the reintegration of working children into the education system. The Government of Costa Rica has been providing small educational loans to families with children at risk of working.\textsuperscript{1309} Costa Rica’s Education Plan 2002-2006 includes strategies to provide universal access to pre-school; improve the quality of primary school, especially in disadvantaged communities; increase the

\textsuperscript{1301} Government of Costa Rica, Submission and Comments on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Costa Rica.
\textsuperscript{1303} Ibid., 2.
\textsuperscript{1304} This project is being carried out over a period of three years, spanning Sep 2003 to June 2006. ILO-IPEC, Prevention and progressive elimination of child labor in agriculture in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (Phase II), Project Document, September 30, 2003.
\textsuperscript{1305} This project began in Sep 2002 and is scheduled to end in June 2009. See ILO-IPEC, Stop the Exploitation, project document, 26-40.
\textsuperscript{1306} USDOL, Combating Child Labor through Education in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and the Dominican Republic, 2004.
\textsuperscript{1307} ILO-IPEC, Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Costa Rica: Supporting the Timebound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Costa Rica, Project Document, COS/03/P03/CAN, 2003.
\textsuperscript{1308} This 2-year project began in 2004. See U.S. Department of State, reporting, March 18, 2004. See also U.S. Embassy- San José, reporting, August 25, 2004.
coverage and quality of secondary school; and strengthen open and flexible education opportunities for adolescents and adults who combine school and work.\textsuperscript{1310}

Côte d’Ivoire

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 36.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Côte d’Ivoire in 2000. Approximately 36.9 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 36.5 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children are found in the informal sector, including in agricultural sectors such as cocoa, family-operated artisan gold and diamond mines, and domestic work. Some children working as domestics are subject to mistreatment, including sexual abuse. Children also shine shoes, run errands, watch and wash cars, sell food in street restaurants, and work as vendors or in sweatshop conditions in small workshops. Children have been found working in small businesses, tailor and beauty shops, and manufacturing and repair shops. There are also large numbers of street children in the country, particularly in Abidjan. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, 10.8 percent of the population in Côte d’Ivoire were living on less than USD 1 a day.

National armed forces and rebel groups are reported to recruit or use children in situations of armed conflict, sometimes on a forced basis. Rebel forces are also reported to actively recruit child soldiers from refugee camps and other areas in the

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1311 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


1313 Ibid., Section 5.

1314 Ibid., Section 6d.

1315 Since the 2002 rebellion, the number of children working in the streets, particularly girls, is reported to have increased. See Ibid., Section 5.


western part of the country. Girls are allegedly abducted by armed opposition groups for exploitation as sexual slaves. There have been reports of Liberian children fighting in Côte d’Ivoire, many of them recruited in refugee camps in Côte d’Ivoire by both government armed forces and armed opposition groups. Ivorian child soldiers are also reported to fight in Liberia.

Côte d’Ivoire is a source and destination country for trafficked children. Children are trafficked into the country from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania and Togo to work as domestic servants, farm laborers, and indentured servants, as well as for sexual exploitation. Girls are trafficked within the country for domestic service, street vending, and exploitation in prostitution.

Children work in the cocoa sector in Côte d’Ivoire. Most children work alongside their families on farms owned either by immediate or extended relatives. Many of the working children come from outside the country’s cocoa zone, either from other regions of Côte d’Ivoire or from countries such as Burkina Faso. Of the children employed as full-time workers, 29 percent reported that they were not free to leave their place of employment should they wish. Approximately one-third of children ages 6 to 17 years who live in cocoa-producing households have never attended school. Schooling is either unavailable or unaffordable for many of these children.

1325 The Producer-Worker Survey revealed that 604,500 (96.7 percent) of the 625,100 children working in cocoa in Côte d’Ivoire had a kinship relation to the farmer. See International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector of West Africa: A synthesis of findings in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, August 2002, 16.
1326 Ibid., 12-13.
involved in hazardous tasks that include spraying pesticides without protection, using machetes to clear undergrowth and carrying heavy loads.1329

Primary education in Côte d’Ivoire is not compulsory. It is tuition free, but some students must still pay for books, fees, and school supplies.1330 Schools in rebel-held areas in northern Côte d’Ivoire that were closed after the civil war broke out reopened in September 2004. However, after the resumption of armed conflict in November 2004, the Minister of National Education recalled all the administrative staff and refused to certify the examinations of the students in the north. The Minister rescinded this decree in June 2005, and exams for these students were rescheduled for August 2005.1331 However, these exams were repeatedly postponed during the year by the Ministry of National Education due to security concerns.1332 Schools in government-controlled areas are having difficulty in absorbing the large numbers of displaced children from conflict zones as these schools do not have adequate capacity.1333

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 78 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 61 percent.1334 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. In 2000, 52.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.1335 As of 1999, 88 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.1336

1330 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Côte d'Ivoire, Section 5.
1332 U.S. Embassy- Abidjan, email communication to USDOL official, October 1, 2005.
1335 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, even for apprenticeships, and requires that children under 18 get at least 12 consecutive hours of rest between work shifts, and prohibits them from working at night. Decree No. 96-204 also prohibits night work by children ages 14 to 18 years, unless granted an exception by the Labor Inspectorate, and Decree No. 67-265 sets the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 years. The Minority Act requires parents or legal guardians to sign employment contracts on behalf of children under 16 years of age and to serve as witnesses to the signing for children between the ages of 16 and 18. The Labor Inspectorate can require children to take a medical exam to ensure that the work for which they are hired does not exceed their physical capacity. Decree No. 96-193 restricts children from working in certain places such as bars, hotels, and pawnshops.

The Labor Code prohibits forced or compulsory labor. Since 1999, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138. In October 2004, the government produced a list of hazardous tasks in the cocoa sector, and in March 2005, the government adopted a decree defining hazardous work that is forbidden for children under 18 years. The decree outlines prohibited work in the categories of agriculture, forestry, mining, commerce and urban domestic sector, artisanship, and transport. The minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory recruitment into the military is 18 years.
Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Côte d’Ivoire, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. Under the Penal Code, persons convicted of procuring a prostitute under the age of 21 may be imprisoned for 2 to 10 years and fined 2,000,000 to 20,000,000 FCFA (USD 3,630 to 36,298). While there is no law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons, abduction, receiving a person as financial security, and forced labor are prohibited by the Penal Code.

A Focal Unit in the Ministry of Labor is responsible for child labor issues. The U.S. Department of State reported that minimum age laws are effectively enforced by the Ministry of Employment and Civil Service in the civil service and in large multinational companies. Child labor laws in Côte d’Ivoire apply to all sectors and industries in the country, although a lack of government resources makes it difficult to enforce these laws in the informal sector. Enforcement of child labor prohibitions is also hindered by the lack of a regulatory and judicial framework. Reports indicate that courts in the North are no longer functioning due to the conflict. In the South, five people were convicted of trafficking in 2004.

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

The Government of Côte d’Ivoire participates in a 6-year regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative labor in West and Central Africa. Côte d’Ivoire also participates in a 3-year ILO-IPEC program funded by USDOL and the Cocoa Global Issues Group that seeks to withdraw children from hazardous work in the cocoa sector and provide them with education and training alternatives, and in another USDOL-funded project aimed at addressing training and educational alternatives for children engaged in, or at risk of, harmful work. The

1349 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
1351 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Côte d'Ivoire, Section 6d.
1355 The ILO-IPEC project is scheduled to close in April 2006. See International Child Labor Program U.S. Department of Labor, West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Program to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labor (WACAP), project summary. See also Winrock International, Community-Based Innovations to Reduce Child Labor through Education (CIRCLE), project document, July 2002, 1, 20.

In July 2005, Côte d’Ivoire was one of 9 countries to sign a multilateral cooperative agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa.\footnote{Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Child Trafficking in West Africa, July 27, 2005.} On a bilateral level, the Ministries of Employment and of Family, Women, and Children’s Affairs cooperated with Malian authorities during the year to combat child trafficking and to repatriate Malian children found in Côte d’Ivoire.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Côte d'Ivoire}, Section 5.} Twenty employees of the Ministry of Family are dedicated to working on child trafficking issues.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.} A national committee, comprised of representatives from the government, national and international organizations, and NGOs, also works to combat child trafficking.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Côte d'Ivoire}, Section 5.} In October 2004, the National Committee against Trafficking adopted a national training plan that includes training for judges, defense forces, NGOs, bus drivers, journalists, and radio personalities in the southern region.\footnote{However, due to increased instability, implementation has been stalled. See U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.} The government is establishing field committees to monitor and prevent child labor on cocoa farms,\footnote{Integrated Regional Information Networks, "COTE D IVOIRE: Ending the worst forms of child labour on cocoa farms", IRINnews.org, [online], June 28, 2005 [cited June 30, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=47847.} and is working with local governments and NGOs to establish neighborhood watch groups to combat child trafficking.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.} UNICEF conducts advocacy campaigns with government and rebel authorities to prevent the recruitment of children into armed conflict.\footnote{UNICEF, \textit{At a glance: Cô t D'ivoire}, in UNICEF, [online] n.d. [cited June 20, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cotedivoire.html.} 

In 2004, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire created an Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat Child Labor, which is comprised of members of government, NGOs, and unions/cooperatives representing cocoa farmers. In May 2005, the committee adopted the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor. Under the plan, the government is financing and implementing a USD 2.4 million pilot child labor monitoring system project in the Oume district.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- Abidjan, \textit{reporting}, October 4, 2005.} 

In January 2005, the Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire established a Cocoa Task Force, which worked with the international cocoa industry to develop a plan of action to enable Côte d’Ivoire to have a national child labor monitoring system in 50 percent of the country by July 1, 2008.\footnote{Ibid. See also World Cocoa Foundation, \textit{Joint Statement from U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, Representative Eliot Engel and the Chocolate/Cocoa Industry on Efforts to Address the Worst Forms of}
approved the action plan submitted by the Cocoa Task Force in September 2005. Under the plan, a census is to be conducted in the cocoa producing areas of the country in order to provide a countrywide baseline of child labor in this sector.\textsuperscript{1367}

The government is implementing a National Development Plan for Education, which calls for universal primary school education by 2010.\textsuperscript{1368} WFP works with the government to operate a system of school canteens throughout the country.\textsuperscript{1369} UNICEF provides teaching supplies, constructs temporary classrooms for displaced populations, and trains teachers to provide psycho-social support and peace education.\textsuperscript{1370}


\textsuperscript{1367} U.S. Embassy- Abidjan, \textit{reporting}, October 4, 2005.


\textsuperscript{1369} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Côte d'Ivoire}, Section 5.

\textsuperscript{1370} UNICEF, \textit{At a glance: Côte d'Ivoire}. 

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Croatia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Croatia are unavailable.1371 Children are employed in the hospitality, retail, industrial, construction, and media (film and reality television) sectors. Roma children reportedly are vulnerable to exploitation in begging and in the agricultural sector, and officials reported handling 28 cases of child pornography.1372 Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, less than 2 percent of the population of Croatia was living on less than USD 1 a day.1373 Reports indicate that Croatia is primarily a transit country and, to a limited extent, is also a source and destination country for trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation.1374

Education is free and compulsory in Croatia.1375 The Elementary Education Law (1990) requires 8 years mandatory education for children to begin at 6 years of age.1376 Children generally complete compulsory education at age 14; however, most Croatian children remain in school until age 18.1377 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 97

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1371 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.
percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 89 percent. 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. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Croatia. In general, ethnic Roma children face many obstacles to continuing their schooling, such as discrimination in schools and lack of family income to continue studies.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, and children ages 15 to 18 may only work with written permission from a legal guardian. Children under age 15 may work or participate in artistic or entertainment functions (such as making movies) with special permission from the parent or guardian and the labor inspector, assuming that the work is not harmful to the child’s health, morality, education, or development. The minimum work age is enforced by the Ministry of Economy, Labor, and Entrepreneurship (MELE). According to stipulations in the Labor Law and the Occupational Safety and Health Act, children under age 18 are prohibited from working overtime, at night, under dangerous labor conditions, or in any other job that may be harmful to a child’s health, morality, or development. More specifically, children under age 18 are prohibited from working in bars, nightclubs, and gambling establishments. The corporate fine for employing an underage person unlawfully is USD 9,870 to 16,181, and executives in the corporation may be fined individually USD 1,133 to 1,618. The

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1379 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.
1380 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports - 2004: Croatia, Section 5.
1381 Croatia Labour Act of 2004 (No. 137/2004), Articles 21-22. In 2004, 14 children between the ages of 16 and 18 were found to be working without the written consent of their legal representatives. Labor inspectors also determined that 11 children under the age of 15 were working in the film industry or in theater in 2004, although no requests were made to the State Inspectorate for approval of employment of these minors. See U.S. Embassy-Zagreb, reporting, August 26, 2005.
1382 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, September 9, 2004.
1383 Croatia Labour Act of 2004, Articles 23 and 41. See also Government of Croatia, Safety and Health Protection at the Workplace Act, 1996, (June 28, 1996), Section 40; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/atbl全文/docs/WEBTEXT/45063/65037/E96HRV01.htm. See also Government of Croatia, Regulations concerning jobs at which a minor may not be employed and jobs at which a minor may be employed after the prior determination of the minor’s health capacity (Official Gazette No. 59/02), as cited in ILO Committee of Experts, Direct Request on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Croatia (ratification: 2001), [online] [cited June 18, 2005]; available from http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/EN/index.cfm?lang=EN. The Regulation on Jobs with Special Working Conditions (Official Gazette No. 05/84) provides a comprehensive list of types of hazardous work that children under 18 are prohibited from performing. See ILO Committee of Experts, Direct Request (No. 182): Croatia. In 2004, labor inspectors documented 12 minors working overtime and 29 working at night. Six minors received serious injuries through their work in construction and on industrial machines. See U.S. Embassy-Zagreb, reporting, August 26, 2005.
1384 USDOL consultant, email communication to USDOL official, July 27, 2005. Article 248 of the Croatia Labour Act of 2004 sets the corporate fine at 61,000 to 100,000 Croatian Kuna and the fine for executives at 7,000 to 10,000 Croatian Kuna. For currency conversion, see FXConverter, [online] [cited October 24, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.
Family Law contains provisions for the protection of the rights and welfare of children.\textsuperscript{1385} The Children’s Ombudsman coordinates government efforts to promote and protect the interests of children and is obligated to report any findings of exploitation to the State’s Attorney’s Office.\textsuperscript{1386} The Constitution prohibits forced or bonded labor,\textsuperscript{1387} and the Criminal Code bans individuals from forcing children to beg.\textsuperscript{1388} The minimum age for conscription into the military is 18.\textsuperscript{1389}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Croatia. The Criminal Code outlaws international prostitution, including solicitation of a minor, and prohibits procurement of minors for sexual purposes.\textsuperscript{1390} The law also forbids using children for pornographic purposes. Article 178 (1) of the Criminal Code indicates that international prostitution pertains to, “[w]hoever tempts, recruits or instigates the other person to provide sexual services for profit in a country other than the one whose resident or citizen that person is,” and Article 178 (2) indicates, “[w]ho compels another person by using physical force, or induces that person using threats, or by deceit to go to a country other than the country of that person’s residence or citizenship, to provide sexual services for money…”\textsuperscript{1391} In July 2004, the Criminal Code was amended, introducing the trafficking of persons as a separate criminal act with a minimum prison sentence of 5 years when a child or a minor is involved.\textsuperscript{1392} Since 1999, the Government of Croatia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1393} The Children’s Council within the State Institute for the Protection of the Family monitors and promotes the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.\textsuperscript{1394}

\textsuperscript{1385} Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to the U.S., Report for the period until 2003 on the measure taken (No. 182).

\textsuperscript{1386} The Ombudsman has no legal authority to impose penalties but works closely with the police and the district attorney’s office to follow-up on abuse allegations. See U.S. Embassy- Zagreb, reporting, August 27, 2004. See also ILO Committee of Experts, Direct Request (No. 182): Croatia.

\textsuperscript{1387} Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, Article 23.

\textsuperscript{1388} Government of Croatia, Criminal Code, Article 213(2), as cited in ILO Committee of Experts, Direct Request (No. 182): Croatia.


\textsuperscript{1390} Per Article 178(3) of the Criminal Code, the penalty for international prostitution involving a child or minor is imprisonment for 1 to 10 years. The penalty for procuring a child is imprisonment for 1 to 8 years under Article 195(4). See Government of Croatia, Criminal Code, Articles 178 and 195, as cited in Interpol, Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offenses against children, [online] [cited June 27, 2005]; available from http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaCroatia.asp.

\textsuperscript{1391} The penalty for exploiting children or minors for pornographic purposes is imprisonment from 1 to 5 years. The penalty for exposing a child to pornography is a fine or imprisonment for up to 1 year. See Government of Croatia, Criminal Code, Articles 178, 196, and 197, as cited in Ibid.

\textsuperscript{1392} U.S. Embassy- Zagreb, reporting, August 27, 2005.

\textsuperscript{1393} ILO-IPEC official, email communication, November 14, 2005.

\textsuperscript{1394} Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to the U.S., Report for the period until 2003 on the measure taken (No. 182), 8-9.
In 2005 the Labor Inspectorate reported one case in which a minor was employed in a job potentially threatening to his health at a construction site; confirmed three cases of underage persons working in jobs with “special conditions,” a violation of Article 40 of the Law on Safety at Work; and confirmed 14 children under age 15 and 21 between the ages of 15 and 18 were working after 7 p.m. in a theater production, also a violation. Labor inspectors also reported 107 cases of minors (77 female, 30 male) illegally working the night shift in restaurants, stores, industry, kitchens and bakeries. In all cases the owners were charged with violations under the Labor Law and ordered to stop hiring minors for night work.

Children begging in the streets is common year round and more apparent before holidays. The Ministry of Interior reported that from Jan. 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2003 (the most current numbers available), there were 219 cases of children begging and 126 charges were filed against adults for begging with children. The Labor Inspectorate ordered the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to more stringently search for and process violators and called for better cooperation between social agencies and police.

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

The Government of Croatia has established a general child protection plan, under which the National Action Program for Children provides preventive and protective measures for children with regard to all types of sexual abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation. The government also adopted a National Plan of Action on Trafficking in November 2002 and is implementing it through a National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons. In 2004, the government further adopted a National Strategy for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons from 2005 to 2008 and an Operational Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons for 2005. Additionally, the government appointed an anti-trafficking coordinator and provided direct funds to implement the national plan.

The trafficking action plan calls for training programs for all professionals working with groups at high risk of trafficking, including children, and schools are to develop curricula on the issue. Since 2003, women and children taken into custody as illegal migrants

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1395 Ibid.
1397 Ibid., 134.
1398 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
1399 Unaccompanied children are recognized as a particularly vulnerable group needing special attention. See UNICEF, UNOHCHR, OCSE/ODIHR, and Barbara Limanowska, 2003 Update on Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings, 126, 132-134. The IOM is heading a project to develop a preventative education module on counter-trafficking, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and local NGOs for high school students. See IOM, High School Preventive Education on Trafficking in Human Beings in Croatia (HSPE), [online] 2004 [cited June 28, 2005]; available from
are screened as potential trafficking victims, though the U.S. Department of State has indicated that failure to identify trafficking victims among illegal aliens remains a serious problem, resulting in an underestimation of those trafficked in Croatia. Local Social Welfare Centers provide assistance to detainees suspected of being underage. The government has established a shelter for victims of trafficking; IOM provides assistance and support to victims. The government also conducted in-service police training on trafficking-recognition, funded a national hotline for victims of trafficking and anti-trafficking awareness campaigns, and co-sponsored with several NGOs a number of prevention programs on the trafficking of persons.

In June 2004, a working group on child trafficking was established. The Child Trafficking Prevention Program is being implemented by the Center for Social Policy Initiatives, a national NGO, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior, and IOM. Modules have been developed on child trafficking, child exploitation, sexual exploitation of children, child pornography, and other worst forms of child labor. Teachers have been trained to use the program, and a pilot project is underway in five elementary schools in Zagreb. The government also works with international organizations to assist trafficking victims and cooperates with other governments in the region. According to the Ministry of Justice, in 2004, there were 26 charges filed for the exploitation of children used in pornographic media, and one individual was charged with trafficking in human beings and slavery. The State Attorney’s Office reported 19 of those cases were closed in 2005 in which 16 resulted in convictions, two were found not guilty and one was dismissed. The office reported seven ongoing investigations.

http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Project/ServletSearchProject?event=detail&id=HR1Z022. See also UNICEF, 2004 Focus on Prevention, 216.

1400 This was reported in the National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, Country Report – Croatia, May 2003, as cited in UNICEF, UNOHCHR, OCSE/ODIHR, and Barbara Limanowska, 2003 Update on Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings, 127-128.


1402 UNICEF, UNOHCHR, OCSE/ODIHR, and Barbara Limanowska, 2003 Update on Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings, 128.


1405 The working group includes representation from the National Human Rights Office, the Children’s Ombudsman, Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Science and Education; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; and the District’s Attorney’s Office. See U.S. Embassy- Zagreb, reporting, August 27, 2005.

1406 UNICEF, UNOHCHR, OCSE/ODIHR, and Barbara Limanowska, 2003 Update on Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings, 134. See also UNICEF, 2004 Focus on Prevention, 221.


1408 U.S. Embassy-Zagreb, reporting, August 26, 2005.
Through 2007, Croatia is participating in a regional program implemented by ILO-IPEC on combating child labor in the Stability Pact Countries, with a special focus on the worst forms of child labor.1409

The Office for National Minorities has a special program for the inclusion of Roma children in the education system in Croatia. According to the 2003 National Program for Roma, the primary obstacles to Roma access to primary school is a weak knowledge of the Croatian language. In response, the government has committed funding to support additional Croatian language teachers and pre-school instruction for Roma children.1410 A school feeding program is available to children.1411 Croatia also initiated the program, “Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015,” to better document and aid the Roma minority community.

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1409 Participating countries are Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, and Romania. See ILO- IPEC official, email communication, November 8, 2005.
1411 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports - 2004: Croatia, Section 5.
Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Djibouti are unavailable. In rural areas, children perform unpaid labor on family farms or herding livestock. In urban areas, children work in the informal sector in small-scale businesses, trade, catering, crafts, or as domestic servants. Children displaced from neighboring countries also work in the informal sector as shoe polishers, car washers, *khat* sellers, street peddlers, money changers, beggars, and in commercial sexual exploitation. Many of these same children become victims of trafficking. Commercial sexual exploitation of children reportedly occurs in urban areas, particularly among displaced children from Somalia and Ethiopia.

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1412 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.


1415 “*Khat*” is a leaf that is chewed and its effect is as a stimulant. See Peter Kalix, *Khat (Qat, Kat): Chewing Khat*, World Health Organization, 1986; available from http://www.a1b2c3.com/drugs/khat2.htm.


Education is free and compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 16 years.\textsuperscript{1419} Although education is free, the additional expenses of transportation, uniforms, and books often prevent poor families from sending their children to school.\textsuperscript{1420} In 2003, the gross primary enrollment rate was 42 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 36 percent.\textsuperscript{1421} 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.\textsuperscript{1422} 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 is particularly low in rural areas where many people are nomads or semi-nomads.\textsuperscript{1423} According to one estimate, approximately 65,000 school-aged children are currently not attending school in the country.\textsuperscript{1424} As of 2001, 80 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1425}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Djibouti. The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years.\textsuperscript{1426} Forced and bonded labor of children is also prohibited, and according to the U.S. Department of State, there were no reports that these practices occurred.\textsuperscript{1427} Djibouti does not have compulsory military service.\textsuperscript{1428} Since 1994, entry into the military is voluntary.\textsuperscript{1429} The Penal Code provides protection for children against many of the worst forms of child labor, such as the use of children for prostitution, pornography, and trafficking of drugs.\textsuperscript{1430} The authority to enforce child labor laws and regulations rests with the Police Vice Squad “Brigade Des Moeurs” and the local police department “Gendarmerie”. The

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{1420} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Djibouti, Section 5.
  \item \textsuperscript{1422} In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 34.8 percent for girls and 45.7 percent for boys. The net primary enrollment rate was 29.6 percent for girls and 38.3 percent for boys. See World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004 [CD-ROM], Washington D.C., 2004.
  \item \textsuperscript{1423} UN Integrated Regional Information Networks, Djibouti: Special report on girls’ education, [online] [cited June 22, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=39139&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=DJIBOUTI.
  \item \textsuperscript{1424} U.S. Embassy- Djibouti, reporting. August 24, 2004.
  \item \textsuperscript{1426} ILO, The Effective Abolition of Child Labour: Djibouti. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Djibouti, Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Djibouti, reporting. August 24, 2004.
  \item \textsuperscript{1427} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Djibouti, Section 6c.
  \item \textsuperscript{1429} The Government of Djibouti stated in a 1998 report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that “as is the case for all civilian and military jobs, young people under 18 may not be accepted into the army.” See Ibid.
  \item \textsuperscript{1430} U.S. Embassy- Djibouti, reporting. August 24, 2004.
\end{itemize}
Labor Inspection Office has the authority to sanction businesses that employ children. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, the government has a shortage of labor inspectors and limited financial resources with which to enforce labor laws.

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

The Government of Djibouti is taking steps to increase awareness about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes provisions on child labor. It has broadcast radio and television programs on the rights of the child and the advancement and protection of girls in four languages (Afar, Somali, Arabic, and French). The government has established a National Policy for Youth that seeks to encourage community involvement in youth affairs and the use of Community Development Centers to host activities for out-of-school children and serve as reading rooms for children in school.

The government is working with UNICEF to assist children, in particular girls, in obtaining high-quality education by increasing enrollment levels, reducing gender disparities and developing a national strategy for non-enrolled children. UNICEF works to train teachers, school principals and academic inspectors. The principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are also incorporated in curricula. The government provides some school meals; according to the Ministry of Education, for 2004 through 2005, 10,468 children in primary public school received meals. Informal education is available for some children.

The World Bank also supports several projects in Djibouti. The School Access and Improvement Project is funding the rehabilitation of classrooms for primary and middle schools, upgrading training materials, providing training, and improving government capacity to manage education reform. The Social Development and Public Works

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1431 The Office of the Labor Inspector currently has one inspector, who is responsible for supervising ten controllers. Ibid.
1437 Ibid., 62.
Project aims to enhance living standards in Djibouti by construction/rehabilitation of social infrastructures such as health posts and schools.\textsuperscript{1439}

USAID has dedicated USD 8 million to assist the Ministry of Education in implementing education reform programs. These programs include: increasing access to basic education; improving the quality of teaching and learning; increasing opportunities for girls’ education; and developing a strategy for sustainable employment for school graduates.\textsuperscript{1440} The African Development Fund is supporting a project through January 2010 to increase access and improve the quality of the education system.\textsuperscript{1441}


Dominica

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Dominica are unavailable.\(^{1442}\) However, some children periodically help their families in agriculture.\(^{1443}\) According to the World Bank, children, particularly schoolgirls, have also been exploited in prostitution as a way to obtain basic necessities, such as school fees or food.\(^{1444}\)

Under the Education Act of 1997, schooling is compulsory from age 5 to 16.\(^ {1445}\) In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 88 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 81 percent.\(^{1446}\) 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 Dominica.\(^ {1447}\) Poor physical conditions and overcrowded classrooms affect the quality of education, while poverty, the need for children to help with seasonal harvests,\(^ {1448}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 182</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Plan for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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\(^{1442}\) 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

\(^{1443}\) U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, unclassified telegram no. 1126, June 23, 2000. 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, please see the section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources”.


\(^ {1445}\) Education Planning Unit Official, Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth Affairs, facsimile communication to USDOL official, August 22, 2002.


\(^ {1447}\) 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.

\(^ {1448}\) U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, unclassified telegram no. 1126.
increasing rates of teen pregnancy, and the termination of a school lunch program have negatively affected school attendance.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act prohibits the employment of children, night employment of young adults, false representation of age, night employment of women, and places liability with the employer. However, conflicting legislation establishes the minimum age for employment at both 12 and 14 years, although the government has stated it enforces a standard of 15 years. The ILO’s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Ratifications has repeatedly urged the Government of Dominica to increase the legal minimum age to 15.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Dominica. The Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, and forced labor, and protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of every person in Dominica, whether a national or foreign national.

There are no laws that specifically prohibit child pornography, but the Sexual Offenses Act of 1998 prohibits the defilement of girls less than 16 years of age, unlawful detention of a woman or girl for sexual purposes, and the procurement of any person using threats, intimidation, false pretenses, or the administration of drugs.

1450 U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, unclassified telegram no. 1126.
1455 Ibid., Chapter 1, Section 1. See also Edward A. Alexander, Caribbean Workers on the Move: Dominica, IOM, June 19-20, 2000, 2-4.
1456 Interpol, Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offences Against Children: Dominica, Interpol.int [online] [cited April 2, 2004]; available from http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaDominique.asp.
1457 These provisions are found in Articles 2, 3, 4, and 7 of the Sexual Offenses Act. See Ibid., III.
Dominican law prohibits trafficking in persons, and violators are subject to a fine of USD 37,000 and up to 7 years of imprisonment. Dominica has no military force and no conscription policy.

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

Since 2004, the World Bank, in partnership with CARICOM and other international donor organizations, has been carrying out a regional HIV/AIDS prevention project active in Dominica. One of the goals of this project is to target young people who are at-risk for contracting the HIV/AIDS virus and who contracted AIDS through commercial sexual exploitation. It aims to provide support to orphans, increase access to HIV/AIDS prevention and services for out of school youth, integrate HIV/AIDS information into reproductive health programs, and promote peer counseling for youth, parents and teachers. The first phase of this project is expected to end in 2007.

The Government of Dominica currently sponsors an Education Trust Fund to support students in secondary schools by providing assistance with uniforms, books, and external examination fees; as well as a Text Book Scheme to assist primary and secondary students to purchase textbooks.

1459 Ibid.
1461 The 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.
Dominican Republic

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 14.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in the Dominican Republic in 2000. Approximately 21.6 percent of all boys ages 5 to 14 were working compared to 7.3 percent of girls in the same age group. A Secretariat of Labor (SET) study estimated that 41 percent of working children ages 5 to 17 worked in services, 21 percent in commerce, 19 percent in agriculture, and 11 percent in manufacturing industries during 2000. Most work performed by children is in the informal sector. In urban areas children work in the streets, markets, garbage dumps, and repair shops. They also perform activities such as washing cars, shining shoes, and carrying heavy loads. Many urban child workers are migrants from other regions. In rural areas children work mostly in agriculture and services. Most child agricultural workers are boys. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, less than 2 percent of the population in the Dominican Republic were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Haitian and Dominican children plant and cut sugarcane in the Dominican Republic. Many Haitians live in sugarcane worker villages referred to as “bateyes” that lack basic

1463 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, 2005. 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.


1467 ILO-IPEC, Evaluación rápida sobre niños, niñas, y adolescentes trabajadores/as urbanos/as en República Dominicana, Santo Domingo, December 2002, 34-35.


services such as water, electricity, and schools. It has been reported that some sugarcane workers, possibly including children, work under conditions of forced labor where they are denied access to their clothing, property, and wages.1471

The Dominican Republic is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Dominican children are trafficked to destinations such as Spain, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, the Netherlands Antilles, Argentina, Costa Rica, and Brazil.1472 An estimated 2,000 Haitian children are trafficked annually to the Dominican Republic for work in the streets, in agriculture, and commercial sexual exploitation.1473 The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a problem especially in tourist locations such as Boca Chica, Puerto Plata, and Sosúa.1474 Children, particularly Haitian children, are sometimes “adopted” by families who register the child as their own and provide some form of payment to the birthparents. Such children are often not treated as family members and are exploited as domestic workers or as workers in family businesses.1475

The Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents and the General Education Law establish that education is to be free and compulsory for children ages 7 to 14 years, through the 8th grade.1476 However, school fees continue to be charged.1477 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 124 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 96 percent.1478 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. In 2000, 94.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending

1473 Ibid. See also UNICEF/OIM, Tráfico de Niños Haitianos hacia República Dominicana, July 2002, 8. See also IOM, Press Briefing Notes: Dominican Republic - National Network of Journalists to Cover Trafficking, Smuggling, and Irregular Migration, May 14, 2004.
1475 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Dominican Republic, Sections 6c and 6d.
1478 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?RepotId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Rations, 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.
school. As of 2001, 69 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. In rural areas schools often lack basic furnishings and teaching materials, and schools are far from children's homes. In many cases, school fees and the cost of uniforms, books, meals, and transportation make education prohibitively expensive for poor families. Children of Haitian origin are sometimes denied access to education as many are unable to register as Dominican citizens.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. Work must not interfere with a minor’s education. Restrictions are placed on work involving children under 16. Children under 16 years cannot work for more than 6 hours a day and must have a medical certificate certifying their ability to work. Employers are required to pay minors at least the legal minimum salary. Special authorization is needed from the SET for ambulant work. Females ages 14 to 16 are prohibited from working as messengers and delivering merchandise. The employment of minors in pool halls is prohibited and is punishable by 1 to 2 months of deprivation of liberty and fines of 1 to 3 minimum salaries.

Additionally, the Labor Code prohibits children under 16 from working in unhealthy and dangerous work and authorizes the SET to prohibit such work. Since 1999, the Government of the Dominican Republic has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138. The SET’s “Resolution Regarding 26 Categories of Work Considered To Be Dangerous and Unhealthy for Children” prohibits minors under 18 years of age from work involving dangerous substances, heavy machinery, heavy loads, dangerous machines and tools, alcohol, electricity, loud noise, mines, being underground or at high sea, care giving.

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1479 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.
1483 Código para la protección de los derechos de los Niños, Niñas, y Adolescentes, Article 40.
1484 Código de Trabajo de la República Dominicana 1999, Article 254. See also Código para la protección de los derechos de los Niños, Niñas, y Adolescentes, Article 39.
1485 Código de Trabajo 1999, Articles 247-248.
1486 Ibid., Articles 256-257.
1487 Ibid., Article 249.
1488 Ibid., Article 252.
1489 Código para la protección de los derechos de los Niños, Niñas, y Adolescentes, Article 415.
1490 Código de Trabajo 1999, Article 251.
1491 ILO-IPEC official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 18, 2005.
construction, confined spaces, explosives, and extreme temperatures. Children are also prohibited from night work, work on the street, work in gambling and gaming establishments, handling cadavers, various tasks involved in the production of sugarcane, and certain work at hotels. Some specific exceptions are made for apprenticeships and job training for those older than 16.\footnote{Secretariat of Labor, \textit{Resolución Sobre Trabajos Peligrosos e Insalubres para Personas Menores de 18 Años}, Resolución No. 52/2004; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/SERIAL/69773/68796/F452892919/DOM69773.pdf.} Violations of the Labor Code provisions involving protections for minors as well as violations of the SET Resolution are punishable by fines of 7 to 12 minimum salaries, with increased fines in cases of recurrence.\footnote{Código de Trabajo 1999, Articles 720-721. See also \textit{Trabajos Peligrosos e Insalubres}, Article 6.}

Different statutes may be used to prosecute the worst forms of child labor in the Dominican Republic. The Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents has a broad provision that could be used to prosecute actions such as trafficking and pimping. This provision establishes punishments ranging from imprisonment for 20 to 30 years and fines for the transfer of a child from one person or group to another in exchange for remuneration, for purposes including sexual exploitation, forced labor, or other degrading activities.\footnote{Código para la protección de los derechos de los Niños, Niñas, y Adolescentes, Articles 25 and 409.} Specific punishments for involvement in the commercial sexual exploitation of children range from 3 to 10 years of imprisonment with fines of 10 to 30 minimum salaries. Sexual abuse is punishable by 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of 20 minimum salaries in certain circumstances involving trafficking and pimping.\footnote{Ibid., Articles 24 and 414.}

The Code also establishes punishments for permitting minors that are not accompanied by a parent to stay in hotels or motels without written parental or judicial authorization. These punishments range from 1 to 3 years of deprivation of liberty and fines. The establishment may be closed for 15 days for repeated violations.\footnote{Ibid., Articles 25, 26, and 411.} Involvement with the production of child pornography is punishable by 2 to 4 years of incarceration and fines ranging from 3 to 10 minimum salaries.\footnote{Ibid., Articles 204 and 391.} Involvement with the trafficking of a minor outside of the country is punishable by 4 to 6 years of imprisonment and fines of 10 to 30 minimum salaries.\footnote{Government of the Dominican Republic, \textit{Ley contra el Tráfico Ilicito de Migrantes y Trata de Personas}, (August 2003), Articles 2 and 7.} The transport of minors unaccompanied by their parent without notarized parental authorization or a certificate from the Child and Adolescent Tribunal is punishable by fines ranging from 3 to 20 minimum salaries, with higher penalties in cases of recurrence.\footnote{Ibid., Articles 406.} The Law against Trafficking in Persons and Alien Smuggling establishes penalties of 15 to 20 years imprisonment as well as fines for trafficking minors.\footnote{Ibid., Articles 204 and 391.} Forced labor is prohibited by law.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Dominican Republic}, Section 6c.} The minimum recruitment age for military service is 16. Recruitment is voluntary in times of peace; however it may
be obligatory in times of war or grave conflict. Recruits must have completed their education.\textsuperscript{1502}

The SET is responsible for enforcing child labor laws in coordination with the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI).\textsuperscript{1503} In 2004 the SET had 220 labor inspectors. According to the U.S. State Department, the inspectors often accept bribes.\textsuperscript{1504} Protecting children’s rights and implementing the Code for Children and Adolescents is the responsibility of CONANI. By law CONANI is to receive a minimum of 2 percent of the national budget, but this requirement is not being met.\textsuperscript{1505}

The anti-trafficking unit of the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes. The National Police, the Migration Directorate, and the Interagency Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women are also involved in anti-trafficking activities.\textsuperscript{1506} The Migration Directorate established an anti-trafficking unit in March of 2005.\textsuperscript{1507} According to the U.S. Department of State, the Dominican Republic lacks effective trafficking law enforcement and victim protection programs due in part to lack of resources. The border with Haiti is not sufficiently monitored.\textsuperscript{1508} Also according to the U.S. Department of State, certain government officials are involved in trafficking and efforts are made to investigate and prosecute these individuals.\textsuperscript{1509} For example, Congressman Guillermo Radhames Ramos Garcia was convicted of trafficking-related offences and sentenced to an 18 month prison term but was released on parole after 9 months of incarceration.\textsuperscript{1510} In 2005, a bar owner was convicted and sentenced to 5 years of incarceration, a fine of USD 35,739, and ordered to pay court costs for offenses involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Additionally, three individuals were convicted and sentenced to 15 years of incarceration, a fine of USD 6,250, and ordered to pay court costs for crimes involving the commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, and abuse of children.\textsuperscript{1511} The government has shut down several businesses involved with the commercial sexual exploitation of children in cities such as Boca Chica, Santiago, Santo Domingo, and Sosúa.\textsuperscript{1512}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item\textsuperscript{1502} Ley Orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas de la República Dominicana, 873, (1996), Article 30; available from http://www.secffaa.mil.do/Ley1.htm.
\item\textsuperscript{1503} Código para la protección de los derechos de los Niños, Niñas, y Adolescentes, Article 34.
\item\textsuperscript{1504} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Dominican Republic, Section 6e.
\item\textsuperscript{1505} Ibid., Section 5.
\item\textsuperscript{1506} Ibid.
\item\textsuperscript{1507} U.S. Embassy- Santo Domingo, reporting, November 15, 2005.
\item\textsuperscript{1508} U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
\item\textsuperscript{1509} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Dominican Republic, Section 5.
\item\textsuperscript{1510} U.S. Embassy- Santo Domingo, reporting, November 15, 2005.
\item\textsuperscript{1512} U.S. Embassy- Santo Domingo, reporting, November 15, 2005.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The objectives of the Dominican Republic’s Action Plan for the Eradication of Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys, Girls, and Adolescents include strengthening families; improving social responsibility and awareness; improving relevant laws, policies, programs, and services; combating poverty; and strengthening the justice system.1513 The Government of the Dominican Republic supported several child labor, trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation awareness campaigns and workshops in late 2004.1514 The SET organized a training workshop on child labor and labor inspections.1515 The Armed Forces provide educational programs and recreational activities for working and at-risk children in the Boca Chica area and run a shelter for such children under its General Directorate of Shelters and Residences for the Civic Reeducation of Boys, Girls, and Adolescents program.1516 Government officials such as judges, consular officers, and prosecutors received anti-trafficking training.1517 The required curriculum of the Diplomatic and Consular School includes anti-trafficking training.1518

The SET participates in ILO-IPEC projects funded by USDOL to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. This includes a USD 1.3 million, 4-year and 10-month project to improve the understanding of child labor; raise awareness, mobilize actors, and build capacity; improve relevant national policies; and implement pilot interventions including a community-based child labor monitoring system.1519 A USD 4.4 million, 3-year and 10-month project targets child labor in agriculture (coffee, tomatoes, and rice), commercial sexual exploitation, domestic labor, and urban work. The project also targets trafficked children in areas near the border with Haiti.1520 In 2005, the government

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1518 Ibid.
contributed USD 100,000 of its previously made USD 300,000 commitment towards these projects.\textsuperscript{1521} With ILO support CONANI has opened a referral center for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Boca Chica.\textsuperscript{1522} The Office of the First Lady administers a program called “Progresando”, which works with the ILO to provide income generating opportunities to families of children at-risk for commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{1523} In 2005 an agreement was signed between the Attorney General’s Office and National Institute for Technical Training (INFOTEP) allowing child beneficiaries of the ILO implemented project to enroll in INFOTEP’s vocational training programs.\textsuperscript{1524} In October of 2004, the Central Bank incorporated child labor indicators developed by the ILO into its labor survey.\textsuperscript{1525} The government is participating in USDOL-funded regional projects to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children and hazardous child labor in the agricultural sector in Central America and the Dominican Republic.\textsuperscript{1526}

The 10-year Strategic Development Plan for Dominican Education (2003-2012) focuses on democratization and equity, educational quality, teacher quality, decentralization, and funding.\textsuperscript{1527} An analysis of the effect of child labor on school desertion is included in the plan.\textsuperscript{1528} The government provides some stipends for poor families who keep their children in school and out of work.\textsuperscript{1529} A national literacy program is conducted through the Secretariat of Education, NGOs, and private universities.\textsuperscript{1530}

The Government of the Dominican Republic has several sources of external funding to improve educational programs for children. The government participates in USDOL-funded Child Labor Education Initiative projects. This includes a 4-year regional project implemented by CARE whose purpose is to strengthen government and civil society’s capacity to address the educational needs of working children, as well as a USD 3 million, 4-year project implemented by DevTech Systems, Inc. to withdraw children from exploitative labor by improving the quality of and access to basic education.\textsuperscript{1531} During

\textsuperscript{1521} ILO-IPEC official, e-mail communication, November 18, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1523} Ibid., 3 and 11.
\textsuperscript{1524} ILO-IPEC, Preparatory Activities for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, response to USDOL request, 1.
\textsuperscript{1528} ILO-IPEC, Preparatory Activities for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, technical progress report, 11.
\textsuperscript{1529} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Dominican Republic, Sect. 6d.
\textsuperscript{1530} Secretariat of Labor and ILO-IPEC, Report on the Results of the National Child Labour Survey, 19.
\textsuperscript{1531} CARE, Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and the Dominican Republic, project document, 2004, 3.
2005 the DevTech Systems, Inc. project and the Secretariat of Education supported the training of more than 400 educators in a participatory pedagogical method known as “Quantum Learning”. Some students benefit from a government-run school feeding program which receives funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Spanish Cooperation Agency funds a government-operated basic education program, which includes youths 15 years of age and older. The World Bank is funding a USD 42 million loan to increase the number of pre-schools and provide teacher training. A USD 89 million IDB loan aims to improve the educational achievement of children in rural and marginal urban areas, enhance the management of schools, and promote initiatives developed under the Educational Development Plan.

See also DevTech Systems Inc., Combating Child Labor through Education in the Dominican Republic, project document, Arlington, Virginia, June 2, 2004, 1 and 2.


1536 IDB, Dominican Republic Multiphase Program for Equity in Basic Education Phase I, loan proposal, 2002, Executive Summary, 1; available from http://www.iadb.org/exr/doc98/apr/dr1429e.pdf.
Ecuador

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 15.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Ecuador in 2001, the most recent data available. Approximately 19 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 11.7 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (67.5 percent), followed by services (20.9 percent), manufacturing (9.7 percent) and other sectors (1.9 percent).\footnote{UCW Analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.} A large percentage of working children between the ages of 5 and 17 are found in rural areas of the sierra, or highlands, followed by the Amazon and urban coastal areas.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, "INDEC, Mintrabajo e INFFA presentan resultados preliminares de Encuesta Nacional: 38.6\% de niños y niñas entre 5 y 17 años trabajan en el area rural de Ecuador," Boletín Encuentros no. 2 (December 2001 - February 2002); available from http://www.oit.org.pe/ipec/boletin/noticias/vernoticia,36.php. The provinces with the highest percentage of working children are Bolivar, Chimborazo and Cotopaxi. See National Committee for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labor, Plan Nacional para la Erradicación Progresiva del Trabajo Infantil 2003-2006, Quito, November, 2002.} In rural areas, young children are often found performing unpaid agricultural labor for their families.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Ecuador, Washington, DC, February 28, 2005, Section 6d; available from http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41759.htm.} Children as young as 8 years of age have been found working on banana plantations under unsafe working conditions.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, Supporting the Time-Bound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Ecuador, Project Document, ECU/03/P50/USA, Geneva, August, 2003. See also Human Rights Watch, Tainted Harvest: Child Labor and Obstacles to Organizing on Ecuador's Banana Plantations, 2002, October 12, 2005; available from http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/ecuador/.} Children also work long hours under hazardous conditions in the cut-flower sector.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, Ecuador Time-Bound Program, cover page, 7-8. See also ILO-IPEC, Ecuador Child Labour in Flower Plantations: A Rapid Assessment, Geneva, April, 2000; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/simpoc/ra/index.htm.} Most working children can be found in the informal sector.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- Quito, reporting, September 25, 2001} In urban areas, children work in commerce and services as messengers and domestics.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Ecuador, Section 6d.} Others work in construction

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and as trash pickers.\textsuperscript{1544} Many urban children under 12 years of age work shining shoes, selling, and begging on the streets.\textsuperscript{1545} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 17.7 percent of the population in Ecuador were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{1546}

The commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs in Ecuador.\textsuperscript{1547} ILO-IPEC estimated that there were 5,200 girls and adolescents in situations of sexual exploitation in 2002, the most recent year for which statistics are available.\textsuperscript{1548} Ecuador is a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons, and many victims are children trafficked for sexual exploitation. Ecuadorians are trafficked to Spain and Italy among other Western Europe countries. Victims are also trafficked to Colombia and Venezuela. Colombian women and girls are trafficked to Ecuador for exploitation in prostitution. However, most victims are trafficked within the country's borders.\textsuperscript{1549}

The Constitution requires the government to provide free education to all children through secondary school. Children are required to attend 9 years of school to achieve a basic level of education. Children in situations of extreme poverty shall be provided with services and subsidies specific to their needs.\textsuperscript{1550} The government has rarely enforced this requirement due to the lack of schools and inadequate resources in many rural communities.\textsuperscript{1551} Families often face significant additional education-related expenses such as fees and transportation costs.\textsuperscript{1552} Inequitable classroom coverage with respect to primary and secondary levels in rural and impoverished areas, poor teaching quality, sparse teaching materials, a short school day and the inefficient distribution of human, financial, and teaching resources are also problems within the educational system.\textsuperscript{1553} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 117 percent, and the net primary enrollment

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{1546} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.
\bibitem{1548} This investigation was conducted through field surveys of 415 girls and adolescents in Guayaquil, Quito, and Machala, 3 of the 4 largest cities in Ecuador. See Mariana Sandoval Laverde, \textit{Magnitude, Characteristics and Environment of Sexual Exploitation of Girls and Adolescents in Ecuador;} ILO-IPEC, Quito, October, 2002, Executive Summary, 3.
\end{thebibliography}
rate was 100 percent.\textsuperscript{1554} 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. In 2001, 89.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were attending school.\textsuperscript{1555} As of 2001, 74 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1556} Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Ecuador.\textsuperscript{1557}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Childhood and Adolescence Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years (including for domestic service), provides a framework for children and adolescents’ rights, and identifies categories of dangerous work that are prohibited for minors.\textsuperscript{1558} The regulations in the Code do not apply to children involved in formative cultural or ancestral practices as long as they are not exposed to physical or psychological harm.\textsuperscript{1559} The Childhood and Adolescence Code prohibits adolescents from working more than 6 hours per day or more than 5 days per week.\textsuperscript{1560} The Code also prohibits adolescents from working in mines, garbage dumps, slaughterhouses, and quarries, and from working with hazardous materials or in jobs that could be hazardous to the child’s physical or mental health.\textsuperscript{1561} The Ministry of Labor provides work authorization for adolescents between the ages of 15 and 18 years.\textsuperscript{1562}

The Labor Code has not been updated to reflect Ecuador’s adoption of ILO Conventions 138 and 182. However, the Childhood and Adolescence Code, which has been adapted to reflect Ecuador’s adoption of ILO Conventions 138 and 182, supersedes provisions in the Labor Code that allowed children under 15 to work aboard fishing vessels with special permission from the court, during school vacation, and as long as the work is not likely to harm their health and moral development.\textsuperscript{1563} The Childhood and Adolescence Code prescribes sanctions for violations of child labor laws, such as monetary fines and the closing of establishments where child labor occurs.\textsuperscript{1564} More than 2 years after the

\textsuperscript{1554} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{1555} UCW Analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


\textsuperscript{1557} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section information about sources used.


\textsuperscript{1559} Ibid., article 86.

\textsuperscript{1560} Ibid., Article 84.

\textsuperscript{1561} Ibid., Article 87.

\textsuperscript{1562} U.S. Embassy official, electronic communication to USDOL Official, August 5, 2003.


\textsuperscript{1564} *Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia*, article 95.
creation of the Childhood and Adolescence Code, the Government of Ecuador has not
issued implementing regulations as required by law.\textsuperscript{1565}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Ecuador.
The 1998 Constitution specifically calls for children in Ecuador to be protected in the
workplace against economic exploitation, dangerous or unhealthy labor conditions, and
conditions that hinder a minor’s personal development or education. The Constitution
also protects minors against trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and the forced use of
illegal drugs and alcohol.\textsuperscript{1566} Although adult prostitution is legal,\textsuperscript{1567} the Penal Code
prohibits the promotion and facilitation of prostitution and trafficking in persons for the
purposes of prostitution.\textsuperscript{1568} In 2005, a reform in the Penal Code addressing sexual
exploitation of children was approved.\textsuperscript{1569} The reform specifically addresses the
prohibition of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and for non-sexual purposes
and defines trafficking and exploitation according to international standards. It punishes
people involved in child prostitution regardless of the use of force, violence, threats, or
the victim's consent. The penal code reform also raises the age of consent from 14 to
18. Trafficking in persons can carry up to a 35-year prison term. During this reporting
period, Ecuadorian authorities arrested five persons for trafficking or trafficking related
crimes. The GOE Victim and Witness Protection Program provided shelter and meals to
the minors who were victims of these crimes in coordination with Hogar de la Madre / Our
Youth Foundation.\textsuperscript{1570} In August 2004, the President of Ecuador issued a decree that
established an inter-institutional committee to address trafficking in persons. The
Minister of Government leads the committee’s efforts to combat trafficking.\textsuperscript{1571} The
Constitution and the Law of Compulsory Military Service set the age of compulsory
military service at 18 years.\textsuperscript{1572} Since 1999, the Government of Ecuador has submitted to
the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has
determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182
or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{1573}

No single government authority is responsible for the implementation of child labor laws
and regulations prohibiting the worst forms of child labor. Public institutions charged

\textsuperscript{1565} Human Rights Watch, Petition Regarding Ecuador's Eligibility for ATPA Designation, online,
\textsuperscript{1566} The Ecuadorian National Assembly, Ecuadorian Constitution, Article 50.
\textsuperscript{1567} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Ecuador. The “business” must be registered with
the government and the “employee” must receive regular medical exams. See U.S. Embassy-Quito,
\textsuperscript{1568} The Protection Project, "Ecuador," in Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, Especially
\textsuperscript{1569} Ley Reformatoria al Codigo Penal que tipifica los delitos de explotacion sexual de los menores de
Quito Official, e-mail communication to USDOL Official, September 30, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1570} U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 18, 2006.
\textsuperscript{1571} U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
\textsuperscript{1572} Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Child Soldiers Report 2004-Ecuador, 2004; available from
\textsuperscript{1573} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
with enforcing child labor laws include the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Social Welfare, and Minors’ Tribunals.\textsuperscript{1574} The Specialized National Police Unit for Children (DINAPEN) responds to cases of child abuse and exploitation.\textsuperscript{1575} The Ministry of Labor has created a Social Service Directorate to address the occurrence of child labor in the formal sector. However, most working children are found in the informal sector, where monitoring is difficult. In some instances, the Directorate has applied sanctions, but in others, it has merely helped to provide work authorization documents to child workers.\textsuperscript{1576}

As of October 2005, the Ministry of Labor employed 13 child labor inspectors, with plans to hire additional inspectors in the near future. The Ministry has requested resources from the Ecuadorian Government for FY 2006 to cover the costs of inspectors’ salaries, transportation and equipment.\textsuperscript{1577}

Child labor inspections in the banana sector are ongoing as stipulated in an official agreement to eradicate child labor (for children under the age of 15) from banana plantations, signed by the Ministry of Labor and Human Resources, the banana industry and various national and international organizations.\textsuperscript{1578} The government created a Child Labor Inspection and Monitoring System to enforce the child labor-related legal provisions of the Labor Code and the Labor Inspection System.\textsuperscript{1579} From August 2004 to April 2005, the Ministry of Labor conducted 1,811 inspections in which 124 children under 15 were found working and 1,166 adolescents from 15 to 18 were found working. Thirteen employers were fined within that time period.\textsuperscript{1580} While the Ministry of Labor's Social Service Directorate monitored child labor in businesses such as factories, enforcement in most sectors of the economy remained limited.\textsuperscript{1581}

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

The Government’s National Council on Children and Adolescents is responsible for creating, planning and carrying out national policy on child and adolescent issues in

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\textsuperscript{1574} U.S. Embassy- Quito, reporting September 25, 2001.
\textsuperscript{1577} U.S. Embassy- Quito Official, e-mail communication, September 30, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1579} National Committee for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labor, Plan Nacional, 37-38.
\textsuperscript{1580} U.S. Embassy- Quito, reporting August 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1581} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Ecuador, Section 6d.
In August 2004, the Council published the National 10-Year Plan for the Protection of Children and Adolescents. The policies outlined in the Plan serve as a framework for the design and implementation of regional and sectoral projects over a 10-year period. Plan objectives include universal access to education, the promotion of children’s rights, and the progressive elimination of hazardous child labor. In June 2005, the President of Ecuador signed a decree that declared the protection of minors a national priority, prioritizing 8 of the 29 policies outlined in the 10-Year Plan.

The Government of Ecuador, through CONEPTI, oversees its National Plan for the Progressive Elimination of Child Labor 2003-2006. As part of its commitment in ratifying ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, the Government identified child work in mining, garbage dumps, construction, flower production, and banana production, as well as commercial sexual exploitation of children as priorities for progressive elimination.

A USDOL-funded 58-month Timebound Program, implemented by ILO-IPEC, complements the government’s plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the country. In addition, a USDOL-funded 4-year program, implemented by Catholic Relief Services, improves the access to and quality of basic education for working children and children at-risk of entering the labor force in the banana and cut-flower sectors. The second phase of a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional program in Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, which ended in early 2005, aimed to prevent and progressively eliminate child labor in small-scale traditional gold mining through awareness-raising and policy development, community development, and production of a child labor elimination model, which may also be implemented in other small-scale traditional mining communities.

The president spoke out against trafficking during the year and the Government of Ecuador signed an agreement with the Government of Colombia to combat the problem.

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1582 ILO-IPEC, Program to Prevent and Progressively Eliminate Child Labor in Small-scale Traditional Gold Mining in South America, technical progress report, LAR/00/05/050, Geneva, September 2, 2002, 2.
1584 The 8 priority policies include: raising the awareness of families; providing children with free and universal access to quality education and other public social services; guaranteeing children protection against abuse, trafficking in persons, and sexual exploitation; and encouraging adolescents to become participatory citizens within their communities. Presidencia de la República, Presidente Palacio declara política de Estado la Protección de la Niñez y Adolescencia, [online] May 31, 2005 [cited June 2, 2005]; available from http://www.presidencia.gov.ec/imprimir_noticia.asp?noid=5002.
1587 Ibid.
in which both governments pledge to establish mechanisms of cooperation and exchange of information. The National Institute for Children and Family (INNFA), headed by the First Lady, began efforts to spread awareness of trafficking in persons. The government also reached agreements with several private companies to include anti-trafficking messages at public theaters, through fliers distributed with bank and credit card statements, and on local air flights.\textsuperscript{1590}

INNFA also implements several educational programs for working children. One program reintegrates working children and adolescents from the ages of 8 to 15 into the school system so that they may complete the basic education cycle. Another program provides vocational training and alternative recreational activities to working children between the ages of 8 and 17 years, as well as offering sensitivity training to parents. For adolescents ages 10 to 17 years who have not completed primary schooling and are more than 3 years behind, INNFA offers an accelerated learning program to help them complete the equivalent of basic education.\textsuperscript{1591} INNFA also heads a forum comprised of representatives from the public and private sector that meets to discuss the political, social and legislative aspects of the sexual exploitation of minors and to generate policies and programs to address the issue.\textsuperscript{1592}

Through its Social Protection Program (PPS), the Government coordinates national social policy, supports its implementation, and develops strategies for joining public/private forces and optimizing the impact of social sector development. Through the PPS, the Ministry of Social Development provides stipends (Bono de Desarrollo Humano) to at-risk and marginalized families to help reduce poverty.\textsuperscript{1593} In part, the stipend targets families of children ages 6 to 16 years, and the stipend is conditional on yearly health visits and school attendance.\textsuperscript{1594}

The Government’s Nutritional Education project, with support from the European Commission, contributes to improving the nutritional status of children of families

\textsuperscript{1592} The roundtable is called La Mesa de Concertación Permanente contra la Explotación Sexual. INNFA, \textit{Explotación Sexual}, [online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from http://www.innfa.org/paginas/programas/accion%20ciudadana%20por%20la%20ternura/accion_ciudadana.htm.
attends by the PPS. The Central Bank of Ecuador runs the Child Worker Program, which, in part, provides working children with scholarships that pay school expenses. In turn, the children are required to participate in after school training programs. A USD 200 million IDB loan for a Social Sector Reform Program supports the government’s Social Protection Program.

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1595 This program includes the government’s Nutrition Program for school children between the ages of 5-14. Frente Social, Proyecto de Educación Nutricional, [online] [cited June 16, 2005]; available from http://www.frentesocial.gov.ec/nutricion/index1.htm. By the end of 2003, the program had provided services to more than 1.6 million beneficiaries. See Frente Social, Frente Social - Programas Prioritarios por Sectores, [online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from http://www.frentesocial.gov.ec/p_left_progra/p_left_progra.htm#Sector%20Educacion.

1596 In addition, the Program funds alternative educational programs for youth and promotes children’s rights. See U.S. Embassy- Quito, reporting July 1, 2003.

1597 IDB, Ecuador Social Sector Reform, 17.
Egypt

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 5.9 percent of children ages 6 to 14 were counted as working in Egypt in 1998. Approximately 3.7 percent of all boys 6 to 14 were working compared to 8.2 percent of girls in the same age group.  

Rural children and children from poor or female-headed households account for the overwhelming majority of working children. A large proportion of working children are found in family businesses and in the agricultural sector. In agriculture, children are known to work long hours in dusty environments, without masks or respirators, and receive little or no training on safety precautions for work with toxic pesticides. Children are found working in a number of hazardous sectors, including leather tanneries, pottery kilns, glassworks, blacksmith, metal and copper workshops, battery and carpentry shops, mining and quarrying, carpet weaving, auto repair workshops, and textile and plastics factories. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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1598 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


1601 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, January 7, 2002, U.S. Embassy- Cairo, reporting, October 11, 2001. See also Tonia Rifaey, Mahmoud M. Murtada, and Mohamed Abd el-Azeem, "Urban Children and Poverty: Child Labor and Family Dynamics- Case Studies in Old Cairo" (paper presented at the Children and the City Conference, Amman, Jordan, December 11-13, 2002); available from http://www.araburban.org/childcity/Papers/English/ToniaRifaey.pdf. See also F. Curtale and et al.,
1999, the most recent year for which data are available, 3.1 percent of the population in Egypt were living on less than USD 1 a day.1602

Reports indicate a widespread practice of poor rural families making arrangements to send daughters to cities to work as domestic servants in the homes of wealthy citizens.1603 Urban areas are also host to large numbers of street children who have left their homes in the country-side to find work and who often to flee hostile conditions at home.1604 Street children work shining shoes, collecting rubbish, begging, cleaning and directing cars into parking spaces, and selling food and trinkets.1605 Street children are particularly vulnerable to becoming involved in illicit activities, including stealing, smuggling, pornography, and prostitution.1606 The commercial sexual exploitation of children may be under-acknowledged given that Egyptian cities (Alexandria and Cairo, in particular) are reported destinations for sex tourism.1607 Egypt is a country of transit for child trafficking, particularly for underage girls from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet


1604 A survey of urban street children conducted by Human Rights Watch in 2002 found that in almost every case, the children were living and working on the street because of severe family crises. Their experiences as street children are also plagued with trauma as Egyptian police routinely arrest and detain them, often subjecting them to extreme forms of abuse. For a more detailed discussion, see Clarisa Bencomo, Charged with Being Children: Egyptian Police Abuse of Children in Need of Protection, Vol.15, No.1, Human Rights Watch (HRW), New York, February 2003, 9, para. 21d; available from http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/egypt0203/egypt0203.pdf.
1605 Ibid., cover page, 9, 49.
1606 Ibid., 40. According to research conducted by Dr. Nicholas Ciaccio at the American University of Cairo, more than 80 percent of the estimated 93,000 street children in Egypt are exploited sexually, mainly through prostitution and pornography. See ECPAT International, Egypt, in ECPAT International, [database online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp. Due in part to the extremely taboo nature of sexual issues in Egypt, particularly involving children, information on the extent of commercial sexual exploitation of children is limited. However, crime statistics in Egypt reveal that up to 92 children were prosecuted for child pornography in 2001. See Saber, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Egypt, 5-6.
Union, who are trafficked into Israel and parts of Europe for forced labor and sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{1608}

The Constitution guarantees free and compulsory basic education for children ages 6 to 15 who are Egyptian citizens.\textsuperscript{1609} Despite the constitutional guarantees to universal education, parents are increasingly responsible for both the direct and indirect costs of education. Egyptian law allows for public schools to charge fees for services, insurance, and equipment.\textsuperscript{1610} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 97 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent.\textsuperscript{1611} 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. In 1998, 89 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{1612} As of 2001, 98 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1613} A 2000 national survey of children ages 6 to 15 years found that 14 percent of girls were not currently attending school, compared to 8 percent of boys. Working children are predominantly school dropouts or have never been enrolled in school.\textsuperscript{1614} The 2000 Egyptian Demographic and Health Survey of children ages 8 to 10 found that 3.4 percent of boys had never attended school, compared to 8.4 percent of girls in the same age group.\textsuperscript{1615} Due to a significant investment in building and renovating primary schools in the 1990s, access to primary school education in Egypt is now nearly universal; however, concerns about the quality of education persist.\textsuperscript{1616} Weaknesses in the education system that contribute to low school attendance among working children include the centralized educational structure, inadequate teacher

\begin{footnotes}


\footnotetext[1610]{Bencomo, \textit{Charged with Being Children}, 11. Indirect costs can include clothing or personal expenses and the increasingly felt need for private tutoring due to low educational quality. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt}, 49.}


\footnotetext[1612]{UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.}


\end{footnotes}
incentives, a shortage of trained teachers, misallocation of resources, overcrowding, corporal punishment in schools, lack of participatory learning techniques, irrelevant curricula, and inadequate school infrastructure, such as sanitation facilities.\footnote{1617}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 99 of the Labor Law of 2003 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years.\footnote{1618} The law also prohibits juveniles ages 14 to 17 from working more than 6 hours per day, requires at least a 1 hour break, and prohibits juveniles from working overtime, on holidays, more than 4 consecutive hours, or between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.\footnote{1619} However, these provisions do not apply to children working in the agricultural sector, in small family enterprises, and domestic service.\footnote{1620} In addition, under decree by the governor and approval of the Minister of Education, Law No. 12 of 1996 allows for the employment of children ages 12 to 14 years in seasonal jobs that do not harm their health or impact their schooling,\footnote{1621} and children ages 12 to 18 may participate in certain types of apprenticeship training.\footnote{1622} There are ministerial decrees which complement the labor law, such as Decree No. 118 of 2003, which prohibits children below age 16 from working in 44 hazardous sectors, including agricultural activities involving the use of pesticides.\footnote{1623} Fines for the illegal employment of children range from 500 to 1,000 Egyptian pounds (about USD 87 to 174) per employee.\footnote{1624}


\footnote{1619} *Labour Law*, Article 101.

\footnote{1620} Ibid., Article 103. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments".

\footnote{1621} ILO-IPEC, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt*, 28. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments".

\footnote{1622} Decree Concerning the Rules and Procedures Regulating Vocational Apprenticeship, Decree No. 175 of 2003, (August 31), Articles 1-16.

\footnote{1623} Decree 118 specifically prohibits employment in cotton compressing, leather tanning, bars, auto repair shops, or with explosives and chemicals (including pesticides). The Decree identifies maximum allowable weights that male and female children are allowed to carry and stipulates that employers provide health care and meals for employed children and implement appropriate occupational health and safety measures in the work place. See Decree Determining the System of Employing Children, and the Conditions, Terms and Cases in which They Are Employed as well as the Works, Vocations, and Industries in which it is Prohibited to Employ Them, According to the Different Stages of Age, Decree No. 118 of 2003, (June 30), Articles 1-9. See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, August 18, 2003. Contrary to this law, seasonal work in agriculture is reportedly performed by children under 12 in state-run cooperatives. See ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."

\footnote{1624} Fines double if the violation is repeated. Violations of articles pertaining to occupational health and safety result in imprisonment for a period of at least 3 months and/or a fine of up to 10,000 pounds (USD 1,698). See U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, August 18, 2003. For the currency conversions, see Oanda.com, *FXConverter*, in FXConverter, [online] [cited July 5, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.
Parents or guardians of a child who fails to enroll in or regularly attend a school are subject to a fine; however, fines are minimal (approximately USD 1.75) and the regulations are not effectively enforced.

Egyptian law does not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons; however, other parts of the criminal code that prohibit forced labor, rape, prostitution, and the abduction of children, may be used to prosecute traffickers. The Penal Code prohibits forced labor and makes it illegal for a person to entice or assist a male under the age of 21 or a female of any age to depart the country to work in prostitution or other “immoral” activities. The Penal Code also prohibits the incitement of any person under the age of 21 to commit any act of prostitution or “immorality,” including the use of children in the production, promotion or distribution of pornography. Violations of these laws are punishable with imprisonment for a period of 1 to 7 years and fines from 100 to 500 pounds (USD 17 to 87). The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the armed forces is 18 years of age. Since 1999, the Government of Egypt has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Manpower and Migration (MOMM) is the government agency responsible for enforcing child labor laws. The Child Labor Unit within the MOMM coordinates investigations of reports of child labor violations and ensures enforcement of the laws pertaining to child labor, and a separate unit for child labor inspections within the agricultural sector has been established within the MOMM. Local trade unions report that in state-owned enterprises, enforcement is adequate, while enforcement in the private and informal sectors is inadequate. According to the U.S. Department of State, the recent modifications in the Child Labor Law have not significantly improved enforcement.

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1625 UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Periodic Reports of States Parties: Egypt, para. 307.
1626 ILO-IPEC, Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt, 39.
1627 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
1630 There are reports that a number of children ages 16 to 18 years are allowed to volunteer for administrative or maintenance work in the armed forces, but do not engage in any forms of military training or combat. See Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2004: Egypt, London, November 17, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=942.
1631 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
1632 U.S. Embassy- Cairo, reporting, August 18, 2003.
1633 Ibid. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."
1634 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Egypt, Section 6d.
children’s working conditions due to weak enforcement by the government.\textsuperscript{1635} There is a shortage of labor inspectors trained to identify and intervene in cases involving child labor. However, in recent years, a number of cases involving enforcement of child labor and related infractions were reported by the local press, including arrests of individuals coercing street children to beg, steal and work in other informal activities, as well as individuals caught abusing child domestic workers. In most reported cases, children were removed from the work environment and legal action was taken against the employers who were found to be in violation of child labor laws or other prohibiting legislation. In cases where offenders have been prosecuted, the fines imposed were often as small as 20 pounds (USD 3.47) and had questionable deterrent effect.\textsuperscript{1636} The Government of Egypt has made modest efforts to prosecute trafficking cases.\textsuperscript{1637}

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

The Government’s National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) continues to implement a national plan to increase educational opportunities for girls and combat the worst forms of child labor, among other goals.\textsuperscript{1638} The NCCM is collaborating with the MOMM, Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF), ILO, UNICEF, and the Ministries of Social Affairs, Agriculture, Education, Health, and Interior to implement action programs related to the plan’s objectives.\textsuperscript{1639} While the action programs began with technical support from ILO-IPEC and the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center, the NCCM, ETUF, UNICEF, and MOMM now operate the projects independently.\textsuperscript{1640} With support from the EU and other donors, the NCCM is implementing a large-scale project addressing children’s issues, with a focus on 7 priority areas, including child labor, street children, disabled children, early childhood education, drug abuse, girls’ education, and prevention of harmful practices against girls. The Egyptian Prime Minister has recently earmarked 100 million Egyptian pounds (USD 17.5 million) in matching funds towards this initiative.\textsuperscript{1641} The NCCM is also implementing projects in the governorates of

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item[1635] Ibid.
\item[1636] Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy - Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 12, 2005.
\item[1637] U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\item[1639] The national strategy was incorporated into the government’s annual Economic and Social Plan and into the government’s 2002-2007 5-year plan. See U.S. Embassy- Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 1, 2004. See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 12, 2005. See also ILO-IPEC, \textit{Elimination of Child Labor in Egypt}. See also ILO-IPEC, \textit{A Future Vision for the Alleviation and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour}, prepared by Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF) and American Center for International Labor Solidarity, 2004.
\item[1641] The project will be supported through a donor partnership fund of approximately 20 million euro (USD 23.9 million). See U.S. Embassy- Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 1, 2004. See also Ambassador Hussein El-Sadr, interview with USDOL official, September 20, 2005.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
Sharkia, Menofia, Minya, and Damietta to shift working children into non-hazardous activities and gradually eliminate all forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{1642}

The NCCM and MOMM are also collaborating with other line ministries and NGOs to increase awareness of child labor and strengthen enforcement of existing laws. The NCCM and the Ministry of Interior are training police officers to raise awareness of child rights and best practices for dealing with at-risk children and youth. The NCCM and MOMM are also working with the Ministry of Information on awareness raising campaigns in all 26 governorates to highlight the negative impact of child labor on children, their families and employers and to educate them about relevant legislation and enforcement issues.\textsuperscript{1643} The MOMM is collaborating with the Ministry of Education to identify governorates with high dropout rates and has increased child labor inspection in those areas.\textsuperscript{1644} The MOMM and the Ministry of Agriculture are cooperating to prevent underage children from working in the cotton harvesting sector and to provide children working legally with the necessary protection while engaging in agricultural activities.\textsuperscript{1645}

In June 2005, the NCCM and UNICEF jointly organized a 3-day conference in Cairo entitled “Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Consultation on Violence against Children,” at which Egypt’s First Lady, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, announced the establishment of a national hotline to receive complaints of abused children, including child laborers.\textsuperscript{1646} Following the conference, the NCCM also established a permanent committee to combat all forms of violence against children, which will have branches in all governorates and will include representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Social Affairs, Justice, Education and Health as well as representatives from civil society.\textsuperscript{1647} Since 2003, the NCCM and UNICEF have also been implementing the National Strategy for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Street Children (also launched under the auspices of the First Lady), which aims to rehabilitate and reintegrate street children back into society.\textsuperscript{1648}

The Government of Egypt has established a National Taskforce for Girls’ Education to promote girls’ education and eliminate gender disparities in the education system by the year 2015.\textsuperscript{1649} In addition, the World Bank’s Education Enhancement Program Project is working to ensure universal access to basic education, with an emphasis on girls, and to

\textsuperscript{1642} These four governorates were found to have the highest rates of the worst forms of child labor in a national child labor survey conducted by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) in 2001. See U.S. Embassy- Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 1, 2004.
\textsuperscript{1643} U.S. Embassy- Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 12, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1644} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{1645} U.S. Embassy- Cairo official, personal communication, to USDOL official, May 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1646} The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), "Every Child Has the Right to be Protected from All Forms of Violence: Outcome document of the Regional Consultation" (paper presented at the The MENA Regional Consultation on Violence Against Children, Cairo, July 2005); available from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/ma171005.doc.
\textsuperscript{1647} U.S. Embassy- Cairo, \textit{reporting}, September 12, 2005. See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo official, personal communication to USDOL official, May 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1649} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt}, 54.
improve the quality of education. In February 2005, the World Bank also began supporting a USD 108 million Early Childhood Education Enhancement Project, which aims to increase access to and improve the quality of pre-primary education, and increase the capacity of the Ministry of Education to improve kindergarten programs.

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El Salvador

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 10.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in El Salvador in 2003. Approximately 13.7 percent of all boys ages 5 to 14 were working compared to 6.5 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (51.2 percent), followed by services (35.3 percent), manufacturing (12.4 percent), and other (1.1 percent). Almost 70 percent of working children were found in rural areas. More than 60 percent of working children work without pay in informal family farms and family businesses. Children also work in fishing (small-scale family or private businesses), fireworks manufacturing, shellfish harvesting, sugar cane harvesting, and garbage scavenging. Some children work long hours as domestic servants in third-party homes. Children from poor families, as well as orphans, work as street vendors and general laborers in small businesses, primarily in the informal sector. The 2003 Multiple Purpose Household Survey revealed that 23

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1651 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


1653 This figure is based on the number of working children ages 5 to 17. See Ibid., 29.


1656 According to a USAID/FUNPADEM study, children younger than 11 years of age can be found working along the streets of San Salvador, for more than 8 hours a day. See FUNPADEM, Situación Actual de Niños, Niñas, y Adolescentes Trabajadores en las Calles de San Salvador, San José, Costa Rica, 2001.

percent of children ages 5 to 17 years were employed in sales, hotels, and restaurants.\textsuperscript{1658} Child Labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 31.1 percent of the population in El Salvador were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{1659}

Commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, especially girls, is a problem in El Salvador.\textsuperscript{1660} El Salvador is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Salvadoran girls are trafficked to Mexico, Canada, the United States, and other Central American countries. Some children are also trafficked internally from rural areas to urban areas, port cities, and border regions.\textsuperscript{1661} Children from Nicaragua, Honduras, and South America have been trafficked to bars in major Salvadoran cities, where they are then forced to engage in prostitution.\textsuperscript{1662} Girls ages 12 to 19 years, adolescents lacking formal education, adolescent mothers, single mothers, foreign girls, and persons from rural and poor areas are at special risk of becoming trafficking victims.\textsuperscript{1663}

Education is free and compulsory through the ninth grade.\textsuperscript{1664} Although laws prohibit impeding children’s access to school for being unable to pay school fees or wear uniforms, some schools continued to charge school fees to cover budget shortfalls.\textsuperscript{1665} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 113 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 90 percent.\textsuperscript{1666} 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. In 2003, approximately 80.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years attended school.\textsuperscript{1667} The 2003 Multiple Purpose Household Survey found that 8.6 percent of children ages 7 to 15 years did not attend school because of work duties.\textsuperscript{1668} In 2002, 74 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1669}

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{1658} General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses, \textit{Multiple Purpose Household Survey}, 2003, ILO-IPEC, \textit{Entendiendo el Trabajo Infantil}.
\bibitem{1659} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.
\bibitem{1666} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.
\bibitem{1667} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.
\bibitem{1668} General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses, 2003 \textit{Multiple Purpose Household Survey}.
\end{thebibliography}
Gaps in coverage and quality of education between rural and urban areas persist.\textsuperscript{1670} UNDP data indicates that while children attend school for an average of 5.3 years at the national level, the average drops to 3.2 years in rural areas.\textsuperscript{1671} Many students in rural areas attend classes below their grade level or drop out by the sixth grade due to lack of financial resources and in order to work.\textsuperscript{1672}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Labor Code and the Constitution set the minimum age for employment at 14 years.\textsuperscript{1673} Children ages 12 to 14 can be authorized to perform light work, as long as it does not harm their health and development or interfere with their education.\textsuperscript{1674} Children under 16 years of age are prohibited from working more than 7 hours per day or more than 34 hours per week, regardless of the type of work. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from working at night.\textsuperscript{1675} Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by the Constitution, except in cases specified by the law.\textsuperscript{1676} The Constitution makes military service compulsory between the ages of 18 and 30, but voluntary service can begin at age 16.\textsuperscript{1677}

In October 2004, legislation was approved prohibiting all forms of trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{1678} The Police Anti-Trafficking Unit arrested and charged 15 traffickers and rescued 19 minors between October 2004 and February 2005. The government’s child protection agency, ISNA, provides shelter, counseling, and legal assistance to rescued victims and children at risk of being trafficked.\textsuperscript{1679} Criminal penalties for trafficking range from 4 to 8 years of imprisonment, and increase by one-third if the victim is under the age of 18 years.\textsuperscript{1680} El Salvador’s Penal Code does not criminalize prostitution.\textsuperscript{1681} However, the Penal Code provides for penalties of 8 to 12 years of imprisonment for the inducement, facilitation, or promotion of prostitution of a person younger than 18 years old.\textsuperscript{1682} Amendments to the Penal Code designate commercial sexual exploitation of

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{1671} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Time-Bound Program in El Salvador}, project document, 10.
  \item \textsuperscript{1673} Government of El Salvador, \textit{Código de Trabajo}, Article 114. See also \textit{1983 Constitution}, Article 38, Part 10.
  \item \textsuperscript{1674} \textit{Código de Trabajo}, 114-15.
  \item \textsuperscript{1675} Ibid., 116.
  \item \textsuperscript{1676} \textit{1983 Constitution}, Article 9. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: El Salvador}, Section 6c.
  \item \textsuperscript{1678} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: El Salvador}, Section 5.
  \item \textsuperscript{1680} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: El Salvador}, Section 5.
  \item \textsuperscript{1681} U.S. Embassy- San Salvador, \textit{reporting}, August 17, 2000.
  \item \textsuperscript{1682} Decreto No. 210, (November 25, 2003). This directive amended the earlier Code that provided for penalties of 2 to 4 years of imprisonment for the same violations. See Government of El Salvador, \textit{Código Penal de El Salvador}.
\end{itemize}
children as a crime, and trafficking and child pornography as organized crimes, providing for harsher penalties. Since 1999, the Government of El Salvador has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 and Convention 138.

Enforcing child labor laws is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor. According to the U.S. Department of State, labor inspectors focus on the formal sector where child labor is less frequent and few complaints of child labor are presented. The State Department also reports that government agencies responsible for combating trafficking were poorly funded.

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

The Government of El Salvador continues to participate in a national Timebound Program, funded by USDOL and implemented by ILO-IPEC, to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and provide education and other services to vulnerable children. The Timebound Program focuses on eliminating exploitative child labor in fireworks production, fishing, sugar cane harvesting, commercial sexual exploitation, and garbage dumps scavenging. As part of the Timebound Program’s efforts, a labor inspector manual has been developed and several child labor-specific training sessions were carried out during 2005. In addition, questions on child labor were included in the Ministry of Education’s 2004 Matriculation Census. The Ministry of Labor is working with the Association of Sugar Producers to monitor the situation of child labor in the sugar cane industry. The Government of El Salvador launched a 2005-2009 anti-poverty plan, which seeks to improve education indicators in the country’s poorest municipalities, and incorporates a child labor component. During the year, the National Civilian Police launched an Institutional Plan to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation, including of children. In late 2004, Government’s National Steering Committee for the Progressive Elimination of Child Labor launched efforts to build a National Plan for

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1684 ILO-IPEC Geneva official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
1686 Ibid.
1687 Ibid., Section 5.
1690 Ibid., 14.
1691 Ibid., 10.
Eradicating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in El Salvador.\textsuperscript{1693} Progress has been reported in 2005, with numerous consultations taking place among government agencies, employers, workers, and NGO representatives in the drafting of the Plan. The draft is pending finalization.\textsuperscript{1694}

The government is also participating in a USDOL-funded Central America regional Child Labor Education Initiative project to strengthen government and civil society’s capacity to address the educational needs of working children.\textsuperscript{1695} With support from the Government of Italy, ILO-IPEC is carrying out a regional project to reduce children scavenging at garbage dumps.\textsuperscript{1696}

In addition to participating in the ILO-IPEC Timebound Program, the Ministry of Education supports a number of programs to increase the quality and coverage of education. These programs include, among others: Healthy School Program,\textsuperscript{1697} The Open-School Program,\textsuperscript{1698} APREMAT,\textsuperscript{1699} EDUCO,\textsuperscript{1700} Accelerated School Program,\textsuperscript{1701} Multi-Grade School Program,\textsuperscript{1702} Distance-Learning Program,\textsuperscript{1703} and a scholarship

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\item \textsuperscript{1693} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Timebound Program and Education Initiative, Technical Progress Report, March 2005.}
\item \textsuperscript{1694} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Timebound Program and Education Initiative, Technical Progress Report, September 2005.}
\item \textsuperscript{1697} This is an inter-agency program coordinated by the National Bureau of the Family in conjunction with the Education and Health Ministries. It provides school meals as well as preventive and primary health care. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Time-Bound Program in El Salvador, project document.}
\item \textsuperscript{1698} This program permits schools to remain open all day and provides after-school informal and technical courses built around the interest of children and adolescents. See Ibid., 13.
\item \textsuperscript{1699} Stands for “Apoyo al Proceso de Reforma de la Educación Media en el Area Técnica.” APREMAT is a project financed by the European Union to strengthen technical training by creating vocational centers for adolescents in secondary schools and improving technical education opportunities for adults. See Ibid., 12.
\item \textsuperscript{1700} Stands for “Educación con Participación de la Comunidad”. EDUCO is a long-standing program supported by the Salvadoran Ministry of Education (MINED). EDUCO incorporates community participation in the provision of pre-school and primary education in rural areas, especially in the most impoverished ones. Under this program, MINED enters into a contract with parent-run boards for administration and financial management of educational services. The parents run the school, are directly involved in hiring teachers and other administrative matters while the State provides the resources. This program has allowed rapid expansion of primary education to rural areas and in 2001 was seen to be serving 200,000 children in primary schools and 27,000 in pre-school. Evaluations have indicated that educational outcomes do not suffer and that the program is more successful at retaining students than traditional schools. See Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{1701} This is a pilot project that provides special personalized curriculum and tutoring to enable children, who more than 2 years behind grade-level in primary school, to catch up and be mainstreamed into the grade corresponding to their age group. See Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{1702} This program offers school facilities to under-serviced areas. See Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{1703} Aimed at secondary school students, this program provides education through radio, satellite, television and other technologies. See Ibid.
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The Ministry of Education continues to implement a World Bank-funded 8-year Education Reform Project to improve and expand coverage, quality, and efficiency of pre-school and basic education, with a particular emphasis on rural and marginalized urban areas. The IDB’s 4 ½-year Social Peace Program Support Project, which targets 200,000 children and adolescents, continues to operate in municipalities with the highest rate of crime affecting young people – both as victims and offenders. The project includes provision of services to child victims of violence, efforts to prevent violence among adolescents, and efforts to rehabilitate young offenders through job training scholarships and enhancement of the educational system. USAID’s Earthquake Reconstruction Program is supporting the government’s restoration of social infrastructure, including reconstructing and equipping schools and child care centers.

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1704 Ibid., 12-13. See also Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development, Invirtamos en educación para desafiar el crecimiento económico y la pobreza, Informe de desarrollo económico y social 2002, 35-39.
Equatorial Guinea

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Equatorial Guinea are unavailable.\(^{1710}\) Children work on family farms and in domestic service, street vending,\(^{1711}\) and bars and grocery stores.\(^{1712}\) There are reports that children also work in prostitution, particularly in Bata and the capital city, Malabo.\(^{1713}\) Children are trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from other countries in West and Central Africa, particularly Cameroon, Nigeria, and Benin. Girls are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service, while boys are forced to work as farmhands and street hawkers. Boys trafficked from Nigeria reportedly work in market stalls in Bata often without pay or personal freedom.\(^{1714}\)

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\(^{1710}\) 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.


\(^{1714}\) U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Equatorial Guinea*, Section 5. A 2001 child trafficking study by the Equatorial Guinean Ministry of Labor and Social Security in collaboration with UNICEF, that questioned 596 children in urban and rural areas of the country, found up to 150 boys and girls whom had been trafficked from Benin and Nigeria. Ministry of Labor and Social Security and UNICEF, *Child Labor and Trafficking Report*. 
The Constitution of Equatorial Guinea establishes free and compulsory education through primary school, but the law is not enforced, and many rural families cannot afford school fees and book expenses. In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 126.2 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 84.6 percent. There was a significant disparity between the net primary enrollment rates of boys and girls, with 91.4 percent of boys enrolled versus 77.9 percent of girls. 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. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Equatorial Guinea.

Late entry into the school system and high dropout rates are common, and girls are more likely than boys to drop out of school. Cultural perceptions, pregnancy, and the expectation that girls will assist with agricultural work result in lower education attainment levels for girls. While some new schools have opened, many lack books and desks. Some teachers serve as political appointees and lack sufficient training. In the 2005 national budget, the government has allocated additional financial resources to education; however, it is not clear how these funds were used.

Child Labor Law and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment is 14 years. Children as young as 13 years old may legally perform light work that does not interfere with their health, growth, or school attendance. Children who are at least 12 years old may work in agriculture or handicrafts, with authorization from the Ministry of Labor. Children under 16 years are prohibited from work that might harm their health, safety, or morals. The U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Equatorial Guinea, Section 6d.


1717 World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004 [CD-ROM], Washington, D.C., 2004. For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report. There is a similar disparity in attendance rates between boys and girls. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Paragraph 54.

1718 According to the representative of UNICEF in Equatorial Guinea in 2000, 50 percent of school-age children did not attend primary school. See AFROL, Child Labour Increasing.


1720 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Paragraph 54.


1722 Ibid., Section 6d.

State and the Committee on the Rights of the Child report that the Ministry of Labor does not effectively enforce the minimum age for work or other labor laws and mechanisms to control child labor.\textsuperscript{1724}

In July, 2005 the government passed a decree banning all children under the age of 16 years from being on the streets after 11 p.m. The decree forbids parents or tutors from exploiting children in labor such as street vending, car washing, or working in bars or restaurants. Under the decree, youth found in the above situations will be automatically arrested, and businesses that employ minors, including family businesses, will be sanctioned. The law stipulates that repeat offenders will face closure of their businesses.\textsuperscript{1725}

Forced or bonded labor by children is forbidden, as is prostitution.\textsuperscript{1726} In 2004, the Government adopted a new law against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons which includes prison terms of 5 to 10 years for those convicted of trafficking.\textsuperscript{1727}

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

The Government of Equatorial Guinea has developed a draft national plan of action on trafficking, which includes plans to empower dedicated police officers to fight child trafficking. The plan had not been adopted as of the end of 2005. The government has also conducted a radio campaign to raise awareness about the new trafficking law.\textsuperscript{1728}

On March 2, 2004, the government and UNDP launched a plan to train sufficient teachers to provide primary education for every child in the country. Under this plan, the UNDP and Government of Equatorial Guinea have committed to spend USD 5.2 million to train 2,000 teachers, 45 school inspectors, and 35 educational advisors over the next 4 years.\textsuperscript{1729}
Eritrea

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Eritrea are unavailable.\textsuperscript{1730} A significant number of children work on the street, in the agricultural sector, and as domestic servants.\textsuperscript{1731} In rural areas, children who do not attend school often work on family farms and in subsistence farming, engaging in such activities as fetching firewood and water and herding livestock.\textsuperscript{1732} Children are expected to work from about the age of 5 by looking after livestock and working in the fields.\textsuperscript{1733} In urban areas, some children work as street vendors of cigarettes, newspapers, or chewing gum.\textsuperscript{1734} There are also underage apprentices in shops and workshops such as garages or metal workshops.\textsuperscript{1735}

There have been unconfirmed reports that forced labor by children occurred in the past,\textsuperscript{1736} but there was no information available on the practice in 2005. There is a lack of data on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Eritrea.\textsuperscript{1737}

Education is free and compulsory through grade seven.\textsuperscript{1738} However, families are responsible for uniforms, supplies, and transportation, which can be prohibitively expensive.

\textsuperscript{1730} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.


\textsuperscript{1733} ILO Committee of Experts, Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention.

\textsuperscript{1734} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Eritrea, Section 6.

\textsuperscript{1735} ILO Committee of Experts, Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention.

\textsuperscript{1736} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Eritrea, Section 6.

\textsuperscript{1737} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports under Article 44 - Concluding Observations, para. 57.

\textsuperscript{1738} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Eritrea, Section 5.
expensive; such costs discourage many parents from sending their children to school.\textsuperscript{1739} In addition, schools are not physically accessible to all Eritreans, particularly in rural areas.\textsuperscript{1740} Education above grade seven is not compulsory, and students must pay a nominal fee.\textsuperscript{1741}

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 63 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 45 percent.\textsuperscript{1742} 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 Eritrea.\textsuperscript{1743} As of 2001, 86 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1744}

There is a significant disparity in educational access between urban and rural-dwelling children, primarily because development has been concentrated in urban areas.\textsuperscript{1745} According to the most recent figures available, which were drawn from surveys conducted between 1990 and 1999, 79 percent of urban children attended school compared with 24 percent of rural children.\textsuperscript{1746} There is also a disparity between the number of boys and girls in school.\textsuperscript{1747} It is common for girls attending rural schools to leave before the school day ends in order to work at home on domestic tasks.\textsuperscript{1748}

In 2003, the government added an additional grade to secondary school and required that all students throughout the country attend their final year at a location adjacent to the Sawa military training facility in the western region of the country; students who do not attend this final year of secondary school do not graduate and cannot sit for examinations to be eligible for advanced education.\textsuperscript{1749} The remote location of the school, concerns about security, and societal attitudes restricting the free movement of girls resulted in few

\textsuperscript{1739} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{1740} U.S. Embassy- Asmara, \textit{reporting}.
\textsuperscript{1743} 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.
\textsuperscript{1745} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Summary Record of the 866th Meeting (Thirty-third session) - Consideration of Reports of States Parties (continued), Initial report of Eritrea (continued)}, CRC/C/SR.866, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, New York, June 2, 2003, para. 82.
\textsuperscript{1747} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports under Article 44 - Concluding Observations}, para. 51.
female students enrolling in their last year of high school. There is also concern that this school is under the authority of the military, and at least one official was reported as saying that he considers the students to be members of the armed forces. According to the U.S. Department of State, students attend the Sawa military training camp and undergo military training during their last year of school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 68/1 of Labor Proclamation No. 118/2001 sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years. Young persons between the ages of 14 and 18 may not work between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., and they may not work more seven hours per day. Young persons are not permitted to work in jobs that involve heavy lifting, contact with toxic chemicals, underground work, the transport industry, dangerous machines, exposure to electrical hazards, or the commercial sex trade. Section 3(9) of Labor Proclamation No. 118/2001 states that apprentices may be hired at the age of 14.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Eritrea. Article 16 of the Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor except when authorized by law. Proclamation 11/199 prohibits the recruitment of children under 18 years of age into the armed forces. Eritrean law criminalizes child prostitution, pornography, and sexual exploitation. Article 605 of the Criminal Code prohibits the procurement, seduction, and trafficking of children for prostitution.

Inspectors from the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare (MLHW) are responsible for enforcing child labor laws. Legal remedies available to the labor ministry include criminal penalties, fines, and court orders. According to the U.S. Department of State,

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1750 Women may, however, earn an alternative secondary school certificate by attending night school after completing their compulsory term of national service. U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Eritrea*, Section 5.
1752 U.S. Embassy- Asmara, *reporting*.
1754 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Addendum: Eritrea*, para. 68.
1761 U.S. Embassy- Asmara, *reporting*.
inspections are rare because of the level of available resources and the small number of inspectors.\textsuperscript{1762} There is no information on the level of resources at the labor ministry devoted to investigating child labor abuses.\textsuperscript{1763} There is no information on the number of inspections carried out in the past year,\textsuperscript{1764} and, as of 2004, no labor inspection reports had referred to cases of child labor.\textsuperscript{1765}

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

The Government of Eritrea is implementing a National Program of Action on Children, coordinated by its National Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is scheduled to end in 2006.\textsuperscript{1766} The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, however, is concerned that the National Committee on the Rights of the Child does not have sufficient resources to implement its mandate.\textsuperscript{1767} There is a plan of action on child labor that primarily focuses on strongly integrating or reintegrating children with families, communities, and schools as a means of preventing or rehabilitating children engaged in child labor.\textsuperscript{1768}

The MLHW works with at-risk children by providing a small subsidy to their families to help with food and clothing, as well as counseling services to help children re-integrate into their nuclear or extended families.\textsuperscript{1769} At-risk children are also enrolled or re-enrolled at local schools, and the MLHW tracks their development through local committees or ministry employees.\textsuperscript{1770} The government has a program to identify children involved in commercial sex work and reintegrate them with their families and society.\textsuperscript{1771} The government is also making efforts to assist street children; they received allowances to purchase uniforms and books so that they could attend school, while those older than school age were sent to private training centers designed to help them learn a vocation and reintegrate into the community.\textsuperscript{1772} According to the U.S. Department of State, these types of prevention and reinsertion activities are one of the ministry’s primary activities to address child labor issues.\textsuperscript{1773}

\textsuperscript{1763} U.S. Embassy- Asmara, reporting.
\textsuperscript{1764} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{1765} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{1766} UN Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention*.
\textsuperscript{1767} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports under Article 44 - Concluding Observations*, para. 8.
\textsuperscript{1769} U.S. Embassy- Asmara, reporting.
\textsuperscript{1770} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{1771} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{1773} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record - Consideration of Reports*, para. 77. U.S. Embassy- Asmara, reporting.
The government has conducted awareness campaigns through the state media for the general public and has conducted training for officials charged with enforcing child labor laws. Through state media, the government routinely provides information on its strategy and its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Government of Eritrea is implementing the Eritrea Education Sector Investment Project with support from the World Bank. The project is designed to increase enrollment and completion rates in basic education, especially for disadvantaged children, and to improve the quality of basic education by building classrooms, establishing a Teacher Training and Development Unit within the Ministry of Education, and implementing the Ministry of Education’s curricula and pedagogical reform program.

The AFDB is supporting two projects to improve access to basic and secondary education and reduce inefficiencies in the management of the education system. These two projects will construct over 800 new classrooms at both primary and secondary schools, including for special needs education; equip schools; and build capacity within the Ministry of Education.

UNICEF is supporting the Government of Eritrea in elaborating its Education Sectoral Development Plan (ESDP), which provides an operational framework for developments in education; the government and other stakeholders discussed and adopted the ESDP in April 2005. UNICEF is supporting the construction of seven schools in order to help increase net school enrollment. UNESCO funded a Ministry of Education project to provide basic school supplies and writing materials to 40,000 students in rural schools.

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1774 Ibid.
1775 Ibid.
within the drought-affected sub-zones of Anseba, North Red Sea, and South Red Sea Regions.\textsuperscript{1780}

Ethiopia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 49.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Ethiopia in 2001. Approximately 39.5 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 59.5 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (94 percent), followed by services (3.6 percent), manufacturing (1.2 percent), and other sectors (1.1 percent). In rural areas, the largest numbers of working children, especially boys, are engaged in activities such as cattle herding, petty trading, wage work, plowing, harvesting and weeding. Children, mostly girls, are also engaged in domestic activities, such as washing clothes, food preparation, caring for children and collecting firewood and water. In urban areas, domestic activities are the most common forms of work in which children are engaged. Some child domestics in Addis Ababa are orphans. Children working as domestic servants are sometimes victims of physical, verbal and sexual abuse. The highest percentages of working children are found in the Amhara, Oromia, Southern

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1781 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


Many children start working at the age of 5. Different sources estimate that there are between 150,000 and 700,000 street children in Ethiopia and roughly between 50,000 to 150,000 in Addis Ababa alone. Some of these children beg or work in the informal sector in order to survive. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 23 percent of the population in Ethiopia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Reports indicate that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is increasing in Ethiopia. Girls as young as 11 years old have reportedly been recruited to work in brothels where they are targeted by customers because they are believed to be free from sexually transmitted diseases. Girls also work as prostitutes in resort towns and rural truck stops. Girls also work as barmaids and as hotel workers, which may expose them to involvement in commercial sexual exploitation. Ethiopia is a source country for children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation primarily to Djibouti, Lebanon, and other countries in the Middle East. Children are also trafficked internally from rural to urban areas for domestic service, prostitution, and forced labor.

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1785 Woldehanna, *Child Labour, Gender Inequality and Rural/Urban Disparities*, 15.
1786 Ibid., 17.
1792 Ibid. Girls as young as 13 have been seen on the street soliciting clients. See ECPAT International, (Ethiopia).
Primary education is compulsory through grade six and free, but there are not enough schools to accommodate students. Students in rural areas often have limited access to education, and girls’ enrollment in school remains lower than that of boys in all regions but the capital city. In 2003, the gross primary enrollment rate was 70 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 51 percent. 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. In 2001, 36.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. In 2002, 62 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Many children in Ethiopia start school at a late age; the mean age of first graders is over 10 years, despite the fact that the official age when schooling begins is seven.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Ethiopia’s Labor Proclamation sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. Under the Proclamation, employers are forbidden to employ “young workers” when the nature of the job or the conditions under which it is carried out may endanger the life or health of a child. Prohibited activities include transporting goods by air, land, or sea; working with electric power generation plants; and performing underground work. Young workers are prohibited from working over 7 hours per day, night hours between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., during weekly rest days, and on public holidays.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Ethiopia. Article 36 of the Constitution states that children have the right to be protected against exploitative practices and work conditions, and should not engage in employment that could threaten their health, education or well-being. Ethiopia’s Penal Code was

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1795 Ibid.
1799 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
1803 A “young worker” refers to those aged 14 to 18. See Ibid., Articles 1,3-4.
1804 Ibid., Articles 90, 91.
amended in 2005 to include provisions to address loopholes in child trafficking legislation. According to the Penal Code, child trafficking is punishable by imprisonment of up to 5 years and a fine of up to USD 10,000.\(^{1806}\) A newly developed database will improve the government’s ability to track the outcome of trafficking in persons arrests.\(^{1807}\) The code also prohibits forced or bonded labor of children.\(^{1808}\) The minimum age for military conscription is 18.\(^{1809}\) Since 1999, the Government of Ethiopia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\(^{1810}\)

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is responsible for enforcement of child labor laws.\(^{1811}\) The Department of State reports that within the formal industrial sector, the Government made some efforts to enforce these laws.\(^{1812}\) However, various sources report that exploitative child labor is pervasive, particularly in the agrarian and the informal sectors,\(^{1813}\) areas where child labor laws are not easily enforced.\(^{1814}\)

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

The Government of Ethiopia has adopted a National Plan of Action for Children which includes activities to promote quality education to children and protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation.\(^{1815}\) The Children, Youth, and Family Affairs Department at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs chairs the National Steering Committee against Sexual Exploitation of Children.\(^{1816}\) The U.S. Department of State reports that the government’s protection services for trafficking victims increased during the second half of 2004 and the first half of 2005. Child protection units in the capital city’s police stations carried out efforts to detect cases of trafficking in persons.\(^{1817}\) A


\(^{1807}\) U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report.*


\(^{1810}\) ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.


\(^{1812}\) Ibid., section 6d.

\(^{1813}\) Ibid.

\(^{1814}\) Bhalotra, *Child Labour in Africa*, 65.


\(^{1816}\) U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports - 2004: Ethiopia*, section 6d. See also *SNGOA, Study on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

\(^{1817}\) U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report.*
USAID-funded center provides services to trafficking victims.\textsuperscript{1818} As part of a US Department of State-funded program to combat the trafficking of women and children to the Middle East, high-school aged students were educated about the dangers of trafficking in persons. In the capital city, a 24-hour hotline provided confidential counseling and support.\textsuperscript{1819}

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in coordination with UNICEF, is implementing a program to provide formal and non-formal education, school materials, and health care to over 6,000 street children.\textsuperscript{1820} USDOL-funded projects increase educational alternatives to children exploited in hazardous labor and document best practices and replicable strategies.\textsuperscript{1821} The Government of Italy supports an ILO-IPEC Country Program to combat the worst forms of child labor in Ethiopia.\textsuperscript{1822}

The government works with the WFP on a U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded school feeding program aimed at improving school children’s nutrition, attendance and retention rates in school and increasing parental involvement in school activities.\textsuperscript{1823} UNICEF collaborates with the Ethiopian Government on education and child protection activities.\textsuperscript{1824} In September 2005, UNICEF received USD 4.96 million from the Swedish Government, which will be used to begin implementation of the first phase of the National Plan of Action for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. Funds will be used to foster open communication between children and parents, to build the capacity for youth programming, to develop youth friendly services (including voluntary counseling and testing), and to strengthen anti-AIDS clubs and other youth groups.\textsuperscript{1825}

USAID is funding a 6-year educational program through 2007 that focuses on training new teachers, providing in-service training for current teachers, improving the quality of radio instruction, strengthening community/government partnerships, and improving education management systems.\textsuperscript{1826}

\textsuperscript{1819} US Embassy- Addis Ababa, reporting, February 1, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1822} ILO-IPEC official, email communication, November 8, 2005.
\textsuperscript{1825} Implementation will take place over a 3 year period in the regions of: Afar, Oromia, Somali and Tigray.
Fiji

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Fiji are unavailable. According to the Fijian Teachers Association and the Fiji Teachers Union, and based on school attendance and dropout rates, it is estimated that 20,000 to 30,000 children work in the informal sector, family businesses and family farms. Children work in agriculture in Fiji, including in the tobacco sector. Other children, especially those that are homeless, work in the informal sector and on the streets. Children shine shoes, collect bottles, run errands for restaurants, repair cars, and work as domestics in homes. Children on the streets are susceptible to commercial sexual exploitation and are lured into the commercial sex industry by both local and foreign adults wishing to profit from the pornography trade.

Primary school education is compulsory for children ages 6 to 15. In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 109 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 100

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1827 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

1828 U.S. Embassy- Suva, reporting, August 26, 2005.


1831 Ibid.


percent.\textsuperscript{1834} 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. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Fiji.\textsuperscript{1835} The cost of transportation and the imposition of fees at some schools are reported to limit attendance for some children.\textsuperscript{1836} As of 2000, 88 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{1837} As it is compulsory for children to attend primary school, some schools put various forms of pressure on the children to pay a fee. If the children do not pay the fee, they can be sent home, prevented from enrolling in the next school year, or barred from taking external exams.\textsuperscript{1838}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Fiji. The Employment Ordinance states no child under the age of 12 years shall be employed in any capacity whatsoever. The Employment Act sets the minimum ages for employment, with children defined as being less than 15 years of age. The Act also establishes that children between 12 and 15 years cannot work under harsh working conditions or where there are long hours, night work, or hard or heavy work.\textsuperscript{1839} The Constitution prohibits forced labor,\textsuperscript{1840} and the Penal Code prohibits the sale or hiring of minors less than 16 years of age for prostitution.\textsuperscript{1841} Currently, there is no law concerning the minimum age of conscription into the military. The minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years of age.\textsuperscript{1842} The U.S. Department of State has reported that the country’s child labor laws and enforcement mechanisms are insufficient.\textsuperscript{1843}

\textsuperscript{1834} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{1835} 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.


\textsuperscript{1838} UN Commission on Human Rights, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children*, Para. 84.


\textsuperscript{1840} Fiji Constitution, 1988, Section 24; available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/fj00000_.html.


\textsuperscript{1843} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Fiji*, Section 6d.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

A committee with a broad range of members, including the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, the ILO, the Fiji Police Force, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and UNICEF was formed in June 2005 to focus on issues of the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. The committee will develop programs to address child labor issues in Fiji and in other Pacific Island countries.\textsuperscript{1844}

The Government of Fiji receives bilateral assistance for the country’s development strategy from donor agencies such as Australia’s International Aid and Development Agency (AusAID) and New Zealand’s International Aid and Development Agency (NZAID) to implement new programs in the education sector, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas.\textsuperscript{1845} The Government of Fiji has several ongoing education programs being funded by AusAID: the Lautoka Teachers College Upgrade (2002-2005); the Fiji Education Sector Program (2003-2008); and the Rural Schools Infrastructure Project (ongoing). These projects are intended to train primary school teachers; improve the delivery and quality of educational services; and improve access to schools in rural areas.\textsuperscript{1846} NZAID provides the Government of Fiji with resources to support primary school education.\textsuperscript{1847}

Save the Children Fiji cooperates with the Ministry of Education to identify schools in need of textbooks and provides money to these schools to purchase textbooks. Children from families with financial need are given school subsidies so that the children have access to books.\textsuperscript{1848}


\textsuperscript{1847} NZAID, \textit{Fiji Overview}.

Gabon

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Gabon are unavailable.\textsuperscript{1849} Children are trafficked into the country from Benin, Guinea, Nigeria, and Togo, mostly to work in Libreville.\textsuperscript{1850} Trafficked boys are subjected to forced labor in small workshops and as street vendors.\textsuperscript{1851} Children from Benin and Togo, particularly girls, are found working as domestic servants and in the informal commercial sector, including in roadside restaurants and market vending.\textsuperscript{1852} There are reports of children who are trafficked to Gabon for domestic labor and are then sexually abused and exploited in prostitution when they escape from their employers.\textsuperscript{1853} Nigerian children are found working as mechanics. In general, trafficked children worked long hours for no pay and were subject to physical abuse.\textsuperscript{1854} Children who are purchased in Benin, Togo and Mali may be sold to commercial farms in Gabon and Côte d’Ivoire.\textsuperscript{1855}

\begin{tabular}{|l|c|}
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Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments & \\
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Ratified Convention 138 & \\
Ratified Convention 182 & 3/28/2001 \textsuperscript{U} \\
ILO-IPEC Member & \textsuperscript{U} \\
National Plan for Children & \\
National Child Labor Action Plan & \textsuperscript{U} \\
Sector Action Plan (Child Trafficking) & \textsuperscript{U} \\
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\textsuperscript{1849} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


\textsuperscript{1851} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{1854} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Gabon}, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.

Education is compulsory for children ages 6 to 16 years under the Education Act, but prohibitive costs for items such as books, uniforms, and school supplies prevent many from attending school. The government has used oil revenue for school construction, paying teachers’ salaries, and promoting education, including in rural areas. However, maintenance of school structures, as well as teachers’ salaries, has been declining. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 132 percent, and, in 2000, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 78 percent. 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 Gabon. As of 2001, 69 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Problems in the education system include poor management and planning, lack of oversight, a shortage of teaching material, poorly qualified teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and a curriculum that is not always relevant to students’ needs.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code prohibits children below 16 years from working without the consent of the Ministries of Labor, Education, and Public Health. Children between 14 and 16 years may work as apprentices with permission from the Ministry of National Education. The employment of children in jobs that are unsuitable for them due to their age, state, or condition, or that interfere with their education is also prohibited. According to Decree No. 31/PR/MTEFP of January 8, 2002, children under 16 years who have been removed from exploitative labor must be placed in appropriate reception or transit centers, and trafficked children must be repatriated to their country of origin at the expense of their

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1858 Ibid.

1859 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stat.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

1860 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.


1862 In the capital city, Libreville, classes average 100 students in size, and rural classes average about 40 students. Many rural schools are poorly built and lack furniture and educational material. Sixteen percent of school children have only one teacher for all six primary years, and some schools have no teacher at all. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties due in 1996, Addendum: Gabon*, CRC/C/41/Add.10, prepared by Government of Gabon, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, July 13, 2001, paras. 216, 217.

Children under 18 years are prohibited from working at night in industrial establishments, except in family enterprises. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the military is 20 years.

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Gabon, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Labor Code imposes fines and prison sentences for violations of minimum age laws. Forcely labor is forbidden by the Labor Code. The Penal Code prohibits procurement of a minor for the purpose of prostitution, which is punishable by imprisonment for 2 to 5 years and a fine of 100,000 to 2,000,000 CFA francs (approximately USD 184 to 3,683). Since 1999, the Government of Gabon has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

In September 2004, the Government of Gabon passed comprehensive legislation to prevent and combat child trafficking in Gabon. The law outlines measures to protect children under 18 years from trafficking and stipulates fines of CFA 10 million to 20 million CFA francs (approximately USD 18,414 to USD 36,828) and imprisonment of 5 to 15 years for perpetrators. An inter-ministerial council housed within the ministry responsible for human rights is charged with enforcement of the law. Following passage of the law, 26 alleged child traffickers were arrested in January and March 2005, representing the country’s first trafficking arrests. The intercepted children, from Benin, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo, were placed in resettlement centers. The Penal Code also prohibits child trafficking, along with forced labor, slavery, abduction, and pimping.

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1865 Children over 16 years can work in certain industries that, by their nature, must be continued at night. See *Code du travail*, Articles 167, 168.
1870 ILO-IPEC, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

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requirements at the airport so that children without proper documentation may not enter the country, but many trafficking victims are transported to Gabon by boat or over land.

Minimum age laws were strictly enforced in urban areas for the protection of Gabonese children, but rarely were in rural areas. Although the Labor Code is intended to cover all children, abuses involving foreign-born children were rarely reported. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws, while the Ministry of Labor is charged with receiving, investigating, and addressing child labor complaints. However, the U.S. Department of State reported that the number of labor inspectors was inadequate, complaints were not routinely investigated, and violations were not effectively addressed.

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

The government has undertaken several measures to raise awareness of trafficking issues and the new anti-trafficking law, including the organization of town hall meetings by the Ministry of Justice, extensive coverage of trafficking stories by the government-controlled media, and placement of anti-trafficking posters in government-run schools and other public venues by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. The government has also established a National Programme of Action to combat child trafficking and a National Plan to Fight against Child Labor.

The Government of Gabon participates in a regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative labor in West and Central Africa. UNICEF has worked to raise awareness on child trafficking through workshops and seminars, radio and television messages, and posters. The government, in collaboration with UNICEF, operates a toll-free hotline for child trafficking victims. The call center provides trafficking victims with free transportation to a shelter. The government also funds and operates a shelter for trafficking victims that provides

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1875 U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*.
1878 Ibid.
1879 Ibid.
educational, medical and psychological services,\textsuperscript{1884} and has created a regional law enforcement hub to share information on trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{1885} The government has an inter-ministerial committee to combat trafficking in persons, but reports indicate that the committee’s progress has stalled.\textsuperscript{1886}

The government has adopted a National Plan of Action for Education for All to improve access and quality of education, and a subsequent plan to reduce repetition rates, particularly among girls.\textsuperscript{1887}


\textsuperscript{1885} The government has allocated office space, furniture, and staff for the operation of the hub. See U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.

\textsuperscript{1886} Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Gabon}, Section 5.

The Gambia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 24.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in The Gambia in 2000. Approximately 25.2 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 24.5 percent of girls in the same age group. Most children working in rural areas can be found assisting in the home and on family farms. In urban areas, children work as street vendors or taxi and bus assistants. Children also work in carpentry, sewing, masonry, plumbing, tailoring, mechanics, and begging.

Children are victims of prostitution in The Gambia. They work in bars, hotels, and brothels, often with the knowledge of business owners and managers. The Gambia is a source, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of women and children. The number of trafficking victims is small, but growing. The problem is most acute in the sex tourism industry, where adults coerce young children, especially girls, with

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1888 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


1892 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: The Gambia, Sections 5, 6d.


1894 Ibid. Children are trafficked regionally (mainly from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, and Nigeria) and internally (from rural to urban areas) for forced work, which includes exploitation, begging, street vending, and domestic servitude. Vulnerable girls are often led to a life of prostitution and trafficked to Europe. Government of The Gambia UNICEF, Study on the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in the Gambia, 2003, pp. 39, 49; available from http://www.unicef.org/media/files/gambia_report.doc.

gifts and promises of a better or more Western lifestyle. In January 2005, UNICEF and the Government of The Gambia reported that the majority of prostitutes in tourist areas were underage.

The Constitution mandates free and compulsory primary education up to age 8. However, The Gambia’s lack of resources and educational infrastructure has made implementation difficult. Many families cannot afford school fees or tuition that are imposed on children above age 8, and girls generally have less access to education. Working children are also less likely to attend school and more likely to drop out. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 85 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 79 percent. 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. In 2000, 57.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Gambia’s statutory minimum age for employment is 14 years. The legal framework governing child labor is limited, and there are no laws that restrict the sectors in which children can work. The Constitution protects all citizens from forced

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1904 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.
labor,1907 and all children under age 16 from economic exploitation and hazardous work.1908 The Constitution also outlaws discrimination1909 but allows unequal treatment in the workplace with regard to adoption, marriage, divorce, and inheritance, which threatens children, especially girls, born out of wedlock or with disabilities.1910 The Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA) calls for the protection of orphaned, homeless, and at-risk children from neglect, abuse, abandonment, slavery, child bondage, destitution, and prostitution.1911

The Criminal Code prohibits prostitution,1912 kidnapping, abduction, child sex tourism, child sexual exploitation,1913 child abuse, and child neglect.1914 The 2003 Tourism Offenses Act punishes tourists found guilty of involvement in child prostitution, trafficking, and pornography.1915 Draft anti-trafficking legislation is still pending.1916

There is no conscription in The Gambia.1917 The Armed Forces Act enables children under the age of 18 to enlist, but they may not begin military service until they reach 18.1918

According to the U.S. Department of State, The Gambia’s Department of Labor does not consistently enforce labor laws because of inadequately trained staff.1919 The department, which is responsible for implementing the provisions of ILO Convention 182, requires workers to register with the Labor Commissioner and distributes labor cards to eligible

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1908 Ibid., Section 29.
1909 Ibid., Section 33.
1911 The law only applies to the City of Banjul and the Division of Kombo Saint Mary.
employees who satisfy the minimum age for employment. However, child labor laws are rarely enforced and inspections rarely conducted. In addition, the government does not comprehensively prohibit trafficking in persons. The government also provides no victim protection in law or practice and has no strategy for collecting trafficking data.

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

The government provides more funds to the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Health and Social Welfare (DHSW), which administer sponsorship schemes for children in need of special protection, than to any other agencies. Nonetheless, the country’s lack of resources limits the functions of the DOE and the DHSW.

To combat trafficking, the DHSW partners with five European countries to screen Gambian children under age 17 who apply for travel visas to Europe. In 2004, multiple government agencies and NGOs combined efforts to develop a Trafficking Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons. With support from the government, the IOM supports a regional Health Assessment Program that provides medical and monitoring support for trafficking victims. The government has not established victim care and health facilities for trafficking victims, but does provide temporary shelters with access to medical and psychological services.

The government operates a nationwide education initiative to increase the gross enrollment rate, to improve educational opportunities for girls, to strengthen basic

1921 Ibid. See also Unions, Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards, p. 5.
1926 European partners are Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Sweden and Norway. ECPAT International, Gambia.
1928 Ibid.
1929 Ibid.
1930 One program is the Scholarship Trust Fund, which covers the costs of tuition, textbooks, and examination fees for girls at all levels of education. See Initiatives in Girls Education: The Scholarship Trust Fund, Secretary of State for Education, [online] [cited January 30, 2006]; available from http://www.edugambia.gm/Directorates/Current_Projects/Girls_Education/body_girls_education.html. The program includes girls attending private schools. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, reporting, August, 2003. The DOE cannot fund the entire program, but works with various partners for financial support.
education curricula, and to improve teacher training.¹⁹³¹ The World Bank and the African Development Bank fund projects to combat poverty and improve the health and education of children.¹⁹³² NGOs and the DOE run various education initiatives.¹⁹³³ The President directs an Empowerment of Girls Education project in Banjul and the West and North Bank regions.¹⁹³⁴

¹⁹³⁴ The U.S. Embassy in Banjul contributes funds to this project through the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative Ambassador’s Girls Scholarship Fund. See U.S. Embassy- Banjul, reporting, August 2003.
Georgia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 21.5 percent of children ages 7 to 17 were counted as working in Georgia in 2000.1935 Most working children reside in rural areas in Georgia (77.3 percent) and work on a family farm (77.4 percent) or in a family enterprise (18.4 percent).1936 According to the Ministry of Education, there are more than 1,200 street children in the capital city of Tbilisi. Although they are usually not counted in labor surveys, these children primarily beg or peddle small items and some are involved in prostitution.1937 Violence against street children was reported.1938 The government took little action to assist street children. There were unconfirmed reports of police violence against street children, but the patrol police routinely transferred street children to a 24-hour care center or orphanage.1939 1940 Children work nights at filling stations or selling flowers or other small items in bars or restaurants.1941 Prostitution of both boys and girls occurs, and while no data exist on the scale of the use of children in pornography, the government reports that the chances it exists are high.1942 In the region of Abkhazia which is outside the control of the central government, the Abkhaz de facto authorities forcefully conscripted into the army more than 50 young male ethnic Georgians living in the Abkhazia’s Gali region, some of whom were reportedly as young as 16.1943 Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 2.7 percent of the population in Georgia were living on less than USD 1 a day.1944

ILO, Child Labour in Georgia, January 2004. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

1935 This figure refers to children 7 to 17 years of age. Source ILO, Child Labour in Georgia, January 2004.
1936 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 8, 2006.
1937 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 8, 2006.
1941 Ibid., 41. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 200: Georgia, Section 5., which suggests that incidents of sexual exploitation were reported, especially among girls.
1942 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 8, 2006.
Georgia is both a source and transit state for child trafficking, and street children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking.\textsuperscript{1945} NGO reports indicate that women and children are primarily trafficked from Georgia to Greece, Turkey, the United States, Spain and France. In addition, women and children are trafficked through Georgia from Russia, Ukraine, and other former Soviet states to Turkey and other Mediterranean countries. Armenian women and children are trafficked through Georgia to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Turkey and Uzbek women to the UAE.\textsuperscript{1946} 

According to statistics published by the Institute of Legal Reforms of Georgia, in 2003, the most recent year for which such data are available, there were 1,945 registered crimes committed by children, the majority of which were related to the selling, smuggling, and illegal distribution of drugs.\textsuperscript{1947} Organized crime is a source of the drug trade and the trafficking of women and children.\textsuperscript{1948} 

Education is mandatory and free for children ages 6 or 7 to age 14.\textsuperscript{1949} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 90 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 89 percent.\textsuperscript{1950} 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. Although education is free, due to limited and declining public expenditures on education, an informal system of payments exists which requires some parents to purchase textbooks and school supplies, and provide payments for tuition or teachers’ salaries.\textsuperscript{1951} Parents’ inability or unwillingness to pay these fees has resulted in children being forced to drop out of school,\textsuperscript{1952} which leaves some children vulnerable to exploitation of the worst forms of child labor.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 167 of the Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment in Georgia at 16 years. Students in secondary, vocational, or special training schools are permitted to work from age 14, with the permission of a parent or guardian, so long as the work is not


\textsuperscript{1949} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 200: Georgia*, Section 5. 


\textsuperscript{1952} Ibid.
damaging to the child’s health or education. In general, children under 18 years of age are prohibited from work that involves heavy lifting or is harmful or dangerous, including underground work and work at night. Children ages 15 and over are restricted to working 24 or 36 hours per week depending on their age. Children are also restricted from selling alcohol, tobacco, and pornography, and working in bars, nightclubs, and gambling facilities. Children are also prohibited from working in hazardous industries such as mechanical engineering, metallurgy, welding, and the production of construction materials. The Ministry of Health, Social Service, and Labor is responsible for enforcing laws regulating child labor. The Labor Inspection Department within the Ministry, which had been the only mechanism for monitoring enforcement of the minimum age requirement, was dissolved in 2005. According to the U.S. Department of State, the actual enforcement of these laws is inconsistent.  

There are different statutes under which the worst forms of child labor can be prosecuted in Georgia. The law prohibits forced labor, including by children. Article 171 of the Georgian Penal Code includes penalties of imprisonment for up to 3 years for encouraging minors to engage in prostitution. Article 143 prohibits trafficking of persons and minors, and article 172 prohibits trafficking of minors for exploitation. Trafficking of children is punishable by imprisonment of 8 to 20 years or life imprisonment depending on the circumstances. In 2005 investigations were initiated into 26 criminal cases of Trafficking. Ten cases were brought to trial. So far, a guilty verdict has been returned in two criminal cases against six persons. Two cases returned not guilty verdicts while six criminal cases remain, involving seven defendants who are still at large.  

The compulsory age of recruitment into the military is 18 years. However, many high schools have military departments that are integrated into the country’s armed forces and include national curriculum for children age 14 to 17 in “military preparedness,” including weapons training. Since 1999, the Government of Georgia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

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1954 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 8, 2006.
1955 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 200: Georgia, Section 6c.
1957 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 8, 2006.
1959 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In August 2003, a National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2007) was approved that identified goals and implementation strategies regarding street children, child labor, and child sexual exploitation. Implementation of this plan has been delayed due to the change in government. The action plan has been reviewed, but currently no concrete actions have been taken to implement the plan. The government has provided, through the Center for the Rehabilitation of Minors, medical and psychological support to children exploited in prostitution. In addition, the Ministry of Education and the private voluntary organization, Child and Environment, operate two shelters to assist street children; however, this was only in the capital city of Tbilisi and did not meet the demand in that city alone.

The Government of Georgia outlined in June 2003 the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program (EDPRP) and in August 2003 the government established the Governmental Commission for Elaboration of the Report on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals to be headed by the State Minister. The Millennium Development Goals for Georgia and the EDPRP address the issue of worst forms of child labor indirectly through interventions aimed at improving the educational system and reducing poverty.

The government approved a National Action Plan that established an ad hoc Interagency Commission against Trafficking and appointed a primary point of contact. The government has also established a policy for protecting the identity of victims of trafficking and has provided formal trafficking awareness and sensitivity training to all new police officers.

The Government of Georgia is a member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and cooperates with other members to combat organized crime, including criminal activities concerning trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of women and children. In December 2004, the BSEC states signed a joint declaration on combating trafficking in human beings.

1961 UNICEF Georgia official, email communication to USDOL official, June 28, 2005.
1966 Georgia is a signatory to the Agreement Among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, In Particular in its Organized Forms. Participating states include the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of...
The Government of Georgia is receiving funding (USD 25.9 million) from the World Bank for the first phase of a 12-year program that will develop a national curriculum for primary and secondary education, train teachers and principals, and provide basic learning materials through 2006. The International Monetary Fund approved a 3-year, USD 144 million program to support the government’s economic development efforts as outlined in their poverty reduction strategy paper. Similarly, USAID funds a number of programs in the areas of economic development; democracy and government; social development and health; and special initiatives including anti-trafficking programs.

UNICEF is providing educational and recreational supplies and teacher training in psychosocial support and counseling to social workers in the conflict-ridden areas of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. UNICEF is also assisting a local NGO providing psychological rehabilitation and integration services to street children.

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Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 24.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Ghana in 2000. Approximately 24.5 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 24 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (71 percent), followed by services (22.6 percent), manufacturing (5.8 percent), and other sectors (0.6 percent). In rural areas, children can be found working in fishing, herding, and agriculture. The fishing industry on Lake Volta employs many children in potentially hazardous work such as deep diving and casting and drawing nets. In urban centers, street children work mainly as truck pushers, porters, and sales workers. Children also work as domestic servants, miners, quarry workers, hawkers, and fare collectors.

Some children are involved in Trokosi, a religious practice indigenous to the southern Volta region, which involves pledgesing children and young women to atone for family members’ sins by helping with the upkeep of religious shrines and pouring libations during prayers. As of early 2005, the most recent data that are available, it was estimated that there were fewer than 50 individuals serving in Trokosi shrines. Trokosis live near shrines, often with extended family members, during their period of service, which lasts from a few months to three years. A Trokosi is expressly

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1973 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.
1979 Ibid., Sections 5 and 6. Trokosis are most often young girls. See U.S. Embassy- Accra official, interview with USDOL official, July 21, 2005.
1981 Ibid.
forbidden to engage in sexual activity during the atonement period.\textsuperscript{1983} Opinions differ on whether trokosi constitutes forced or ritual servitude, which is banned under the Penal Code.\textsuperscript{1984} The government does not recognize Trokosi as a religion and government agencies, such as CHRAJ, have at times actively campaigned against it. Local officials portray Trokosi as a traditional practice that is not abusive, but some NGOs maintained that Trokosis are subject to sexual exploitation and forced labor.\textsuperscript{1985} Organizations that support traditional African religions have said these NGOs misrepresent their beliefs and regard their campaigns against Trokosi as religious persecution.\textsuperscript{1986} There is no evidence of physical or sexual abuse being a systematic part of the practice, but instances of sexual abuse may occur.\textsuperscript{1987} Multiple investigations by foreign embassy representatives have turned up no credible evidence of systematic or widespread abuses.\textsuperscript{1988}

Ghana is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked children.\textsuperscript{1989} Children are trafficked for exploitation in labor and domestic service to Cote d’Ivoire, Togo, The Gambia, and Nigeria.\textsuperscript{1990} Ghanaian girls are trafficked to the Middle East for forced labor as domestic servants and there are isolated cases of girls being trafficked to Western Europe for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{1991} There continue to be reports of children being given away, leased, or sold by their parents to work in forced labor in the commercial sexual exploitation and fishing sectors.\textsuperscript{1992} Within Ghana, boys are trafficked from the Northern region to Volta Lake to work in fishing villages, or to the west to work in small mines, while girls are trafficked to Accra and Kumasi to work as domestic servants, porters, and assistants to traders.\textsuperscript{1993} Children are also trafficked within Ghana to urban areas to work as street vendors.\textsuperscript{1994} There are reports of children being trafficked within Ghana for work on cocoa farms.\textsuperscript{1995} Ghana is a destination

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\textsuperscript{1983} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Ghana, Section 5.  \\
\textsuperscript{1985} U.S. Embassy- Accra official, email communication to USDOL official, August 15, 2006.  \\
\textsuperscript{1986} U.S. Embassy- Accra official, email communication to USDOL official, August 15, 2006.  \\
\textsuperscript{1987} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Ghana, Section 5.  \\
\textsuperscript{1988} U.S. Embassy- Accra official, email communication to USDOL official, August 15, 2006.  \\
\textsuperscript{1990} Ibid. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, Gambia-Ghana: Sex slave children trafficked by Ghanaian fishermen, February 26, 2004; available from http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=39717.  \\
\textsuperscript{1992} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Ghana, Section 6d. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2005: Ghana, Section 5.  \\
\textsuperscript{1993} Children were often recruited for trafficking with the consent of their parents, who were sometimes given payment or promises of payment from the recruiter, along with assurances that their children would be cared for and given an education, in some cases. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Ghana, Section 5.  \\
\textsuperscript{1994} U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Ghana.  \\
\textsuperscript{1995} USDOL official, interview with University of Ghana official, April 10, 2006. See also U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report-2005: Ghana
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country for children from Cote’d’Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, and Benin who are trafficked for forced labor, including domestic service and sexual exploitation.  

Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 44.8 percent of the population in Ghana were living on less than USD 1 a day.  

Under the constitution, education is compulsory for children of primary and junior secondary age, the equivalent of grades 1 to 9. The constitutional provision of “free, compulsory, and universal basic education,” means that tuition fees are paid by the government. Education is not free, however, and can be costly for poor families who must buy textbooks and uniforms. As part of the government’s effort to increase access to basic education and lower school drop-out rates, the Capitation Grant program was introduced during the 2005-2006 academic year. Under this scheme, the government pays 30,000 cedis (USD 2.80) to the schools for every child enrolled. This has eliminated the need for parents to pay the extra levies that schools had previously imposed on students. In 2003, the gross primary enrollment rate was 83 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 59 percent. 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. In 2000, 80 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 63 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. In 2001, 64.3 percent of working children attended school. Children in the poorest families, often in the economically deprived areas of the country, are engaged in domestic chores and other economic activities which hinder regular school attendance. Parents rarely face penalties if their children do not attend school.  

1996 Ibid.  
2000 Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- Accra official, email communication to USDOL official, June 23, 2005.  
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Children’s Act sets the minimum age for general employment at 15 years, and sets 13 years as the minimum age for light work. The Children’s Act prohibits children under 18 from engaging in hazardous labor, including work in mines or quarries, at sea, in bars, in manufacturing that involves chemicals, in places that operate machinery, or in any job that involves carrying heavy loads. Employers who operate in the formal sector must keep a register with the ages of the young people they employ. Failing to keep this register is punishable by a fine of 10 million cedis (USD 1,111) or 2 years in prison.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Ghana. The Ghanaian Constitution and labor law forbid forced or bonded labor by anyone, including children. Ritual servitude is illegal in Ghana. According to the Penal Code, “Whoever sends to, or receives at any place, any person; or participates in, or is concerned in any ritual or customary activity in respect of any person, with the purpose of subjecting that person to any form of ritual or customary servitude, or any form of forced labour related to a customary ritual, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than three years.” The Penal Code also prohibits the procurement of girls and women under the age of 21 for the purpose of prostitution. In 2005, the Ghanaian government passed the Human Trafficking Act, which prohibits and provides penalties for human trafficking and establishes a Human Trafficking Fund to assist trafficking victims. Ghana also has laws against slavery, prostitution, and underage labor. The minimum age for military recruitment is 18 years, and Ghana’s army is made up entirely of volunteers. Since 1999, the Government of Ghana has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

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2008 Light work is defined as work that is not harmful to the health or development of a child and that does not affect the child’s attendance and performance at school. The legislation allows children aged 15 years and above to work in an apprenticeship if the employer provides a safe and healthy work environment, and training. Government of Ghana, The Children’s Act, Act 560, (1998); available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/56216/65194/E98GHA01.htm.

2009 Ibid., Section 91.


2018 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
The Ministry of Manpower, Development and Employment is responsible for enforcing child labor laws but, according to the U.S. Department of State, these laws are not enforced with any effectiveness or consistency in Ghana.\textsuperscript{2019} Labor authorities carry out routine annual inspections of workplaces in the formal sector but seldom monitor the informal sector where most working children can be found.\textsuperscript{2020} Other law enforcement authorities, including judges and police, are largely unfamiliar with child labor laws and lack the resources to enforce them.\textsuperscript{2021}

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

The Government of Ghana, in collaboration with ILO-IPEC and international and non-governmental organizations, continued to implement the 2001-2002 National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Child Labor in Ghana.\textsuperscript{2022} The government is collaborating with ILO-IPEC on a 4-year, USD 4.75 million USDOL-funded Timebound Program, launched in 2004, which establishes timeframes for progress on the elimination of selected worst forms of child labor in Ghana. The project aims to strengthen Ghana’s legal framework against child labor, mobilize society against child labor, expand apprenticeship and skills training programs, and develop institutional and technical capacities to more effectively address child labor.\textsuperscript{2023} The government included child labor as a problem to be addressed in the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2003.\textsuperscript{2024} The government also worked to develop a National Cocoa Child Labor Elimination Plan in 2005.\textsuperscript{2025}

With the participation of several Ghanaian government ministries, ILO-IPEC also continued to implement additional programs. The Ghanaian government was involved in the ILO-IPEC West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Program (WACAP), a USDOL-funded USD 6 million program that aimed to build institutional capacity, promote public education and mobilization, and develop a long-term child labor monitoring system.\textsuperscript{2026} ILO-IPEC is also implementing the second phase of a USD 9.2 million regional anti-trafficking project in West and Central Africa that has activities in Ghana.\textsuperscript{2027} Another USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC 3-year, USD 5.3 million multi-country

\textsuperscript{2020} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2023} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Support for the Implementation of Time-Bound Measures for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Ghana}.
\textsuperscript{2024} U.S. Embassy- Accra official, email communication to USDOL official, August 15, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2026} The WACAP project is set to end in April 2006. ILO-IPEC, \textit{West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Programme to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labour (WACAP)}, technical progress report, Geneva, March, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2027} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labor Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA / Phase II)}, technical progress report, Geneva, September, 2005. The first phase of the LUTRENA project in Ghana was funded by USDOL, the second phase in Ghana is being funded by the
The government of Ghana has a National Plan to Combat Trafficking, and various government agencies have highlighted the issue of trafficking in special events and community education campaigns. The government is also partnering with the IOM on a 21-month project to return and reintegrate children trafficked to the fishing sector in Yeji. The IOM program has rescued 544 children from fishing villages in the Volta region. The government, through the Department of Social Welfare, provided shelter for the trafficking children rescued by IOM at its rescue center in Medina on the outskirts of Accra.

Through 2015, the Government of Ghana will continue to implement the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education program, aimed at providing basic education to all school-age children, promoting efficiency, quality, access, and participation. The government has also introduced a feeding program that was piloted in 690 schools with expansion plans should the pilot be successful.

The government cooperated with USAID in the implementation of its Education Quality for All (EQUALL) project, which focuses on increasing access to primary education, improving reading instructional systems in 1,400 schools, and improving education management systems. The World Bank and the British Department for International...
Development separately fund education projects that focus on provision of school infrastructure and institutional capacity building being implemented by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports. Other Ministry of Education efforts include support for informal schools sponsored by NGOs and increased attention to students’ progression to higher grades. The Ghana Education Service is implementing activities under its Five-Year Action Plan for Girls’ Education in Ghana 2003-2008, including science and mathematics clinics around the country, scholarships for girls, incentives to attract female teachers to rural areas, and awareness-raising activities. The Government of Ghana is currently receiving support from the Education for All Fast Track Initiative to achieve its goal of implementing universal quality primary education by 2015.

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Ibid.

Grenada

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Grenada are unavailable.\(^{2043}\) It has been reported that some children work informally in the agricultural sector.\(^{2044}\) According to the World Bank, children in Grenada are becoming involved in commercial sexual exploitation in order to pay for basic needs, such as school fees and food.\(^{2045}\)

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 120 percent, the most recent year for which data are available; the net primary enrollment rate was 84 percent.\(^{2046}\) Gross and net enrollments ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Recent primary school attendance rates are not available for Grenada.\(^{2047}\) As of 2001, 79 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\(^{2048}\) Despite high enrollment rates, factors such as poverty, poor school facilities, and the periodic need to

\(^{2043}\) This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


\(^{2046}\) UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/Viewer/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.

\(^{2047}\) 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.

help with family farm harvests resulted in a 7 percent absenteeism rate among primary school children in 2000, the most recent time period for which such figures are available. The government cites the high level of emigration of natural parents, inadequate children’s care, and juvenile crime as the leading causes of children dropping out of school. The lack of a male role model, single-parent households and violence in the family may be causes for dropping out of school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act sets the minimum age for employment in Grenada at 16 years. Children under the age of 14 years are not permitted to work in any public or private industrial undertaking other than an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed.

A person convicted of violating the Act can be subject to a fine of up to USD 10,000, up to 3 years of imprisonment, or both. The Constitution prohibits forced labor and slavery. Grenada does not have a system of conscription into the armed forces and, therefore, enlistment is on a voluntary basis only. The Ministry of Labor enforces child labor laws in the formal sector through periodic checks; however, enforcement in the informal sector remained a problem, according to the U.S. Department of State.

Since 2002, the Government of Grenada has been implementing its first comprehensive educational development plan, entitled “Strategic Plan for Educational Enhancement and Development (SPEED).” The Plan includes aims to provide universal access to education, improve the quality of education, provide learners with relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills, establish and strengthen relationships with partners in education, improve the effectiveness of management and administration of education at ministry and school levels, and ensure consistent government financing of education, diversifying the funding sources and making certain that resources are used efficiently.

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2051 Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, Article 32.
2053 Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, Article 35.
The Child Welfare Act of 1998 designates the Child Welfare Authority as responsible for providing protection for children, including in cases of neglect or sexual exploitation.2058

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

The World Bank, in partnership with CARICOM and other international donor organizations, has funded a regional HIV/AIDS prevention project in Grenada. The project goal is to increase equitable access to secondary education; improve the quality of the teaching and learning process, with more direct interventions and provision of resources at the school level, a focus on student-centered learning and various mechanisms to provide student support; and strengthen management of the sector and governance of schools. The project is expected to end in 2007.2059

Grenada’s Strategic Plan for Educational Enhancement and Development aims to improve the quality of education and student achievement and to establish and strengthen relationships with education partners by working closely with the local private sector, NGOs, as well as regional and international organizations. The Ministry is also working to improve management and administration efficiency and to ensure consistent financing of education and efficient use of resources.2060

The Government of Grenada in collaboration with UNICEF and other international donors, including USAID and the Canadian government, cooperated in the rebuilding and refurbishing of schools after Hurricane Ivan’s devastation to the school system.2061

Second phase of the World Bank’s Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Education Development Program began in 2003 and is scheduled to close in September 2007. The project objective is to increase access to schools by expanding and rehabilitating space, providing additional learning resources, training teachers in pedagogy, identifying special needs children, and implementing new methods for teaching literacy. It also supports students by developing extra-curricular activities and training administrators in the management of the school system.2062

Guatemala

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 16.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Guatemala in 2000. Approximately 21 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 11.1 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (62.6 percent), followed by services (23.4 percent), manufacturing (10.7 percent) and other sectors (3.2 percent). Labor force participation rates of children are highest in areas with large indigenous populations. On average, working children ages 5 to 14 years work 6.5 hours per day and 5 days per week. Children help harvest commercial crops such as coffee and broccoli. Children are also employed as domestic servants and garbage pickers, in family businesses, in the fireworks and stone quarries sectors, and in other sectors.

UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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, please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.

Children living in regions with high concentrations of indigenous groups comprised 65.9 percent of economically active 7 to 14 year olds. See Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Plan Nacional para la Prevención y Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil y Protección a la Adolescencia Trabajadora, Guatemala, 2001, 6.


Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 16 percent of the population of Guatemala were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2073}

Child prostitution is especially common in the capital and along the borders with El Salvador and Mexico.\textsuperscript{2074} Street children tend to be especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation and other forms of violence.\textsuperscript{2075} Guatemala is considered a source, transit, and destination country for Guatemalan and other Central American children, primarily for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Children from poor families in Guatemala tend to be drawn into sex trafficking through advertisements for foreign jobs or through personal recruitment.\textsuperscript{2076}

The Constitution mandates free and compulsory education in Guatemala through primary school, or up to grade 6.\textsuperscript{2077} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 106 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 87 percent.\textsuperscript{2078} 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. In 2000, 65.5 percent of children 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{2079} As of 2001, 65 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2080} The lack of flexible alternative programs in the education system, lack of relevance of the curriculum, insufficient academic coverage, and low quality of services have been cited as some of the reasons children leave Guatemalan schools. Economic activity and poor health contribute to the
76 percent primary school desertion rate of rural children who enter first grade. Primary completion rates are lowest in rural and indigenous communities.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code and Constitution set the minimum age for employment at 14 years. In some exceptional cases, the Labor Inspection Agency can provide work permits to children under the age of 14, provided that the work is related to an apprenticeship, is light work of short duration and intensity, is necessary due to extreme poverty within the child’s family, and enables the child to meet compulsory education requirements. In 2004, 20 apprenticeships permits were issued, as this practice has diminished significantly in the past years. Minors ages 14 to 17 are prohibited from working at night, overtime, in places that are unsafe and dangerous, or in bars or other establishments where alcoholic beverages are served. The workday for minors under the age of 14 years is limited to 6 hours; minors age 14 to 17 may work a maximum of 7 hours. During the year the Municipality of Guatemala enacted a law prohibiting minors less than 18 years from accessing waste disposal sites.

Article 188 of the Penal Code prohibits child pornography and prostitution. Procuring and inducing a minor into prostitution are crimes that can result in fines and 6 years of imprisonment, and the penalty increases by two-thirds if the victim is younger than 12 years old. February 2005 reforms to Article 194 of the Penal Code expanded the definition of trafficking from solely covering sex trafficking to include other forms, and increased penalties for trafficking to 7 to 12 years of incarceration. Punishments are increased by one-third if the victim is a minor. The Law for Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents protects children from trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation.

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2082 On average, non-indigenous Guatemalan children receive 5.6 years of education, and indigenous children receive an average of 2.2 years. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guatemala, Section 5.
2083 Código de Trabajo de la República de Guatemala, Article 148; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/41345/64970/S95GTM01.htm#t4. See also Constitution, 1985, Article 102.
2084 Código de Trabajo, Article 150. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guatemala, Section 6d.
2087 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guatemala, Section 6d.
2090 Article 191 of the Criminal Code as cited by Interpol, Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children.
2091 Previously, human trafficking was defined only in relation to the movement of women outside of the country’s boundaries for prostitution. U.S. Embassy - Guatemala City, reporting, February 7, 2005.
exploitation. The Constitution prohibits forced or compulsory labor, including by children. The Law on the Constitution of the Army stipulates that anyone serving in the military must be between 18 and 30 years old, and the Law for Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents maintains that it is the state’s responsibility to ensure that children and adolescents’ are not recruited into the military. Since 1999, the Government of Guatemala has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor’s Child Workers Protection Unit is responsible for enforcing child labor regulations as well as educating children, parents, and employers regarding the labor rights of minors. According to the U.S. Department of State, child labor laws are not well enforced because of ineffective labor inspections and labor courts. Specialized units within the Prosecutor’s Office, the National Civilian Police (PNC), and the Attorney General’s Office are tasked with investigating, arresting, and prosecuting traffickers. The Minors Section of the PNCs Criminal Investigative Service successfully apprehended child traffickers in 2005; however, some rescued underage victims were turned over to the juvenile justice system rather than provided with rehabilitative services.

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


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2093 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guatemala, Section 6c.
2095 ILO-IPEC official, email communication email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
2096 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guatemala, Section 6d.
2098 Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Plan Nacional para la Prevención y Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guatemala, Section 6d.
Technical Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Child Labor was established in February 2005.  

The Government of Guatemala is collaborating with ILO-IPEC on six projects aimed at eliminating child labor in various sectors and geographical areas. Two of these projects are USDOL-funded regional projects aimed at eradicating the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child labor in commercial agriculture. Another is a Government of Italy-funded regional program to eradicate child labor in garbage dumps. The Government of Guatemala is also collaborating with ILO-IPEC on USDOL-funded projects aimed at combating child labor in the fireworks, broccoli, and stone quarrying sectors. The Ministry of Labor, the Unit for the Protection of Minors at Work, UNICEF, and ILO-IPEC have joined efforts to build the capacity of local leaders to monitor and implement programs to address child labor. The Government of Guatemala is participating in a USD 5.5 million USDOL-funded regional project implemented by CARE to combat child labor through education. During the year, the government worked through its Immigration Service and the Secretariat of Social Welfare to raise awareness regarding trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

The Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) addresses child labor directly and indirectly by providing scholarships to children in need, administering extracurricular programs,
and implementing school feeding programs in rural areas. In particular, the government worked with ILO-IPEC to provide scholarships to children removed from work in the broccoli, coffee, gravel, and fireworks sectors. MINEDUC continues to implement a bilingual education project and to reduce the associated costs of education by providing school supplies to all children in primary school and eliminating their matriculation fees. The World Bank is supporting a Universalization of Basic Education project through 2006, which seeks to improve the coverage, equity, and quality of primary education. USAID’s 2004-2008 Country Plan for Guatemala focuses on promoting policies to improve educational quality and reducing rates of school desertion and repetition. A new loan from the IDB which encourages quality social expenditure includes an education component focusing on improved enrollment, educational quality, and school infrastructure. In May 2005, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will provide additional funds for school feeding programs in Guatemala.

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2114 Extracurricular programs use modified school hours, flexible course offerings and correspondence courses to provide children with access to basic education outside formal education classrooms. See Nery Macz and Demetrio Cojti, interview with USDOL official, August 16, 2000.

2115 MINEDUC, through the General Office for Co-Ordination of Support Program, administers school feeding programs. See CIPRODENI, Analysis on Progress and Limitations, 19.

2116 Ibid., 9-10.

2117 Macz and Cojti, interview, August 16, 2000. Guatemalan teachers consider the government’s efforts to reform the education system to be unsatisfactory.


2120 This loan was approved in December 2004. See IDB, Guatemala: Program for Improving the Quality of Social Expenditure, Loan Proposal, Program for Improving the Quality of Social Expenditure, 2004, 5-6; available from http://www.iadb.org/exr/doc98/apr/gu1598e.pdf.

2121 The program will benefit 172,000 people in Guatemala. See U.S. Department of Agriculture, Johanns announces $91 million to feed children under McGovern-Dole international food program, [online] May 2005 [cited June 22, 2005]; available from http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/tut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2005/05/0144.xml.
Guinea

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 48.8 percent of children ages 7 to 14 were counted as working in Guinea in 1994. Approximately 47.6 percent of all boys 7 to 14 were working compared to 50.2 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children are found in the informal sectors, carrying out activities such as subsistence farming, small-scale commerce, and fishing. Children also work in gold and diamond mines, granite and sand quarries, and as apprentices to mechanics, electricians, and plumbers. Guinean children engaged in the worst forms of labor were found hauling granite and sand for little or no money in artisanal mining. Girls engaged in prostitution as early as age 14.

Guinea is a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons. Guinean girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation to Cote d’Ivoire, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain and Greece and internally as domestic servants. Guinean boys are trafficked internally for street vending, shoe shining, and for forced labor in agriculture and diamond mining. Children are also trafficked from Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Senegal for forced labor in Guinea.

Years of conflict in neighboring Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d’Ivoire have resulted in large-scale displacement of civilians, particularly in the forest region. The children in Guinea’s forest region are reportedly subject to economic exploitation and sexual abuse. In N’Zerekore and Kissidougou, UNICEF identified some 200 unaccompanied minors

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2122 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


2125 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Guinea, Section 6d.


2127 Ibid.
from Sierra Leone and Liberia who were being exploited in diamond mines, plantations, and in homes.  

Public education is free and compulsory for 6 years, between the ages of 7 and 13. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 81 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 65 percent.  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. Enrollment remains substantially lower among girls than boys. In 1994, 34.8 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school. Children, particularly girls, may not attend school in order to assist their parents with domestic work or agriculture. In general, enrollment rates are substantially lower in rural areas. There is a shortage of teachers, school supplies and equipment, and school facilities in Guinea.

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, although children under the age of 16 may work with the consent of authorities. The Labor Code permits apprentices to work at 14 years of age. Workers less than 18 years of age are not permitted to work at night or work more than 10 consecutive hours per day. The penalty for an infraction of the law is a fine of 30,000 to 600,000 GNF (USD 5 to 105). The Labor Code also prohibits forced or bonded labor and hazardous work by children under

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18 years. Section 187 of the Labor Code prohibits hazardous work, defined as any work likely to endanger the health, safety, or morals of children. The Ministry of Labor determines which jobs are considered hazardous. Violations of these laws are punishable by fines ranging from 80,000 to 1,600,000 GNF (USD 14 to 281) and 8 days to 2 months in prison.\textsuperscript{2138} Guinea’s Penal Code prohibits trafficking of persons, the exploitation of vulnerable persons for unpaid or underpaid labor, and procurement or solicitation for the purposes of prostitution. The fine for violations of the procurement or solicitation law ranges from 100,000 to 1,000,000 GNF (USD 17 to 175) and imprisonment for 2 to 5 years when the crime involves a minor less than 18 years old.\textsuperscript{2139} The penalty for trafficking is 5 to 10 years of imprisonment and the confiscation of money or property received through trafficking activities.\textsuperscript{2140} The official age for voluntary recruitment or conscription into the armed forces is 18 years,\textsuperscript{2141} and the regulation is reported to be strictly enforced within the government army.\textsuperscript{2142}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Guinea. In 2002, the Labor Inspectorate within the Ministry of Labor had only one inspector and several assistants in each district to enforce relevant legislation.\textsuperscript{2143} While the government spoke out against child labor, it lacked the financial and legislative resources to combat it.\textsuperscript{2144}

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

The Government of Guinea is participating in a regional ILO-IPEC program funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Cocoa Global Issues Group that seeks to withdraw children from hazardous work in the cocoa sector, provide income generation and economic alternatives, and promote education.\textsuperscript{2145} The government also takes part in a USD 4 million USDOL-funded education initiative to provide non-formal education to children engaged in exploitative child labor.\textsuperscript{2146} The USAID-supported Sustainable Tree Crops Program is working in Guinea to address child labor in the cocoa sector, and is coordinating its activities with the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC program.\textsuperscript{2147}

\textsuperscript{2138} *Code du Travail, 1988*, Articles 2, 186, 187, 205. For currency conversion see FXConverter.
\textsuperscript{2140} See U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Guinea*.
\textsuperscript{2141} Although the official age is 18, few people have birth certificates, and in some cases, parents have been known to encourage under-18’s to apply to the armed forces. See Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, [online] n.d. [cited December 16, 2005], 70; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=777.
\textsuperscript{2143} Bengaly Camara Deputy Inspector of Labor, interview with to USDOL official, August 12, 2002.
\textsuperscript{2144} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Guinea*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{2145} ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Program to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labor (WACAP)*, project document, RAF/02/P5 0/USA, Geneva, September 26, 2002.
\textsuperscript{2147} ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture*, project document.
The Ministry of Education has overall responsibility for the implementation of a USD 70 million World Bank Education for All Project that aims to promote universal primary schooling, build schools, and improve the quality of education. The program focuses on girls, street children, and rural areas.\textsuperscript{2148} The Government of Guinea is receiving funding from the World Bank and other donors under the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, which aims to provide all children with a primary school education by the year 2015.\textsuperscript{2149} USAID is assisting the Ministry of Education and promoting access to quality basic education by focusing on teacher training and community participation in education and girls’ schooling.\textsuperscript{2150} UNICEF is implementing an advocacy program to increase girls’ enrollment.\textsuperscript{2151} In addition, the World Food Program is implementing a school feeding program that offers meals to children as an incentive for school attendance with special emphasis on girls.\textsuperscript{2152}

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{2148} World Bank, \textit{Education for All Projects}. See also USAID, \textit{USAID Education}.
\textsuperscript{2150} USAID, \textit{USAID Education}. See also Fofana, USAID interview, August 12, 2002.
\end{footnotesize}
Guinea-Bissau

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 62.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Guinea-Bissau in 2000. Approximately 64.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 64 percent of girls in the same age group.2153 Children work in street trading, farming, and domestic labor.2154 For four months, during the annual cashew harvest, children are withdrawn in part or completely from school in order to work in the fields.2155 In addition, commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs, but the extent of the problem is unknown.2156

School attendance is compulsory for six years. The government is obligated to cover all costs for the first four of these years.2157 In 2000, the gross primary enrollment rate was 70 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 45 percent.2158 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. In 2000, 37.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.2159 During the 2004-2005 school year, teacher strikes over unpaid wages plagued the education system.2160 There is a shortage of qualified teachers and an insufficient number of classrooms and schools,

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2153 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


2157 U.S. Embassy- Dakar official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.


2159 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.

2160 U.S. Embassy Guinea-Bissau, email communication to USDOL official, December 27, 2005.
particularly in rural areas where the majority of the population resides. 2161 Girls face additional challenges to receiving an education, such as having to travel long distances in potentially unsafe conditions to get to school. Girls are also expected to assist with domestic work, compelled to marry at an early age, and prevented from attending school when pregnant.2162

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Guinea-Bissau. The minimum age for employment is set at 14 years for factory work and 18 years for heavy or dangerous labor, including work in mines.2163 The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor by children.2164 Prostitution is illegal in Guinea-Bissau, as is the use of violence, threats, or other coercive actions to transport individuals to foreign countries.2165 The practices of selling, trafficking, and kidnapping of children are also criminal offenses.2166 In order to prevent trafficking, the law requires that persons traveling with children outside of the country submit their personal identification documents; as well as the identification documents of the child’s parents or the child.2167 According to Decree 20/83, boys under 16 years may volunteer for the armed forces with the consent of their parents/tutors, and all citizens aged 18 to 25 years are subject to compulsory military service.2168

According to the U.S. Department of State, although age requirements are generally respected in the formal sector, child labor occurred in the informal sector without oversight or enforcement by the Ministries of Justice or Civil Service and Labor.2169 There is no information available on the enforcement of laws pertaining to trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children.

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

The Government of Guinea-Bissau drafted a Strategic Document for the Reduction of Poverty in 2004 that includes the elimination of the worst forms of child labor as a key

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2164 Ibid., Section 6c.
2166 Ibid., para. 263.
2167 Ibid., para. 176.
The World Bank assisted the Ministry of Education in 2005 with strengthening the education sector through a 10-year, USD 14.3 million Basic Education Support loan project. Among other activities, the project included infrastructure development, government capacity-building, and improvements in the quality of education services. In addition, the WFP implemented a school feeding program aimed at improving enrollment and attendance rates, especially for girls, in primary schools.

The UNICEF country program seeks to increase recognition of children’s rights and ensure full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It is also working to improve access to quality basic education, particularly girls. Small-scale child labor initiatives that focus on literacy, education alternatives, and technical training are also being implemented by NGOs. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency has received support from USAID to build schools along the border with Senegal, where 7,000 to 8,000 Senegalese refugees live.

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2172 World Food Program, WFP Current Operations, para 36.
2174 Ibid.
2175 U.S. Embassy Guinea-Bissau, email communication, December 27, 2005.
Guyana

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 26.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Guyana in 2000. Approximately 28.7 percent of all boys 5 to 14 years of age were working compared to 23.9 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work as porters, domestic servants, street vendors, and waitresses in bars and restaurants. Some are found working in sawmills, markets, mining, and the illicit drug trade. There are cases also of children engaged in prostitution in port areas, gold and diamond mining areas, and the capital city of Georgetown.

Guyana serves as a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking of young women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The trafficking of Amerindian girls from the Hinterland (Guyana’s interior) to the coast for prostitution or domestic servitude accounts for most trafficking, although Guyanese girls are also trafficked to Suriname and other countries within the region.

The Education Act (Chapter 39:01) makes provision for access to education and also restricts employment of children. Primary education in Guyana is free and

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2176 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. In 2000, approximately 11,000 children ages 15 to 17 years (and of legal working age) were formally employed. See Editorial, "Putting Children First," Stabroek News, January 31, 2004, [cited June 27, 2005]; available from http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news401/ns40131.htm. 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 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.


2178 Ibid.


2180 Foreign victims are also trafficked to Guyana from Brazil, and may be transited through Guyana to Suriname. See U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, Washington, DC, June 3, 2005; available from http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46612.htm.

2181 U.S. Embassy- Guyana official, email communication, August 8, 2006.
compulsory for children ages 5 years and 9 months to 15 years. However, children are expected to remain in secondary school and/or community high school until they are at least 16 years old.\textsuperscript{2182} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 124 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99 percent.\textsuperscript{2183} 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. In 2000, 95.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{2184} Although the government has made concerted efforts to increase enrollment rates and to return dropout children to school, dropout rates, particularly among boys, remain high.\textsuperscript{2185} As of 1999, 77 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2186} The Education Act includes penalties for parents who do not ensure that their children attend school. However, enforcement is weak since the relevant departments lack the necessary human and financial resources to provide the support that is required. In addition, support mechanisms in the police force and judicial system are not adequate.\textsuperscript{2187}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Employment of Young Persons and Children’s Act prohibits employment of children under the age of 15, with some exceptions. Children less than 15 years of age may be employed in technical schools provided such work is approved and supervised by the public authority.\textsuperscript{2188} Children younger than 16 years are prohibited from working at night.\textsuperscript{2189} Forced labor, including by children, is prohibited by the Constitution.\textsuperscript{2190} The


\textsuperscript{2183} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005*; available from http://stats.uis.unesco.org/Tablesviewer/tableViewer.aspx?ReportID=51. 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.

\textsuperscript{2184} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


\textsuperscript{2187} U.S. Embassy- Guyana official, email communication, August 8, 2006.


\textsuperscript{2189} Ibid.

Defense Act sets the minimum age for enlistment in the armed forces at 18 years, and there are no reports of illegal recruitment or enlistment in Guyana.\textsuperscript{2191}

In December 2004, the National Assembly passed a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, which carries penalties of three years to life imprisonment.\textsuperscript{2192} In December 2004, the age of sexual consent was raised from 13 to 16 years, thus prohibiting sex with children less than 16 years of age, regardless of profession of consent.\textsuperscript{2193} Although child pornography is not specifically mentioned in the Act, Section 350 prohibits the selling, publishing, or exhibiting of any obscene matter.\textsuperscript{2194} Owning or operating an establishment allowing sex with a girl under 15 years is punishable by up to life imprisonment.\textsuperscript{2195}

Although there are laws that restrict child labor, the U.S. Department of State reports that cases are unreported and enforcement is weak.\textsuperscript{2196} According to the U.S. Department of State, the Ministry of Labor lacks sufficient inspectors to enforce child labor laws effectively, particularly in the country’s interior.\textsuperscript{2197} Reports from the Government of Guyana also indicate that trafficking oversight and enforcement are particularly weak in the country’s interior.\textsuperscript{2198}

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

The Ministry of Labor, Human Services and Social Security has overall responsibility for issues related to labor, family welfare (including child welfare) and trafficking in persons, including implementing and monitoring programs and activities. It also has responsibility for enforcing the law with the support of the police force.\textsuperscript{2199} In 2005, an inter-agency National Task Force was established and a National Plan of Action was completed to combat trafficking.\textsuperscript{2200} In addition, the government has led a series of town hall meetings and created anti-trafficking public service announcements\textsuperscript{2201}

\textsuperscript{2195} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Guyana,* Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{2196} U.S. Embassy- Guyana official, email communication, August 8, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2197} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Guyana,* Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{2199} U.S. Embassy- Guyana official, email communication, August 8, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2201} Ibid.
With support from the Government of Canada, the Government of Guyana is implementing an ILO pilot project providing rehabilitation services to child laborers and targeting children at-risk of exploitation in urban work, vending, loading and transporting, and agriculture. Since September 2005, the Guyanese Government has been participating in a USDOL-funded USD 2 million project to combat exploitative child labor through education. In addition, the Government of Guyana appointed a National Commission on the Rights of the Child to monitor and coordinate children’s rights issues.

The importance of access to education and improving the quality of education is acknowledged by the Government of Guyana. The National Development Strategy, which was formulated with input from civil society, identifies various recommendations and the Ministry of Education’s Strategic Plan for 2003-2007 includes education goals. The Government’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) also identifies education as a national priority.

From 2003 to 2015, Guyana will receive USD 45 million from various donors to support its Education For All (EFA) initiatives. The three major EFA initiatives in Guyana are: (1) improving the quality of the teaching force in the Hinterland, (2) enhancing the teaching/learning environment in primary schools, and (3) strengthening school community partnerships. As part of the government’s initiative in the Hinterland, a specific strategy is being implemented to ensure the inclusion of the Amerindian population in the education system within the regions.

The Government of Guyana is also implementing a Basic Education Access and Management Support (BEAMS) Project to improve school performance through curricular and pedagogical reform, education management reform, and school infrastructure development. The Guyana Education Access Project (GEAP) seeks to implement a common curriculum in the first three grades of secondary school. The Ministry of Education is implementing the Basic Competency Certificate Program, a pilot

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2204 Stabroek News, Child labour here seen as significant.
2205 U.S. Embassy- Guyana official, email communication, August 8, 2006.
2208 The project is supported by the Government of the United Kingdom. See Ibid.
program in six secondary schools and four instructions centers aimed at providing affordable and high quality vocational education to older children.\textsuperscript{2209} The Council for Teacher Education coordinated teacher training programs including a distance education certificate program in two Hinterland regions.\textsuperscript{2210} The government has allocated funds for textbooks, school uniforms, and a school feeding program. In addition, the Human Services Ministry offers counseling to students.\textsuperscript{2211}

\textsuperscript{2210} Ibid., 30.
Haiti

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Haiti are unavailable.\(^{2212}\) In general, due to high unemployment and job competition, there is very little child labor in the industrial sector and on commercial farms. Children are known to work on family farms and in the informal sector in order to supplement their parents’ income.\(^{2213}\) Haiti is a source, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of children for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The trafficking of children, particularly girls, from poor, rural areas to work as domestic servants for relatively richer families is a common traditional practice. These children, referred to as “restaveks,” live under conditions of forced labor and are often subject to long hours, poor nourishment, hard labor, and sexual and other kinds of abuse.\(^{2214}\) Many of these children do not attend school.\(^{2215}\) Estimates on the number of children living under these conditions vary widely.\(^{2216}\)

In 2004, Haiti experienced violence resulting from political upheaval and natural disasters.\(^{2217}\) Despite the presence of U.N. peacekeeping forces, violence continued.\(^{2218}\)

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\(^{2212}\) This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


\(^{2217}\) U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*. A 2001 study conducted by the Haitian Institute for Statistical Information notes that quantifying child domestic workers is difficult due to numerous factors. Most notably the total population in Haiti is not known, and therefore extrapolations of working children may vary depending upon which population estimate is used. See Tone Sommerfelt (ed.), *Child Domestic Labor in Haiti: Characteristics, Contexts and Organization of Children's Residence, Relocation, and Work*, The Fafo Institute for Applied Social Sciences, 2002, 15, 34, and 82-85.

\(^{2218}\) In 2004 Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned his presidency following an insurgency by anti-government rebels. Additionally, major flooding in May 2004 and cyclone Jeanne in September 2004 left approximately 2,754 people dead or missing. Louis Joinet, *Situation of Human Rights in Haiti*,

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According to UNICEF, the civil unrest in 2004 has resulted in an increased number of children trafficked to the Dominican Republic to work as beggars or prostitutes.²²¹⁹ An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 Haitian children are trafficked annually to the Dominican Republic.²²²⁰

Many children who live on the streets in Haiti are former domestic servants.²²²¹ Both child domestic servants and street children are the victims of violence.²²²² Violence against street children included killings, sometimes by police.²²²³ Children are recruited into armed groups.²²²⁴ The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including street children, is a problem. In 2003, ILO-IPEC published a rapid assessment on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Haiti, which found that the majority of the commercial sex workers surveyed were street children in the 13 to 17 age range, with some as young as 9 or 10 years old.²²²⁵

According to the Constitution, primary school is free and compulsory.²²²⁶ Education is required for children ages 6 to 11 years.²²²⁷ Gross and net enrollment statistics are not available for Haiti.²²²⁸ Schools are in poor condition and lack a sufficient number of teachers. Most children living in rural areas do not have access to public schools. The

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²²²⁰ U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.


²²²² Many child domestic servants are still expected to conduct their shopping and other work despite the violence. See UNICEF, Save the Children-Canada, Save the Children-US, World Vision, and Plan International, Les Enfants d'Haiti Face a la Crise, 19-20.


²²²⁸ 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.
costs associated with public school, including school fees, uniforms, and books, prevent many children from attending. Approximately 90 percent of schools are private.\textsuperscript{2229} In 2004, the last year for which data is available, schools were targets for violence and threats.\textsuperscript{2230}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

A gap exists between the age at which compulsory schooling ends and the minimum age for employment. The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment as a domestic servant at 12 years. The minimum employment age for work in industrial, agricultural, or commercial enterprises is 15 years.\textsuperscript{2231} Children must be at least 14 years of age to work as an apprentice.\textsuperscript{2232} Children ages 15 to 18 must obtain a work authorization from the Ministry of Labor. According to the Code, employing a child without a work authorization is punishable by fines.\textsuperscript{2233} Children less than 18 years of age are prohibited from hazardous work and night work in industrial jobs.\textsuperscript{2234}

Employers of child domestic servants must meet age, income, and other requirements, and they must be licensed by the Institute for Social Welfare and Research (IBESR).\textsuperscript{2235} Employers must ensure that child domestic workers have regular health exams, attend school, and are provided with sufficient housing, clothing, and food.\textsuperscript{2236} Child domestic servants must have 10 hours of uninterrupted rest a day and may not work on Sunday afternoons and legal holidays.\textsuperscript{2237} Children ages 15 and older must receive wages. Procedures and rules are established for employers to follow when firing child domestic workers and for situations when child domestic workers run away.\textsuperscript{2238} Fines are established for violations of these provisions.\textsuperscript{2239}

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Haiti, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Criminal Code prohibits procurement of minors under age 21 for the purposes of prostitution. Punishments range from 6 months to 3 years of incarceration.\textsuperscript{2240} Child trafficking is illegal.\textsuperscript{2241} The Labor Code prohibits forced labor.\textsuperscript{2242} The constitution obligates Haitians

\textsuperscript{2232} Ibid., Article 73.
\textsuperscript{2233} Ibid., Articles 337 and 340.
\textsuperscript{2234} Ibid., Articles 333 and 334.
\textsuperscript{2235} Ibid., Articles 342 and 343.
\textsuperscript{2236} Ibid., Articles 344-348.
\textsuperscript{2237} Ibid., Article 347.
\textsuperscript{2238} Ibid., Articles 350-353.
\textsuperscript{2239} Ibid., Article 355.
\textsuperscript{2240} Código Penal, Article 282; available from http://www.unifr.ch/derechopenal/introanu.htm.
\textsuperscript{2241} U.S. Embassy-Port au Prince, *reporting*, March 5, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2242} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Haiti*, Section 6d.
over age 18 to perform military service, however the military has been disbanded by presidential order.\textsuperscript{2243}

According to the U.S. Department of State, Haiti lacks the resources to enforce child labor laws.\textsuperscript{2244} IBESR is responsible for coordinating the implementation and enforcement of child labor laws; however it does not have sufficient funding to do so. Government institutions lacked resources to effectively monitor the border.\textsuperscript{2245} The judicial system is weak and has not yet recovered from the 2004 political upheaval.\textsuperscript{2246} Efforts were made by the National Police’s Brigade for the Protection of Minors to investigate concerns regarding children in the Port-au-Prince area; however these efforts were limited due to a lack of resources.\textsuperscript{2247} The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) is responsible for coordinating anti-trafficking programs.\textsuperscript{2248} The Haitian National Police, in coordination with the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the Dominican Consul General, rescued 13 Dominican girls who had been trafficked to Haiti for commercial sexual exploitation. The girls were repatriated and a Haitian man was arrested in connection with the crime.\textsuperscript{2249}

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

According to the U.S. Department of State, the government lacks the capacity to support its existing child welfare programs.\textsuperscript{2250} As part of the Interim Cooperation Framework, a 2004 agreement with various donors including the European Commission, the IDB, the U.N. and the World Bank, MAST developed a two year plan to open shelters and protect children. With assistance from U.N. peacekeepers, two shelters have been opened.\textsuperscript{2251} The Interim Cooperation Framework has also supported anti-trafficking training for government officials.\textsuperscript{2252} The Interim Government participates in ILO implemented programs to eradicate and prevent exploitative child labor, including exploitative child domestic labor, through funding from the Canadian Government.\textsuperscript{2253} MAST also provides services for street children and a hotline for reporting child abuse. Most of the

\textsuperscript{2243} Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Global Report- Haiti*.
\textsuperscript{2244} U.S. Embassy- Port Au Prince, *reporting*, November 16, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2247} U.S. Embassy-Port au Prince, *reporting*, March 5, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2248} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*.
\textsuperscript{2251} U.S. Embassy-Port au Prince, *reporting*, March 5, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2253} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, *Committee of Experts*.  

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complaints received by the hotline involve child domestic workers. Some children in forced labor situations are placed in shelters and with NGOs. Haitian consulates along the border with the Dominican Republic and agents in airports monitor for potential child trafficking situations.2254 IBESR conducts a media campaign to prevent fraudulent adoptions.2255 The Interim Government of Haiti facilitated and participated in workshops with Dominican government officials regarding border issues, including trafficking.2256

The government subsidizes school costs for some child domestic servants.2257 Additionally, a school nutrition program is funded by the World Bank.2258

2255 U.S. Embassy-Port au Prince, reporting. March 5, 2005.
Honduras

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 9.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Honduras in 2002. Approximately 13.3 percent of all boys ages 5 to 14 years were working compared to 5.0 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (59.1 percent), followed by services (28.5 percent), and manufacturing (10.9 percent).\textsuperscript{2259} Children also work as domestic servants.\textsuperscript{2260} Many children work for their own families out of economic necessity in the informal sector and in rural areas.\textsuperscript{2261} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, 20.7 percent of the population in Honduras were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2262}

According to the Government of Honduras, the worst forms of child labor that exist in the country include: commercial sexual exploitation (particularly in major cities and the tourist sector along the North Coast); fireworks manufacturing (in Copán); work in garbage dumps (in the two large cities of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula); mining and dirt extraction (South and East regions); the sale and handling of pesticides (Copán, La Ceiba, and Choluteca); construction; and some forms of agricultural work.\textsuperscript{2263} Children

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\textsuperscript{2259} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}, October 7, 2005. 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.


\textsuperscript{2262} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.

are also involved in the harvesting of sugar cane, and have been involved in the sale of drugs in Olancho and Comayagua. There is evidence of child prostitution in Honduras, particularly in tourist and border areas. Honduras is a source and transit country for girls trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Honduran girls are trafficked internally and to Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States for the purpose of prostitution. Children are trafficked to Canada for prostitution and reportedly for the sale of drugs.

Education is free and compulsory in Honduras until the age of 13. In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 105.8 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 87.5 percent. 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. In 2002, 80.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. In May 2004, the Honduran National Institute of Statistics household survey showed that the average number of years of schooling in Honduras was 5.6 years for women, and 5.3 years for men. The May 2004 survey also estimated that 125,000 children ages 7 to 12 years did not receive an education. Obstacles such as poor school infrastructure, enrollment fees, school uniform costs, transportation costs, poor quality of education, teacher absenteeism, and lack of vocational education prevent some children from obtaining educational services.

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2264 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Honduras, Section 6d.
2268 Constitución de la República de Honduras, 1982, Capítulo 8, Artículo 171; available from http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/Constitutions/Honduras/hond82.html. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Honduras, Section 5. The average age for finishing primary school is 14 years. See also Government of Honduras, Temas e Indicadores Sobre Trabajo Infantil en Honduras, September 2001, 8.
2269 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://wtats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/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.
2270 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
2272 Ibid.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code and the Constitution set the minimum age for employment at 16 years. The Children's Code prohibits a child younger than 14 years of age from working, even with parental permission. If a child 14 to 15 years is hired, an employer must certify that he or she has finished, or is finishing, compulsory schooling. The Children's Code establishes fines as well as prison sentences of 3 to 5 years for individuals who allow or oblige children to work illegally. Fines double if the firm is a repeat offender. Children under the age of 16 are prohibited from working at night and in clubs, theaters, circuses, cafes, bars, in establishments that serve alcoholic beverages, or in jobs that have been determined to be unhealthy or dangerous. Hazardous work as defined by Honduran law includes standing on high scaffolding, exposure to toxic substances, diving underwater, working in tunnels or underground, working with wood cutting machines, ovens, smelters, or heavy presses, and exposure to vehicular traffic, high voltage electrical currents, and garbage. Children less than 17 years of age may only work 6 hours per day and for a total of 30 hours per week.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Honduras. The Constitution prohibits forced labor, including by children. Honduran law requires recruits to be 18 years old in order to voluntarily enlist in the armed forces. There is no compulsory conscription, nor are there reports of minors under 18 years of age enlisting in the military. The Children's Code protects children 18 years and younger against sexual exploitation, child prostitution, and child pornography, and mandates 3 to 5 years of imprisonment for violators. The Penal Code punishes those who promote or facilitate child prostitution with 5 to 8 years of imprisonment and fines. Honduran law also includes provisions that prohibit trafficking in persons, which may be punished

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2275 Código de Trabajo, Artículos 133 and 128. See also Government of Honduras, Código de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia, 1996, Artículo 119.
2277 Código de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia, 1996, Artículos 119 and 120.
2281 Constitución de la República de Honduras, 1982, Capítulo 5, Artículo 128, Numero 7.
2282 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Honduras, Section 6c.
2284 Código de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia, 1996, Artículos 134 and 141.
by 6 to 9 years of imprisonment. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, prosecution and law enforcement efforts are weak due to inadequate police and court systems, corruption, and lack of resources. Since 1999, the Government of Honduras has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MOLSS) is responsible for conducting child labor inspections. The country’s 119 labor inspectors report violations for administrative action. The Labor Code is more effectively enforced in urban areas and large-scale manufacturing and services, although violations occur often in rural areas or at small companies. The ministry operates a regional office and conducts inspections on lobster boats in the Mosquitia area, where boat captains illegally employ boy divers. The MOLSS conducts special inspections in the melon and sugar cane sectors to uncover incidences of child labor.

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

The Government of Honduras is implementing a National Plan of Action to Eradicate Child Labor. The issue of child labor has also been incorporated into the country’s Poverty Eradication Plan.

The Government of Honduras, through its National Commission for the Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labor, is currently participating in a number of ILO-IPEC implemented projects. These include two USDOL-funded regional projects aimed at combating child labor in commercial agriculture and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. With funding from donors including Spain, the Netherlands,

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2288 ILO-IPEC official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
2289 Secretary of Labor and Social Security, Informe Trabajo Infantil en Honduras, June 2000.
2292 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Honduras, Section 6d.
2294 The first phase of the plan (2001-2006) is focusing on the worst forms of child labor. See National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor, Plan de Acción Nacional.
2296 The first phase of this project aims to combat child labor in the melon sector. See ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Melons, project document. See also ILO-IPEC, Prevention and progressive elimination of child labor in agriculture in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (Phase II), project document, September 30, 2003.
2297 In Honduras, this project focuses primarily on regional collaboration, awareness raising, institutional capacity building, and coordination. See ILO-IPEC, Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of
and Italy, ILO-IPEC is carrying out projects to combat child labor in various sectors, including exploitative domestic work and garbage dump scavenging.\textsuperscript{2298} In addition, the Government of Honduras is participating in a USD 5.5 million USDOL-funded regional project implemented by CARE to combat child labor through education.\textsuperscript{2299}

The National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is responsible for institutional coordination of the issue.\textsuperscript{2300} In conjunction with UNICEF, the Government of Honduras is implementing a public information campaign against trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and has worked to raise awareness of children’s rights and risks associated with illegal migration.\textsuperscript{2301}

The government has initiated several programs in order to improve children’s access to quality basic education. The Ministry of Education makes available radio and long distance learning for children in rural areas with few schools and provides disadvantaged families with stipends for school supplies. Regional committees of child defense volunteers encourage parents to send children to school.\textsuperscript{2302} With support from the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, the Government of Honduras created an Education Development Plan with strategies to improve the quality of primary education, teaching skills, pre-primary education, bilingual education, and rural school networks.\textsuperscript{2303} In 2005, Honduras was the first country in the Latin America and Caribbean region to sign a compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation.\textsuperscript{2304} The World Bank is providing Poverty Reduction Technical Support in Honduras through 2008.\textsuperscript{2305} The

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item \textit{Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic}, project document, RLA/02/P51/USA, Geneva, 2002, 26-28.
\item U.S. Embassy- Tegucigalpa Labor Attaché, electronic communication to USDOL official, February 19, 2004.
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project supports community-based school management, including local education development associations.\textsuperscript{2306}
India

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 4.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in India in 2000. Approximately 4.1 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 4.0 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (73.3 percent), followed by manufacturing (12.4 percent), services (11.5 percent) and other sectors (2.8 percent). Children work in hazardous conditions in numerous activities, including stone-quarrying and the production of glassware, bidis (cigarettes), fireworks, matches, locks, bricks, footwear, brassware, polished gem stones, leather goods, slaughterhouses, and sporting goods. They also work in a number of service sector jobs in hotels, catering establishments, small construction, food preparation, bicycle and car repair, and domestic service. Save the Children estimates that India may have as many as five million child domestic workers. Most child domestic workers are between 12 and 17 years of age, but some are reportedly as young as five or six. Working conditions in this sector are often characterized by very long hours and abusive treatment. Children are also found living and working on the streets of India doing odd jobs, such as trash picking, shoe shining, begging, and vending. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1999, the most recent year for

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2307 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor in general 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.

2308 Because of the various hazards associated with these particular sectors, the work has been identified by the Indian government as being harmful to the physical, emotional, or moral well being of children. See ILO-IPEC, Preventing and Eliminating Child Labor in Identified Hazardous Sectors, project document, IND/01/P50/USA, Geneva, September 2001, 6-7. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: India, Washington, DC, February 28, 2005, Section 6d; available from http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41740.htm. See also International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, "India: Economic Boom Masks Widespread Child Labour," Trade Union World No. 6 (October 2004).


2310 International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, "India: Economic Boom Masks Widespread Child Labour," 2. See also R. Helen Sekar, Child Labour in Urban Informal Sector: A Study of Ragpickers in NOIDA, National Resource Center on Child Labor, V.V Giri National Labour Institute, New Delhi, 2004. See also ILO - Subregional Office for South Asia, A Decade of ILO-India Partnerships, 70.
which data are available, 35.3 percent of the population in India were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2311} Bonded or forced child labor remains a problem in several sectors, although few reliable estimates exist on the practice. Estimates made by NGOs suggest that between 20 and 65 million people are working under conditions of bonded labor in India, including a large number of children. Past reports have identified the use of forced or indentured child labor in brassware, fireworks, footwear, hand-blown glass bangles, hand-made locks, hand-dipped matches, hand-broken stones, and bidi cigarettes. Recent reports point to forced child labor in agriculture, rice mills, brick kilns, hybrid cottonseed production, zari embroidery, domestic service, and silk weaving. The vast majority of bonded laborers are from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of India.\textsuperscript{2312} In addition, human rights organizations estimate that many of the 100,000-300,000 children believed to be working in the carpet industry are doing so under conditions of bonded labor.\textsuperscript{2313}

India is a source, destination, and transit country for the trafficking of children for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitative labor.\textsuperscript{2314} The commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs across India, as an estimated 15 to 40 percent of prostitutes in India are under 18 years of age.\textsuperscript{2315} Most trafficking of children in India is internal, as children are trafficked mainly from rural to urban areas for sexual exploitation and forced or bonded labor.\textsuperscript{2316} Children, mainly girls, are also trafficked into India from Bangladesh and Nepal for commercial sexual exploitation in urban centers, such as Mumbai (Bombay), Kolkata (Calcutta), and New Delhi. In

\textsuperscript{2311} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2313} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: India}, Section 6d. See also International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, "India: Economic Boom Masks Widespread Child Labour."
addition, India serves as a transit point for child trafficking from Bangladesh into Pakistan and the Middle East. To a lesser extent, Indian children are trafficked to the Middle East to work in involuntary servitude as camel jockeys and beggars.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}. See also National Human Rights Commission of India, \textit{A Report on Trafficking in Women and Children in India}, 353. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: India}, Section 5.}

The 1949 Constitution established a goal of providing compulsory and free education for all children until the age of 14 years.\footnote{The Constitution of India, (November 26, 1949).} The 1986 National Policy on Education and the 1992 Program of Action reemphasized that goal.\footnote{U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Initial Reports of States Parties Due in 1995}, Addendum, U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, July 7 1997.} In December 2002, the Indian Parliament passed legislation making education for all children between 6 and 14 a constitutionally guaranteed right, but legislation has not yet been introduced to implement this constitutional right.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, \textit{reporting}, September 14, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: India}, Section 5.} In practice, education is neither free nor universal in India, as the U.S. Department of State reports that a large share of the population is unable to afford tuition, books, and uniforms.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, \textit{reporting}, September 14, 2005.}

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 108 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 88 percent.\footnote{UNESCO Institute for Statistics, \textit{Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary}; accessed December 2005; available from http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51. See World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2004} [CD-ROM], Washington, D.C., 2004. 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.} 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. In 2000, 71.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were attending school.\footnote{UNICEF, \textit{Mapping India's Children: UNICEF in Action}, New Delhi, 2004. See also U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, \textit{reporting}, September 14, 2005.} As of 2001, 84 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\footnote{A 2004 study revealed that, on any given day, 25 percent of teachers in rural areas in 20 states in India did not show up to work. See U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, \textit{reporting}, September 14, 2005. See also UNICEF, \textit{Mapping India's Children: UNICEF in Action}.} While enrollment rates have improved in recent years, UNICEF reports that the educational system still suffers from a shortage of resources, schools, classrooms, and teachers.\footnote{UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.} Inadequacies also remain related to teacher training, the quality of the curriculum, the efficacy of school management, and high teacher truancy rates, particularly in rural areas.\footnote{UNICEF Institute for Statistics, \textit{School life expectancy, \% of repeaters, survival rates}; accessed December 2005; available from http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=55.}

\section*{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 prohibits the employment of children under the age of 14 in 13 occupations and 57 processes considered to be hazardous, such as work in slaughterhouses, carpet-weaving, and trash picking. Children of any age may be employed in all other activities, provided employers adhere to legal restrictions, including a maximum 6 hour work day with a 1 hour rest period and at least one day off per week. Penalties under the Act range from 3 months to 1 year imprisonment and a fine of between 10,000 and 20,000 rupees (USD 224 and 448). In 1996, India’s Supreme Court issued a judgment that directed the government to identify all children employed in hazardous activities, withdraw them from work, and provide them with quality education.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in India. There is no military conscription in India. Although the legislation governing recruitment into the armed forces does not stipulate a minimum age, Indian officials told the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2003 that 16 year-old recruits undergo two and a half years of basic training before being inducted into regular service.

Bonded child labor is prohibited under the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act of 1976. Under the Act, allegations of bonded labor and child bonded labor are to be investigated by district-level Vigilance Committees. Extracting bonded labor carries a penalty of up to 3 years in prison and a 2,000 rupees (USD 45) fine. In August 2004, the most recent date for which such figures are available, the government reported 4,859 prosecutions under the Act, but figures regarding convictions were unavailable. Of the 285,379 bonded laborers identified by the government as of April 2004, 265,417 had received rehabilitation assistance. The Penal Code and the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act of 1956 prohibit the trafficking and commercial exploitation of children, including sexual exploitation. The penalty for the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor girl in the Penal Code is a fine and imprisonment of up to 10 years.

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2327 The list of prohibited occupations and activities is based on recommendations of an advisory board on child labor, which is composed of officials from the Ministries of Labor, Education, and Rural Development, as well as medical experts and social activists. There have been no changes to the Act since 1999. See U.S. Embassy - New Delhi, reporting, September 14, 2005. See also V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Child Labour: Challenge and Response, New Delhi, 2003, 10-11.


2330 No information was available on the number of recruits under the age of 18 serving in the armed forces. See Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2004 - India.


2332 See ILO, A Global Alliance Against Forced Labour, 20. For currency conversion, see FX Converter, FX Converter.

The enforcement of child labor laws is primarily the responsibility of state and local governments, with the Ministry of Labor and Employment providing oversight and coordination.2334 From 1999 through November 2004, state governments uncovered 21,246 violations of the Child Labor Act, leading to 12,348 prosecutions and 6,305 convictions.2335 The U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement of child labor laws is inadequate, however, due to insufficient resources, poorly trained inspectors, social acceptance of child labor, and the lack of universal primary education.2336 Enforcement regarding bonded child labor is further hampered by the many competing duties and insufficient training of district magistrates charged with enforcing the law and the inexistence or inactivity of legally mandated local vigilance committees.2337 Organized crime, police corruption, and complicated procedures reportedly weaken the enforcement of laws related to human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.2338

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

The Ministry of Labor and Employment oversees the implementation of National Child Labor Projects (NCLPs), which have been established in districts with a high incidence of hazardous labor to rehabilitate children withdrawn from work. The NCLP model includes the establishment of special schools that provide non-formal education, vocational training, stipends, and nutrition supplements for children withdrawn from hazardous work.2339 NCLPs are present in 150 districts across 20 states, and the government’s 2002-2007 Tenth Development Plan includes provisions to increase the overall number of NCLP districts to 250. The Ministry’s budgetary allocation for the 5-year plan is 6.02 billion rupees (USD 134 million), up from the 2.05 billion rupees (USD 46 million) allocated in the previous 5-year plan.2340 More than 320,000 children have been withdrawn from hazardous work and placed in NCLP schools across the country.2341

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2335 U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, reporting, September 14, 2005.
2336 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: India, Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- New Delhi, reporting, September 14, 2005.
2337 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report. See also Human Rights Watch, Small Change, 47.
2340 Ministry of Labour and Employment, Efforts to Eliminate Child Labour. See also Embassy of India, letter to USDOL official in response to USG Federal Register Notice: Volume 70 No. 141, October 4, 2005. See also Ministry of Labour and Employment, Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, 81-83. For current conversion, see FX Converter, FX Converter.
2341 Embassy of India, letter, October 4, 2005.
The NCLP program is complemented by the Labor Ministry’s Grants in Aid Scheme program, which is being implemented in a number of districts that do not have operative NCLP schools. The program funds 87 NGOs to implement projects aimed at providing working children with education and vocational training opportunities.\(^{2342}\) As part of the Indian government’s Tenth Plan, child labor eradication efforts are being more closely linked with initiatives to alleviate poverty and to promote universal elementary education.\(^{2343}\)

In August 2000, the Indian Ministry of Labor and USDOL signed a Joint Statement agreeing to collaborate on an ILO-IPEC project to prevent and eliminate child labor in 10 hazardous sectors: bidis, brassware, bricks, fireworks, footwear, glass bangles, locks, matches, quarrying, and silk. With funding from USDOL and the Government of India, ILO-IPEC is implementing a USD 40 million multi-year project to complement and strengthen the NCLP program and government initiatives to promote universal education. The project targets child labor in 10 hazardous sectors in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The project adds new elements to the NCLP program in selected districts to increase its effectiveness, and it also increases NCLP coordination with educational initiatives to ensure children withdrawn from hazardous work remain in school.\(^{2344}\) ILO-IPEC implements a separate child labor elimination program in the state of Andhra Pradesh, while UNICEF has worked in conjunction with the government to support programs to withdraw and rehabilitate child laborers.\(^{2345}\)

The Government of India continues to take steps to improve education and achieve universal enrollment. The Ministry of Education’s \textit{Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan} (SSA) initiative is implementing a range of efforts to achieve universal elementary education for all children in India ages 6 to 14 by 2010.\(^{2346}\) The Ministry’s Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education Program is providing non-formal education to the nation’s out of school children, including child laborers.\(^{2347}\) Through its National Program of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, the government also


\(^{2345}\) ILO-IPEC, \textit{Child Labour and Responses: Overview Note - India}.

\(^{2346}\) The SSA program addresses the appointment of teachers, teacher training, qualitative improvement of elementary education, provision of teaching materials, establishment of resource centers for academic support, construction of classrooms and school buildings, establishment of education guarantee centers, and distance education initiatives. It gives particular attention to the needs of girls and vulnerable children. The program takes a community-based approach and works through local groups such as Village Education Committees, Panchayati Raj institutions, and women’s groups. See Ministry of Education, \textit{Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan: A Programme for Universal Elementary Education}, [online] [cited July 7, 2005]; available from http://education.nic.in/htmlweb/ssa/ssa_1.htm.

provides mid-day lunches to children to increase enrollment and attendance and help improve the nutritional status of children.\textsuperscript{2348} The midday meal program was made mandatory in all states by a January 2005 Supreme Court ruling. In March 2005, India’s Finance Minister raised the budget for the midday meal program from USD 38 million to USD 67 million for 110 million elementary school children.\textsuperscript{2349}

The World Bank has supported the government’s efforts to improve basic education for girls, working children, and children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Projects have focused on expanding access to education, improving classroom instruction, increasing community participation, and strengthening local and state capacity.\textsuperscript{2350} The World Bank has approved a USD 500 million credit to India through 2007 to support the SSA program in providing universal elementary education. The credit will fund a number of activities, including the construction of new schools and facilities for girls, along with the provision of free textbooks to girls and children from scheduled castes and tribes, teacher training, grants to support students with disabilities, and the building of resource centers for teachers, parents and students. Of the total USD 3.5 billion cost for the program, the Government of India will contribute 45 percent, donors 30 percent, and state governments 25 percent.\textsuperscript{2351}

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\item[2350] World Bank, \textit{World Bank Support for Education in India}, [online] [cited September 7, 2004]; available from http://wbln1018.worldbank.org/sar/sa.nsf/a22044d0c4877a3e852567de0052e0fa/3436a2c8a70b8463852567ef0066a42e?OpenDocument.
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Indonesia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Indonesia are unavailable. Children work in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, food processing, and the small-scale mining sector. Children, primarily females, also work in domestic service. Other children work in the informal sector selling newspapers, shining shoes, street vending scavenging, and working beside their parents in family businesses or cottage industries. The Indonesian government identifies the worst forms of child labor as the physical and economic exploitation of children, including prostitution, mining, pearl diving, construction, off-shore fishing, scavenging, manufacturing of explosives, street children, working in domestic service, working in cottage industries, working on plantations, logging, and working in industries that produce hazardous chemical substances. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, 7.0 percent of the population in Indonesia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Indonesia is a source, transit, and destination country for a significant number of people trafficked internationally and internally, including children. Children are trafficked internationally from Indonesia to Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia, and are trafficked internally mainly from rural to urban areas. Children are also exploited in the

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<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<td>ILO-IPEC Member            U</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan (Economic and Commercial Sexual Exploitation)  U</td>
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2352 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


2355 The definition was formalized under Act No. 1/2000, as reported in Ibid., 10.


production of pornography and in the international sex industry. Children are also known to be involved in the production, trafficking, and/or sale of drugs. Children have been used as combatants in civilian militia groups in the past, but there was no evidence of this occurring in 2005. It remains unclear if children are used in other capacities within such groups. Children were not officially recruited into the Indonesian armed forces but there are allegations of children being used as guards, guides, cooks, informants and errand-runners.

The December 26, 2004 tsunami left thousands of children in Indonesia orphaned or separated from their families and without access to schooling, increasing their vulnerability to trafficking and other forms of labor and sexual exploitation. Estimates on the number of orphaned or separated children range from 18,000 (UNICEF) to 35,000 (Ministry of Social Affairs).

The National Child Protection Act (Law No. 23 of 2002) requires the government to provide a minimum of 9 years basic education. The Act also stipulates that the government will provide free education or assistance to needy and vulnerable children. In addition, Law No. 20 of 2003 on National Education provides for free, compulsory, basic education for children ages 7 to 15 years. As of 2003, the 9 years of compulsory education are not fully funded, although the government does provide some scholarships for poor children. However, there are impediments to children attending school. Many families cannot afford related costs, such as entrance fees, uniforms, supplies, and fees for parent-teacher associations. Other obstacles also exist, such as

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The UN estimates that up to a quarter of all Indonesian children are educated in religious schools.\textsuperscript{2367} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 92 percent.\textsuperscript{2368} 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 Indonesia.\textsuperscript{2369} As of 2001, 89 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2370} There is a higher rate of completion of lower secondary school among youths from urban areas as compared to rural areas.\textsuperscript{2371}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Indonesia. The Manpower Development and Protection Act of 2003 prohibits the employment of children, defined as an individual under 18 years old. Additionally, employing and involving children in the worst forms of child labor are prohibited under the act and failure to comply can result in criminal sanctions. The act defines the worst forms of child labor as slavery; use of children in prostitution, pornography and gambling; use of children for alcohol, narcotic, and addictive substance production and trade; and all types of work harmful to the health, safety and morals of the child.\textsuperscript{2372} The act contains an exception for employing children aged 13 to 15 to perform light work that does not disrupt their physical, mental, and social development. A set of requirements is outlined for employment of children age 13 to 15 years, including a maximum of 3 hours of work, penalties for those employing children in the worst forms of child labor is imprisonment from 2 to 5 years. See Republic of Indonesia, *Manpower Development and Protection Act (no. 13)*, (March 25, 2003), Articles 26, 68, 69, 74, 183.

\textsuperscript{2365} Tomasevski, *The Right to Education: Report submitted by Katarina Tomasevski*, para. 23.

\textsuperscript{2366} Many children in the conflict zones cannot attend school because the schools were destroyed and their teachers fled. In the first four days of resumed conflict in May 2003, more than 280 schools were destroyed, affecting about 60,000 children. See Commission on Human Rights, *Rights of the Child: Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu*, Geneva, January 28, 2004, para. 28.


\textsuperscript{2368} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/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.

\textsuperscript{2369} 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.


parental permission, and no disruption of schooling. There are no provisions for children age 16-17.

The National Child Protection Act also provides a legal basis for protecting children younger than 18 years from a variety of abuses, and prohibits the employment of children in the worst forms of child labor. Under Article 78 of the act, persons who expose children to such hazardous activities are liable to terms of up to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a possible maximum fine of 100 million Rupiah (USD 10,434). Additional specific legal sanctions are laid out for the offenses of commercial sexual exploitation (which would cover prostitution), child trafficking, involving children in the production or distribution of alcohol or narcotics, and involving children in armed conflict. The act also protects children in emergency situations, including natural disasters. 2373 Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights includes 15 articles for the protection of child rights, including separate articles on the right to not be involved in armed conflict, and protection from economic and sexual exploitation. 2374 Decree No. 5 of 2001 on the Control of Child Workers calls for general programs to ban and abolish worst forms of child labor and improve family income, as well as specific programs for non-formal education and returning children to school by providing scholarships. 2375

The Penal Code makes it illegal for anyone exercising legal custody of a child under 12 years of age to provide that child to another person, knowing that the child is going to be used for the purposes of begging, harmful work, or work that affects the child's health. The Code imposes a maximum sentence of 4 years of imprisonment for violations of this kind. 2376 The Penal Code also prohibits sexual intercourse with a female outside of marriage recognized to be less than 15 years old, engaging in an obscene act with a person below 15 years of age, and forcing or allowing sexual abuse of a child, with maximum penalties ranging from 7 to 12 years of imprisonment. The Penal Code also prohibits trafficking of women and boys, with a maximum penalty of 6 years of imprisonment for violations. 2377 Law No. 2/1988 on the Indonesian Armed Forces sets the minimum age for recruitment or enlistment into the armed forces at 18 years. 2378 The Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration issued two decrees to complement the existing legal child labor and trafficking framework, and to assist in ensuring the

2378 The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*. 


implementation and enforcement of the laws.\textsuperscript{2379} Since 1999, the Government of Indonesia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{2380}

Ministry of Manpower authorities at the provincial and district levels have the responsibility for enforcing child labor laws.\textsuperscript{2381} The government reports a 10 percent increase in national funding, and a 20 percent increase in provincial funding between March 2004 and March 2005 to combat trafficking. However, according to the U.S. State Department, overall government funding remains inadequate to effectively address the issue.\textsuperscript{2382} The national police’s anti-trafficking unit and other law enforcement bodies have increased efforts to combat trafficking of children. In 2004, the government reported 141 trafficking-related investigations, 51 prosecutions, and 45 convictions.\textsuperscript{2383} Despite these efforts, the U.S. State Department reports that the Indonesian government does not enforce child labor laws in an effective or thorough manner, due to a lack of resources and corruption. Additionally, the number of labor inspectors has reportedly decreased in recent years due to the government’s decentralization process.\textsuperscript{2384}

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

The 20-year National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor is currently in its first 5 year phase (2002-2006). The first phase focuses on mapping child labor problems, raising awareness, and eliminating five priority worst forms of child labor: off-shore fishing and diving; trafficking for purposes of prostitution; mining; footwear production; and drug trafficking.\textsuperscript{2385} The National Plan of Action of Human Rights in Indonesia (2004-2009) contains a specific objective on protecting the rights of the child, with a series of activities aimed at combating trafficking, and protecting against sexual exploitation, pornography, and worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{2386} The Government of Indonesia is currently implementing its National Program for


\textsuperscript{2380} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.


\textsuperscript{2383} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*.


Children 2015, which addresses issues such as child protection and ensuring 9-year basic education, amongst others.2387

The National Plan of Action to Combat the Trafficking of Women and Children and the National Plan of Action to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation are in place to assist with reducing trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.2388 In support of these plans, the government has several initiatives and activities ongoing. The government has a national campaign against commercial sexual exploitation of children, focusing on the link to tourism.2389 Local governments of Batam and Bali have followed up with funding for the program, including establishing two new shelters for trafficking victims in Batam.2390 Other shelters have also been established in Dumai and Riau Province. The Foreign Affairs Ministry operates shelters at its embassies and consulates in several countries including Kuwait, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia.2391 In March 2005, the Indonesian National Police signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the first ever medical recovery center for victims of trafficking in Jakarta.2392 The People’s Welfare Coordinating Ministry and the Women’s Empowerment Ministry lead the National Anti-trafficking Task Force, with responsibility to monitor anti-trafficking efforts and produce annual trafficking reports.2393 The government maintains the Commission for the Protection of Indonesian Children, which is responsible for collecting data and undertaking studies on specified child-related topics, receiving complaints, and advising the government on issues of public education.2394

The National Medium Term Development Plan (2004-2009) recognizes the problem of child labor and supports the implementation of the National Plan on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.2395 The Indonesia Poverty Reduction Strategy (2005-2009) includes objectives of preventing exploitation and the worst forms of child labor, increasing protection for street children and child workers, and preventing child trafficking. In the proposed monitoring and evaluation system, it also has a 2009 target to decrease the number of child trafficking cases.2396 The 25th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), of which Indonesia is a member, adopted the Resolution on the Prevention and Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

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2388 Ibid., 7-8.
Labor. The resolution commits members to taking comprehensive action to remove children from hazardous and sexually exploitative work, and to raise awareness of the dangers associated with such work.\textsuperscript{2397}

The Government of Indonesia is participating in a USD 4.1 million USDOL-supported ILO-IPEC Timebound Program to progressively eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The program is being implemented from 2004-2007 and is initially focusing on the 5 priority sectors of the National Plan of Action.\textsuperscript{2398} In support of the Timebound Program, USDOL also launched a USD 6 million Education Initiative project to combat child trafficking in Indonesia.\textsuperscript{2399} The Government of Indonesia is also participating in two regional USDOL-funded projects dealing with anti-trafficking\textsuperscript{2400} and awareness-raising to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{2401} USAID, working through the Ministry for Women’s Empowerment, supports a program aimed to address the problem of trafficking in women and children.\textsuperscript{2402} The U.S. State Department supports a project that provides technical assistance and policy advocacy training to help local governments establish and implement policies to reduce vulnerability to trafficking.\textsuperscript{2403} President Bush has also included Indonesia in his USD 50 million anti-trafficking-in-persons initiative.\textsuperscript{2404}

After the December 2004 tsunami, Indonesian government officials took immediate action to protect children in Aceh from potential trafficking and exploitation. The government implemented a measure disallowing children under the age of 16 to travel


\textsuperscript{2399} The project period is September 2004- March 2009. The focus of the project is children who are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service and is being implemented by Save the Children Federation and International Organization for Migration. See U.S. Department of Labor, \textit{Enable Program: Enabling Communities to Combat Child Trafficking through Education, [ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary]} 2004.


\textsuperscript{2401} This awareness raising project began in 2001 and covers Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{APEC Awareness Raising Campaign: Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Providing Educational Opportunities, technical progress report, Geneva, March 2005}, 1. See also ILO-IPEC, \textit{IPEC Action against Child Labour, 22}.


\textsuperscript{2404} The President’s initiative will extend assistance to prosecutors as well as police to help enforce anti-trafficking laws in Indonesia. See U.S. Embassy--Jakarta, \textit{reporting}, May 21, 2004.
outside the province or country if unaccompanied by direct relatives. The National Police issued child trafficking alert bulletins, and posted female officers at key gateways to interview women and children leaving Aceh. A child registration system was established, as well as temporary shelters for the children.\textsuperscript{2405} The U.S. State Department approved an allocation of their funds to be used by IOM in Aceh to reduce the vulnerability and incidences of trafficking of women and orphaned children in the tsunami-striken areas.\textsuperscript{2406} USDOL funded a USD 1.5 million addendum to the ILO-IPEC Timebound Program, and a USD 2.5 million addendum to the Education Initiative project to focus on addressing the vulnerability of children to worst forms of child labor in the tsunami-striken areas.\textsuperscript{2407}

The U.S. Government, international financial institutions, and international development agencies continue to assist the Government of Indonesia in its efforts to improve the quality of and access to education. In addition to the USDOL Education Initiative project and in response to the Government of Indonesia’s priorities, President Bush announced large-scale U.S. funding for an education program in Indonesia for the years 2004-2009. The total amount of U.S. funding pledged over the five-year period is USD 157 million.\textsuperscript{2408} In support of this, USAID launched a 6-year basic education program for the same time period that aims to increase basic education completion rates; improve student performance; improve quality of education; provide formal and non-formal education opportunities; and strengthen education management and governance.\textsuperscript{2409} Under the “Indonesian-Australian Partnership in Basic Education” program, the Australian Agency for International Development supports Indonesia in its efforts to build capacity to manage and deliver quality basic education services.\textsuperscript{2410} The World Bank is providing funding for two education projects that aim to maintain primary and junior secondary enrollment rates for the poor, initiate district institutional educational reform, and


\textsuperscript{2410} The project is a 3-year, AUD 7.9 million (USD 5.9 million) project. See AUSAID, Indonesia-Australian Partnership in Basic Education, [online] December 2004 [cited June 9, 2005]; available from http://www.kangguru.org/ausaidprojects/december2004.htm. For currency conversion see FXConverter, FXConverter December 6, 2005.
improve the overall quality of education. The ADB supports a project which aims to improve poor children’s enrollment, completion and learning outcomes for basic education, as well as supports decentralization of basic education management. UNICEF also works to support schools in parts of West Timor and the Malukus to address the effects of the civil conflict.

In response to the destruction of schools caused by the tsunami, international agencies are supporting the government’s effort to rebuild education facilities. UNICEF, in collaboration with IOM, have set up 200 temporary schools in Aceh, and have begun construction on 300 primary schools and repairs on an additional 200 schools.

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2412 ADB, Decentralized Basic Education, (LOAN: INO 31137-01), [online] [cited June 9, 2005]; available from http://www.adb.org/Documents/Profiles/LOAN/31137013.ASP.


Iraq

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 11.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Iraq in 2000. Approximately 14.7 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 8.3 percent of girls in the same age group. In urban areas, children can be observed on the streets shining shoes; begging; scavenging through rubbish; carrying loads; and selling items such as gum, cigarettes, fruit, sweets, newspapers, DVDs, and tissues. Children are found working in shops, markets, and industrial crafts industries; on delivery trucks; and as ticket collectors on buses. Children are known to work for long hours and under hazardous conditions in automobile repair shops, construction sites, brick factories, and other types of industrial facilities. In rural areas, children are found tending livestock and performing seasonal manual labor.

2415 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


2418 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Iraq, Section 6d.

There are reports of children working in prostitution and in organized crime, including the drug trade.\textsuperscript{2420} Armed political groups such as Al-Sadr’s Jaysh al-Mahdi and Kurdish armed forces have reportedly recruited children age 14 and younger as child soldiers.\textsuperscript{2421} There are also reports of girls trafficked internally for sexual exploitation, and of Iraqi girls trafficked into the commercial sex industry in Yemen, Syria, Jordan, and other Gulf countries, some possibly in situations of debt bondage.\textsuperscript{2422}

Iraq’s Transitional Administrative Law (TAL) was in effect for most of the year, administered by the Transitional Government elected in January. A new Constitution was approved in a popular referendum in October, but the TAL remained in effect until a new parliament could be seated following Constitutionally-based elections in December.\textsuperscript{2423} Both the TAL and the Constitution guarantee the right of education to every citizen, and the Constitution makes primary education mandatory.\textsuperscript{2424} The Constitution also makes education at all levels free; however, under the regulations in effect during 2005, free education was provided only to children whose parents were both Iraqi citizens.\textsuperscript{2425} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 110 percent and in 2000, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate

\textsuperscript{2420} Coalition Provisional Authority, Social Welfare, South Iraq. See also IRINnews, "Focus on child labour."


\textsuperscript{2422} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Iraq, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, Washington, DC, June 3, 2005; available from www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46617.htm. According to news reports, Iraqi officials have reported a significant increase in teenagers exploited in prostitution, particularly boys, estimating their numbers to be in the hundreds. See IRINnews, "Focus on boys trapped in commercial sex trade," IRINnews.org, [online], August 8, 2005 [cited September 27, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=48485.


\textsuperscript{2424} Draft Iraqi Constitution (as approved in popular referendum), Article 14. See also Draft Iraqi Constitution (as approved in popular referendum), Article 34.

\textsuperscript{2425} Draft Iraqi Constitution (as approved in popular referendum), Article 34. Iraqi citizenship is determined by the father’s nationality, so children of Iraqi mothers and foreign fathers were not considered citizens and were not eligible for free education. Fees charged for education were approximately USD 1,000 per child per year. See IRINnews, "Children of mixed marriages protest official discrimination," IRINnews.org, [online], December 12, 2005 [cited December 16, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=50618.
was 91 percent.\textsuperscript{2426} 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. In 2000, 60.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{2427} As of 1998, 66 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2428} There are reports that dropout rates are on the rise, due to pervasive child labor and families’ concerns over their children’s security.\textsuperscript{2429} More girls have dropped out than boys, decreasing the ratio of girls to boys attending primary school.\textsuperscript{2430} Due to ongoing violence, thousands of schools have been destroyed, damaged or looted, and many lack basic water or sanitation facilities.\textsuperscript{2431} Books are in short supply, further hampering children’s education.\textsuperscript{2432} In some parts of the country, schools were closed in late 2004 and early 2005 due to the conflict.\textsuperscript{2433}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Law of 1987, as amended by Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Order 89 of May 2004 and incorporated into the TAL,\textsuperscript{2434} sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{2435} The Order prohibits the employment of anyone under the age of 18 years in work that is detrimental to the worker’s health, safety, or morals.\textsuperscript{2436} It also establishes a

\textsuperscript{2426} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{2427} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*. For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.


\textsuperscript{2429} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Iraq*, Section 5. See also IRINnews, "Children work." See also IRINnews, "Focus on child labour."


\textsuperscript{2434} See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Iraq*, Section 6.


\textsuperscript{2436} The types of employment forbidden include work conducted underground and underwater, work involving dangerous machinery, in an unhealthy environment or under strenuous conditions, such as
maximum 7-hour workday, provides a required daily rest period of 1 hour after 4 hours of work, and requires a 30-day paid vacation each year for employees under the age of 18 years. It further requires a pre-employment medical examination for workers of this age group and certification of the worker’s fitness. Employers must maintain a register of names of workers in this age group, post at the workplace a copy of the labor provisions protecting young persons, and keep medical fitness certificates on file available for labor inspectors. However, youths age 15 or older who are employed in family enterprises are excluded from most of these provisions.\(^{2437}\)

Order 89 prohibits the worst forms of child labor. These are defined as all forms of slavery and practices similar to slavery, including debt bondage, forced labor, the sale and trafficking of children, and the compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; child prostitution; the use of children in illicit activities, including drug trafficking; and work likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. The Order criminalizes promoting or benefiting from the aforementioned worst forms of child labor, as well as aiding those who exploit children through such activities. Penalties for violations range from imprisonment of 10 to 90 days, or fines from 12 times the daily minimum wage to 12 times the monthly minimum wage. Moreover, the Order requires the Iraqi government to design and implement action programs to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, including mechanisms to withdraw children from the worst forms and provide free basic education and vocational training to these children.\(^{2438}\)

In addition, there are other statutes under which certain worst forms of child labor can be prosecuted. The Penal Code, which remained in effect under the Transitional Government, prohibits any form of compulsory or forced labor, including by children.\(^{2439}\) The new Constitution also prohibits forced labor; furthermore, it prohibits trafficking of children and the sex trade in general.\(^{2440}\) There is no compulsory conscription into the Iraqi armed forces, and the minimum voluntary recruitment age is 18.\(^{2441}\)

The Ministry responsible for overseeing labor inspections, enforcement, vocational training, and child labor is the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA).\(^{2442}\)
MOLSA established a dedicated Child Labor Unit in 2004.\textsuperscript{2443} According to the U.S. Department of State, MOLSA had limited ability to enforce any labor laws due to the security situation, critically low staffing, and a lack of funding.\textsuperscript{2444} The Ministry of Interior has responsibility for trafficking issues.\textsuperscript{2445} The Iraqi Police are generally trained to identify, develop, and prosecute trafficking cases, although this training is currently suspended due to an increased emphasis on building security-related skills in the police force.\textsuperscript{2446}

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

Although the MOLSA has established a Child Labor Unit, the U.S. Department of State reports that the Unit has not received sufficient budgetary allocations to carry out its work effectively.\textsuperscript{2447} The Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs (MOPWSA) has initiated a program of stipends to ex-child laborers to keep them out of work and to support their schooling. MOPWSA also supports Mercy House in Baghdad, a facility providing support services to ex-street children and other vulnerable populations.\textsuperscript{2448} USAID is funding a project to build the capacity of MOLSA to operate a network of vocational training and employment service centers throughout Iraq.\textsuperscript{2449} In addition, the Kurdish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and Kurdish provincial governments support a number of projects to eliminate child labor in the north, including rehabilitation and education centers for working street children.\textsuperscript{2450}

With the support of a variety of governments and NGOs, the Ministry of Education (MOE) continues its work to rebuild the education system. Throughout 2005, the MOE worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify and approve 800 schools across Iraq for renovations, as part of the USD 86 million Iraq Relief Reconstruction Fund project. Most of the school renovations were completed before the beginning of the school year in September.\textsuperscript{2451} In the southern provinces of Iraq, the project improved...
school conditions for more than 80,000 children.\textsuperscript{2452} With the goal of getting children back into school, UNICEF is assisting the MOE with a USD 40 million project to distribute over 6 million backpacks and other school supplies.\textsuperscript{2453} WFP supported the MOE and MOH to provide daily meals to all primary school children in Iraq, as part of a program to improve child health and increase school attendance.\textsuperscript{2454} The MOE also launched an educational television channel to transmit school lessons to children who could not attend school due to the security situation.\textsuperscript{2455}

USAID supported the government in a number of education-related projects; for example, repairing and furnishing more than 2,500 schools; distributing hundreds of thousands of desks, chairs, cabinets, chalkboards, and school kits to schoolchildren; conducting an accelerated learning program for more than 550 out-of-school youth; and updating and distributing more than 8.7 million math and science textbooks nationwide.\textsuperscript{2456} The World Bank is also funding two education-related efforts in cooperation with the MOE. The USD 55 million Iraq Emergency Textbook Provision Project is producing and distributing textbooks and learning materials to primary and secondary schools,\textsuperscript{2457} and the USD 60 million Emergency School Construction and Rehabilitation Project is repairing and rehabilitating primary and secondary schools.\textsuperscript{2458} In November, the World Bank also approved a USD 100 million loan for the Third Emergency Education Project (TEEP), which aims to alleviate overcrowding in schools and to further the process of education reform in Iraq. The TEEP will be Iraq’s first World Bank loan in over 30 years.\textsuperscript{2459}


Jamaica

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 0.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Jamaica in 2002. Approximately 1.2 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 0.6 percent of all girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the services sector (52.4 percent), followed by agricultural (30.6 percent), manufacturing (7.6 percent), and other sectors (9.4 percent).\footnote{UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 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.} A 2002 survey found that working children were found primarily in service industries (wholesale, retail, hotels, and restaurants), followed by agriculture, forestry, and fishing. More boys were found working on agricultural sites and on the street, while nearly half of the girls were reported working in shops, markets, stalls, or family dwellings in 2002.\footnote{Due to the small number of working children found in the survey, the percentages given should be interpreted with caution. Kristin Fox, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Statistical Information and Monitoring Program and Child Labour (SIMPOC) of ILO, and UNICEF, Report of Youth Activity Survey 2002, June 2004.} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2 percent of the population in Jamaica were living on less than USD 1 a day.\footnote{World Bank, World Development Indicators 2005 [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.}

A 2001 study funded by ILO-IPEC reports that children as young as 10 years old are sexually exploited in prostitution, catering to tourists.\footnote{Leith L. Dunn and ILO-IPEC, Situation of Children in Prostitution: A Rapid Assessment, Geneva, November 2001, p. 13. ECPAT International notes that Montego Bay, Kingston, Port Antonio, and Negril are areas with a high incidence of child prostitution. See also ECPAT International, Jamaica, in ECPAT International, [database online] [cited June 27, 2005]; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp.} Young girls are exploited in bars, massage parlors, and “go-go” clubs.\footnote{Dunn and ILO-IPEC, Situation of Children in Prostitution, 13, 14. See also ECPAT International, Ecpat Database.} In 2004, reports of sexual crimes against

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children concerned only girls. Children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation.

Public primary education in Jamaica is reported to be free, universal, and compulsory for children from ages 6 to 11. While 12-year-olds may be in primary school, the Education Act defines “primary student” as a child younger than twelve at the commencement of the school year. The Education Act does not specify compulsory school age, but gives the Education Minister authority to “declare” compulsory school age specific to a school area. The Education Act holds parents responsible for ensuring that children of compulsory age attend school regularly. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 100 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 95 percent. 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. In 2002, 98.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 90 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Reports indicate that some local schools and parent teacher organizations collect fees from children and their parents. Parents who cannot afford these school fees may keep their children home to help with housework. Besides money problems, lack of interest in school and pregnancy were other major reasons children between the ages of 12 and 16 cited for dropping out of school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

According to the ILO-IPEC, the Child Care and Protection Act of 2004 has increased the minimum age for employment from 14 to 15 years of age, and increased the age range for light work from 12-14 to 13-15 years. Forced labor is not specifically banned;

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2465 UNICEF, *Situation Analysis of Jamaican Children, update*, February 2005. However, it has been reported that male street children are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation to meet basic needs. See ILO-IPEC, *National Programme for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Jamaica and SIMPOC Survey*, project document, JAM/P50/USA, Geneva, June 2001, 7.


2469 Ibid., Article 20.

2470 Ibid., Article 21.


2472 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


however, with the exception of child prostitution, no other form of forced labor has been reported. The Criminal Code prohibits procuring a child younger than 18 years of age for the purpose of prostitution and allows for punishments up to 3 years of imprisonment. There is limited information available on prosecutions or convictions for offenses related to prostitution, but it is reported that since fines have not kept pace with the depreciation in the exchange rate, judges often impose criminal penalties in lieu of fines. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment to the military in Jamaica is 18 years. Minors of at least 17.5 years of age may voluntarily enlist for training with parental consent, but they must be 18 years old upon graduating from training.

The Government of Jamaica has few laws that regulate the worst forms of child labor. The Criminal Code protects those younger than 18 years of age from forced prostitution. The Child Care and Protection Act of 2004 prohibits the sale or trafficking of any child, and penalizes violators with a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment and a fine. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, the term “trafficking” is not clearly defined in the Act, resulting in difficulty in enforcing the statute. Since 1999, the Government of Jamaica has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The police are authorized to conduct labor inspections, and the Child Development Agency (CDA) is responsible for ensuring service provision to working children. However, the lack of labor inspectors dedicated to this task contributes to the challenge of effective enforcement, as does the fact that child labor is likely to occur more often in informal sectors. During 2005, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security has reviewed an Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), which would allow for the creation of a body of labor inspectors. The Act is currently under review by the Chief Parliamentary Council. Under the Juveniles Act, child labor violators can be subject to a fine or 3
months of imprisonment. However, CDA officials reported difficulty in large-scale inspections and investigation of exploitative child labor due to insufficient funds. During 2005, the government established a police anti-trafficking unit and a task force to oversee trafficking policy coordination. It also appointed an anti-trafficking coordinator in the Office of the Prime Minister. In addition, the government increased the number of Children’s Officers who work with child victims of trafficking from 45 to 70. The CDA has been operating 8 shelters for child victims and 12 hotlines for reporting exploitation.

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

According to the Ministry of Labor, an action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in Jamaica has been drafted by the joint effort of the National Steering Committee on Child Labor, Ministry of Labor and Social Security officials, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. The government is providing financial support to NGOs that are assisting child trafficking victims. Between 2003 and 2006, with support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Health’s Child Development Agency is implementing a national plan of action for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The plan seeks to build synergies and increase coordination among different Ministries and sectors, including labor and education.

The Ministry of Education has instituted a scholarship program to help parents pay school fees at the secondary level. The government and the World Bank implemented a Social Safety Net Program. The Program included an assistance component that provides grants to families with children at risk of dropping out of school and entering the workforce, in order to ensure that the children stay in school.

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2489 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Jamaica, Section 6d.
2492 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Jamaica, Section 5.
USAID are funding programs to improve the quality of primary education, and another World Bank initiative is focusing on reforms to secondary education.2496

Jordan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Jordan are unavailable.\textsuperscript{2497} According to a study by the Ministry of Labor (MOL) published in 2002, children who work are employed in automobile repair, carpentry, sales, blacksmith shops, tailoring, construction, and food services.\textsuperscript{2498} Child vendors on the streets of the capital city of Amman work selling newspapers, food, and gum. Other children earn income for their families by rummaging through trash piles to find recyclable items.\textsuperscript{2499} Due to deteriorating economic conditions, the number of working street children and child beggars may be greater now than it was 10 years ago.\textsuperscript{2500} Many of these children are forced to beg by their parents.\textsuperscript{2501} Working children are primarily concentrated in the governorates of Amman, Balqa, Irbid, Ma'an, and Zarka.\textsuperscript{2502} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1997, the most recent year for which data are available, less than 2.0 percent of the population in Jordan were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2503}

Many working children are victims of physical, verbal, and sexual abuse in the workplace and are exposed to hazardous chemicals and dangerous working conditions.\textsuperscript{2504}

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\textsuperscript{2497} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


\textsuperscript{2501} The Ministry of Social Development estimates that on average 20 child beggars are arrested daily and imprisoned until their parent or guardian picks them up. There is currently no fine or penalty assessed against the parents. See U.S. Embassy- Amman, reporting, August 28, 2005.


\textsuperscript{2503} World Bank, World Development Indicators 2005 [CD-ROM], Washington, D.C., 2005.

\textsuperscript{2504} Dr. Muntaha Gharaibeh and Dr. Shirley Hoeman, "Health Hazards and Risks for Abuse among Child Labor in Jordan," Journal of Pediatric Nursing 18 no. 2 (April 2003), 140, 143. See also Kamal S. Saleh, Child Labour in Jordan, Department of Statistics, Amman, 2003, 6-7. In industrial areas, the major occupational accidents reported are burns and injuries, such as accidents from sharp machines and
may also be a destination country for girls trafficked from South Asia and South East Asia, primarily from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia, for the purpose of labor exploitation and domestic service.\textsuperscript{2505}

Basic education is mandated by the Jordanian Constitution for all children until the age of 16,\textsuperscript{2506} and is provided virtually free in government-funded schools.\textsuperscript{2507} In addition to free tuition in public schools, the government also provides food and transportation supplements to poor families and those with many children.\textsuperscript{2508} The Ministry of Education (MOE) is required to open a school in every community where there are at least 10 students for grades 1 through 4.\textsuperscript{2509} The Government of Jordan and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) also have a long history of providing free education to Palestinian refugee children in Jordan.\textsuperscript{2510} However, in recent years, the government has denied Iraqi refugee children admittance to school if they lack legal residence or official refugee status.\textsuperscript{2511}
In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 99 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 92 percent. 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. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Jordan. As of 2001, 97 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Males are more likely to drop out than females. The most commonly cited reasons for dropping out of school are poverty; disability; poor academic performance; indirect costs of schooling; poor school quality; physical distances to school; lack of transportation; early marriage; restricted mobility for girls; and the family’s need for the child’s labor both inside and outside the home.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code of 1996, which was amended in 2004, sets the minimum legal working age at 16 years and 18 years for hazardous jobs. Pursuant to the 2004 amendments, children under 18 years of age shall not perform work with mechanically operated equipment; work with oil and gas machines; work requiring scuba diving equipment; construction work; work in which the worker is exposed to noise, vibration, high air pressure, radiation, or dust; underground work; and work in offices, hotels, restaurants, or nightclubs. Minors must be given a rest break after 4 hours of work, are not allowed to work more than 6 hours per day, and may not work during weekends and holidays, or at night. Before hiring a minor, a prospective employer must obtain a guardian’s

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2513 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section for more information about sources used.
2515 From various research studies of enrollment and dropout rates for Jordanian children over a ten-year period (the number of years of mandatory schooling), estimates of total numbers of dropouts range from around 85,000 to 94,000. While this may constitute less than one percent of school-aged children in a given year, the cumulative number is significant in a country the size of Jordan. Those children who do not complete their education are at risk of low-paid employment, begging, violence and abuse, panhandling, getting in trouble with authorities, and abusing substances. See National Council for Family Affairs, Jordan Country Study, 13.
2517 Labour Code, Law No. 8 of 1996, Chapter VIII, Sections 73-74; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/45676/65048/E96JOR01.htm#c1. In February 2003, King Abdullah issued a royal decree requiring that the minimum age for employment of children working in hazardous occupations be raised from 17 to 18 years. Parliament has yet to pass the corresponding law, but draft legislation is pending approval and the Ministry of Labor has issued instructions to inspectors to enforce this change. U.S. Embassy- Amman, reporting, August 28, 2005.
2518 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."
2519 Labour Code of 1996, Section 75. The Code does not specify the age of a minor. Young people are defined as individuals of either sex who have not yet reached 18 years of age. Elsewhere in the Code, the
written approval, the minor’s birth certificate, and a health certificate. An employer that violates these provisions faces a fine ranging from 100 to 500 Dinars (USD 142 to 711). The fine doubles for subsequent infractions. Provisions in the Labor Code do not extend to children employed in the informal sector, which may include children working in agriculture, domestic service, and in small family enterprises. The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Jordan. Compulsory labor is prohibited by the Constitution of Jordan. While the law does not specifically prohibit forced or bonded labor by children, such practices are not known to occur. The Military Service Act No. 2 prohibits voluntary enlistment into the government armed forces for children under 16 years of age, although children may be enlisted as cadets at the age of 15. A child may be legally recruited into the armed forces at age 17. The 1988 Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances provides for the death penalty for anyone who uses a minor in the production, transportation, sale, or purchase of drugs. A Jordanian law specifically prohibits trafficking in children. It is illegal to induce a girl under the age of 20 to engage in prostitution or to entice any child under the age of 15 to commit sodomy. Sanctions for

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2520 Ibid., Section 76.
2521 Ibid., Section 77. For currency conversion, see FXConverter, in Oanda.com, [online] [cited June 17, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.
2522 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Jordan, Section 6d. The Labor Law also does not specify a minimum age for vocational training of children. Presently, the law implies that any juvenile over the age of 7 years may be taken on as an apprentice. There are no clear standards to regulate apprenticeships nor are inspection mechanisms in place to ensure children’s safety. See National Council for Family Affairs, Jordan Country Study, 53. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138): Jordan (ratification: 1998)" (paper presented at the 75th Session, Geneva, 2004); available from http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/
2523 In circumstances of war or natural disaster, forced labor may be mandated by the Government. See Constitution of Jordan, Chapter 2, Article 13.
2524 Some foreign domestic servants worked under conditions that amounted to forced labor; however, there were no reports of such cases involving children. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Jordan, Sections 5 and 6c.
2525 Article 5 of the Military Service Act No. 2 of 1972 sets the legal age for voluntary enlistment at 16 years, which must be attested by a birth certificate or in the absence of this the child’s age is determined by the Medical Board. According to the same article, enlistment is subject to the fulfillment of other conditions such as, in particular, educational attainment of at least the tenth grade level. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Periodic Reports of States Parties due in 1998 (Addendum), CRC/C/70/Add.4, prepared by Government of Jordan, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, September 17, 1999, paras. 160-162; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/a06f687951c4fc1080256846003b7763?Opendocument.
2527 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments".
these offenses include imprisonment for up to 5 years and a fine. Since 1999, the Government of Jordan has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Child Labor Unit (CLU) of the MOL is primarily responsible for monitoring child labor, collecting and analyzing data, and reviewing and ensuring the enforcement of existing legislation. The MOL’s inspection division, which is comprised of 21 field offices and 72 inspectors, is mandated to inspect all registered establishments with more than 5 employees. The Government, however, has provided little training on child labor and inspectors generally try to remedy the situation through informal mechanisms, including referring some adult family members to job training programs. According to the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) and the ILO Committee of Experts, current labor inspection mechanisms are inadequate in terms of their frequency, scope, outreach, and quality of reporting. According to the Ministry of Labor, 88 percent of working children are working in establishments employing five workers or less, for which labor inspectors have no jurisdiction.

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

The Jordanian National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children 2004-2013 was launched by King Abdullah II and Queen Rania in October 2004. The plan takes into consideration global, regional, and national commitments made to Jordanian children such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Arab Plan of Action for Children, the National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labor, and the Millennium Development Goals. Among other goals, the NPA aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in Jordan by 2014, and decrease the number of child laborers under 16 years of age. The Childhood Unit of the NCFA takes the lead responsibility for Jordan’s programs to eliminate child labor.

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2529 The law regarding prostitution does not apply if the victim is a “known prostitute” or “known to be of immoral character.” See ECPAT International, Jordan, in ECPAT International, [database online] [cited May 27, 2004], Protection; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp.
2530 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
2531 ILO-IPEC, National Program in Jordan--project document, 20. Although the CLU receives, investigates and addresses child labor complaints, it lacks a formal mechanism for doing so. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Jordan, Section 6d.
2533 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Jordan, Section 6d.
2536 The NPA also aims to rehabilitate and reintegrate working children in schools; secure working children’s right to free primary education and appropriate vocational training; conduct studies to better
The Government of Jordan, through its Information Resource Center (IRC) continues to conduct research on child labor and is also implementing a program for street children in Irbid with support from the Swiss government.\textsuperscript{2538} In November 2004, Jordan hosted the first Arab Parliamentarian Conference on Child Protection, at which parliamentarians from 17 Arab countries pledged their commitment to review all domestic legislation with regard to its compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.\textsuperscript{2539} The Ministries of Labor, Education, and Social Development and the NCFA are working in collaboration with a British NGO to implement two major projects with at-risk youth that aim to reduce child labor. The World Bank funded the mentoring program until April 2005. The program will continue to operate through October 2006, though on a severely limited scale. The second project, dubbed “Earn & Learn” is working with 2,000 out-of-school children to provide non-formal education, vocational and entrepreneurial training. Jordan’s Development and Employment Fund provides microfinance assistance to participants, enabling them to start their own businesses.\textsuperscript{2540}

USDOL is supporting a USD 1 million ILO-IPEC project to combat child labor in the urban services sector in Jordan, which is being undertaken with the cooperation of the Ministries of Labor, Education, and Social Development. The program aims to withdraw 3,000 child workers from the worst forms of child labor over a three-year period; mainstream them into non-formal and formal education programs; provide them with pre-vocational and vocational training; and support them with counseling, health care, and recreational activities.\textsuperscript{2541} In 2005, the Ministry of Labor’s CLU continued to expand ILO-IPEC’s Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item See ILO-IPEC, \textit{National Program in Jordan--project document}, 26-27.
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(SCREAM) program to raise awareness among young people and their communities on the negative effects of child labor and the benefits of education.2542

In 2005, the MOE continued to implement a USD 120 million World Bank project, the Education Reform for Knowledge Economy Project, which aims to transform the education system at the early childhood, basic, and secondary levels to produce graduates with the skills necessary for the knowledge economy.2543 Recognizing the link between the lack of education and child labor, the MOE intends to address child labor issues in its 2003-2015 Educational Development Plan.2544

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2542 SCREAM activities in Jordan have included art and writing competitions, as well as theatre productions. See U.S. Embassy- Amman, reporting, August 19, 2004. See also UNICEF, May 2005 Newsletter.


2544 ILO-IPEC, National Program in Jordan--project document, 7.
Kazakhstan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Kazakhstan are unavailable.\textsuperscript{2545} Most working children are involved in agriculture in rural areas.\textsuperscript{2546} In urban areas, the country’s increasingly formalized labor market has led to a decrease in many forms of child work. However, children continue to be found begging, loading freight, delivering goods in markets, washing cars, and working at gas stations.\textsuperscript{2547} Reports also indicate a rise in the number of children exploited in prostitution and pornography in urban areas. Children working as domestic servants are often less visible to law enforcement officials and, for this reason, also vulnerable to exploitation.\textsuperscript{2548} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2003, less than 2 percent of the population of Kazakhstan were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2549}

Kazakhstan is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Girls in their teens are one of the primary targets for trafficking from Kazakhstan to countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Travel, employment and marriage agencies lure girls into trafficking with promises of good jobs or marriage abroad. Internal trafficking from rural to urban areas for sexual exploitation also occurs.\textsuperscript{2550} Police estimate that a third of all street prostitutes in Kazakhstan are minors.\textsuperscript{2551}

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item \textsuperscript{2545} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions” 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.
\item \textsuperscript{2546} There are indications of a high prevalence of children engaged in tobacco and cotton cultivation. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{CAR Capacity Building Project: Regional Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labour}, project document, RER/04/P54/USA, Geneva, September 2004, 5-7. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}, online, Washington, DC, June 3, 2005, Section 6d; available from http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf.
\item \textsuperscript{2547} ILO-IPEC, \textit{CAR Capacity Building Project, project document}, 5-7. See also U.S. Embassy- Almaty, \textit{reporting}, August 22, 2004.
\item \textsuperscript{2548} ILO-IPEC, \textit{CAR Capacity Building Project, project document}, 8.
\item \textsuperscript{2549} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005 [CD-ROM]}, Washington, DC, 2005.
\item \textsuperscript{2551} Liz Kelly, \textit{Fertile Fields: Trafficking in Persons in Central Asia}, International Organization for Migration, April 2005, 61.
\end{itemize}
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The Constitution and the Education Act provides for free and compulsory schooling for children ages 5 or 6 to the age of 16 or grade 9. The government also provides free secondary vocational and higher vocational education. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 102 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent. 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. Despite efforts to ensure education for all, increases in costs associated with education have limited access to children from disadvantaged families. The quality of education also suffers from regional disparities and untrained teachers. An increase in drop-out rates in secondary and vocational education was reported in 2003.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for contract employment at 16 years. However, children may work at age 15 if they have completed their compulsory education. With parental consent, children 14 years or older may perform light work, provided that the work does not interfere with school attendance or pose a health threat. Children under 18 are prohibited from working in dangerous conditions, overtime, or at night. Children between ages 16 and 18 may not work more than 36 hours per week. Children between ages 15 and 16 years (or 14 and 16 years during non-school periods) may not work over 24 hours per week. The labor authorities determine a list of dangerous occupations.

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Kazakhstan, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Constitution prohibits forced labor, except under a court mandate or in a state of emergency. The minimum age for compulsory military service is 18 under the 1993 Law on Universal Military Duty and Military Service, and the minimum voluntary

2553 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Initial reports of Kazakhstan, CRC/C/41/Add.13, para 257.
2554 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportID=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
2557 Ibid., Section 11, no. 2. See also U.S. Embassy- Almaty, reporting, August 22, 2004.
2558 Labour Law, Section 11, no. 3.
2559 Ibid., Sections 46-49.
recruitment age is 19 under the 2001 Law on Military Service on a Contract. Procuring a minor to engage in prostitution, begging, or gambling is illegal under Article 201 of the Penal Code and punishable by up to 3 years of imprisonment. Article 215-1 outlaws the keeping of brothels for prostitution and pimping and imposes punishments of 2 to 5 years of imprisonment with confiscation of property. Under Article 124, using children for sexual exploitation is punishable by up to 4 years of imprisonment. In 2003, the Penal Code was amended to include punishments for trafficking in persons. Specifically, it imposes a 5-year prison sentence if a minor is involved and an 8-year sentence if persons are trafficked abroad. The Code also includes an article establishing penalties of up to 10 years in prison for the sale or purchase of a minor. The Law Enforcement Coordination Council has issued detailed instructions to aid prosecutors and law enforcement in handling trafficking cases.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and imposing fines for administrative offenses. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for investigating criminal child labor offenses. The Ministry of Labor has a total of 400 labor inspectors. Each of the country’s 16 districts has labor inspectors. They are empowered to levy fines for labor violations and refer criminal cases to law enforcement authorities. The Minister of Justice is given responsibility for coordinating all of the government’s anti-trafficking activities.

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

The Ministry of the Interior’s Gender Crimes Division has provided instructions to its units in how to recognize trafficking cases. The Government of Kazakhstan is funding victim hotlines, airing public service announcements, and preparing educational

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2562 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Initial reports of Kazakhstan, CRC/C/41/Add.13, para 355.
2564 Ibid.
2567 Ibid. Aggravating circumstances include: engaging in the same act with two or more minors, selling body parts, and sale by a group of persons or by a person in a position of authority in conjunction with the unlawful transport of a minor in or out of the country or inciting the youth to commit immoral acts. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Initial reports of Kazakhstan, CRC/C/41/Add.13, para 358.
2569 Ibid., Section 6d.
2571 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Kazakhstan, Section 5.
2572 Ibid.
material on trafficking prevention.\textsuperscript{2573} Information about trafficking has been integrated into the high school and university curricula.\textsuperscript{2574} The local law enforcement has also established a victim referral system.\textsuperscript{2575} In December 2004, the Ministry of Internal Affairs held a nationwide conference to train law enforcement officers involved with trafficking issues.\textsuperscript{2576} Joint investigations were held with Uzbekistan, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates.\textsuperscript{2577} The government, in cooperation with the IOM and other NGOs, is participating in several other programs to prevent trafficking, prosecute offenders, and provide assistance to victims.\textsuperscript{2578}

USDOL is funding a 3-year USD 2.5 million ILO-IPEC project that will build the capacity of national institutions to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and share information and experiences in the sub-region of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.\textsuperscript{2579}

The government has prioritized efforts to improve educational facilities in rural schools\textsuperscript{2580} and provides free textbooks to children from large families, children who receive social assistance, and disabled, orphaned, and institutionalized children.\textsuperscript{2581} International organizations, such as UNICEF and UNESCO, have worked with the government to implement programs aimed at improving the country’s education system.\textsuperscript{2582}

\textsuperscript{2574} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\textsuperscript{2575} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2576} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2577} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2578} IOM, \textit{Combating Trafficking in Persons in Central Asia: Prevention, Prosecution, Protection (ASPPP)}, [cited June 15, 2005]; available from http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Project/SerletSearchProject?Category=1%3BCounter-Trafficking&region=0%3B%28any%29&title=&keyWord=&resultPerPage=25&event=search&search=Search. See also IOM, \textit{Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Protection (PTPP) of Victims of Trafficking From, To, Through and Within Kazakhstan}, [cited June 15, 2005]; available from http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Project/SerletSearchProject&Category=1%3BCounter-Trafficking&region=0%3B%28any%29&country=0%3B%28any%29&title=&keyWord=&resultPerPage=25&event=search&search=Search.
\textsuperscript{2579} The project was funded by USDOL in 2004. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{CAR Capacity Building Project, project document}, vii.
Kenya

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 32.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years in Kenya were counted as working in 2000. Approximately 34.7 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 30.4 percent of girls in the same age group. Children living in rural areas were more likely to work than children living in urban areas. The commercial and subsistence agriculture and fishing sectors employ the largest number of working children, followed by the domestic service sector. Children are found working on tea, coffee, sugar, and rice plantations. Children also work in the informal sector, predominantly in family businesses. There are large numbers of street children in Kenya’s urban centers. Street children are often involved in illegal activities such as drug trafficking. Child prostitution is widespread in Kenya, and takes place in bars, discos, brothels, massage parlors, and on the streets. The majority of children exploited in prostitution are between 13 and 17 years old. Poverty and an increased number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS have contributed to a rise in the number of child prostitutes. Many girls who hawk or beg during the day reportedly work as prostitutes at night. In the agricultural sector, girls are sometimes forced to provide sexual services in order to obtain plantation work. Sudanese and Somali refugee children are

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<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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2583 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


2585 Ibid., 37.


2590 ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Kenya; accessed June 1, 2005).
also alleged to be involved in prostitution in Kenya.\textsuperscript{2591} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1997, the most recent year for which data are available, 22.8 percent of the population in Kenya were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2592}

Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for child trafficking.\textsuperscript{2593} Poverty, the death of one or both parents, and self-interest may contribute to a family’s decision to place a child in the hands of better-off relatives, friends, or acquaintances who may end up trafficking and/or exploiting the child. Child trafficking in Kenya occurs mainly through personal and familial networks.\textsuperscript{2594} Kenyan children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation, as well as for work in street vending, agriculture, and forced domestic labor. Kenya’s coastal area is a known destination for trafficked children. Children are trafficked there to be sexually exploited in Kenya’s growing sex tourism industry. Children from Burundi and Rwanda may have been trafficked to Kenya for sexual exploitation and domestic work.\textsuperscript{2595}

Primary education is free and schooling is compulsory through grade 12. However, less than half of children who graduate from primary school continue on to secondary school. The government has provided tuition-free primary education since 2003.\textsuperscript{2596} As a result of this policy, first-time enrollment increased by between 1.1 million\textsuperscript{2597} and 1.3 million children in the year following implementation.\textsuperscript{2598} Unintended results of the policy have included overcrowded classrooms due to increased enrollment, insufficient numbers of teachers, and inadequate financial resources. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 92 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 66 percent.\textsuperscript{2599} 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. In 2000, 74.9 of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{2600} As of 2001, 59 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2601} However, there remains a

\textsuperscript{2591} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2592} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2594} U.S. Embassy- Nairobi official, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2599} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.
gender bias in school access, with girls reportedly experiencing greater difficulty in
accessing education than boys.\textsuperscript{2602} As the government expands primary education, it
faces the challenges of high numbers of overage students, lack of teachers in some areas
or overworked teachers, teaching material shortages, large class sizes, lack of classrooms,
and inadequate facilities.\textsuperscript{2603}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Children’s Act of 2001 prohibits all forms of child labor that are exploitative and
hazardous, or that would prevent children under the age of 16 from going to school.\textsuperscript{2604}
However, this law does not apply to children who work in agriculture or as apprentices
under the terms of the Industrial Training Act.\textsuperscript{2605}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Kenya. The
Constitution prohibits forced and bonded labor, servitude, and slavery.\textsuperscript{2606} The
Children’s Act prohibits child sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{2607} The Penal Code prohibits
procurement of a girl under 21 for the purpose of unlawful sexual relations.\textsuperscript{2608} Kenya
does not explicitly prohibit trafficking in persons, but the Penal Code criminalizes child
commercial sexual exploitation, child labor, and the transportation of children for sale.\textsuperscript{2609}
The Children’s Act prohibits children under 18 years from being recruited in armed
conflicts or participating in hostilities.\textsuperscript{2610}

The Ministry of Labor and Human Resource Development is responsible for enforcing
child labor legislation with its Child Labor Division, but is assisted by other sections

\textsuperscript{2602} School completion rates for girls have increased, and the Government of Kenya has reported that the
completion rate among girls is higher than that for boys. Kenya CRC Coalition, *Supplementary Report to

\textsuperscript{2603} Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), "Kenya: Feature: The challenge of providing free
primary education", IRINnews.org, [online], February 7, 2003 [cited June 23, 2005]; available from
mass literacy," *EFA News* No. 4 (May, 2003); available from

\textsuperscript{2604} U.S. Embassy- Nairobi, *reporting*, August 15, 2003. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law
Database, *Children Act, 2001 (No.8 of 2001): accessed June 23, 2005*; available from


\textsuperscript{2607} Integrated Regional Information Network, "Kenya: Focus on New Legislation and Hopes for Child
Welfare", IRINnews.org, [online], March 1, 2002 [cited June 23, 2005]; available from

\textsuperscript{2608} Government of Kenya, *Penal Code*, [previously online], Section 147; available from
http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/Kenya1.pdf [hard copy on file]. See also ECPAT
International CSEC Database, (Kenya; accessed June 1, 2005).


\textsuperscript{2610} The Children’s Act of 2001 also states that it is the government’s responsibility to protect, rehabilitate,
and re-integrate child victims of armed conflict into society. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers,*
when specific expertise is required. Labor inspectors and occupational health and safety officers have been trained in child labor reporting and labor inspection reports include findings on child labor. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Ministry of Labor and Human Resource Development’s enforcement of the minimum age law was minimal. The Ministry of Labor has indicated that its inspectorate department, which is the main unit responsible for enforcing compliance, is understaffed. As of late 2005, the Ministry of Labor’s directorate of Occupational Health and Safety Services only had 57 inspectors to cover the whole country. The Department of Children’s Services is responsible for the administration of all laws regarding children, conducts awareness-raising activities regarding children’s rights, and manages child rehabilitation institutions.

The Government of Kenya has made efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Kenya has adopted stricter border controls, and in late 2004-early 2005, the Human Trafficking Unit of the Kenyan police investigated a suspected child trafficking ring with operations between the United Kingdom and Kenya. The Unit also conducted surveys of massage parlors, brothels, foreign employment agencies, and other establishments and persons that were suspected of being involved in trafficking. However, during the period of 2005-early 2006, the Human Trafficking Unit had not conducted any investigations into trafficking cases.

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

The government’s National Development Plan for 2002-2008 recognizes child labor as a problem and calls for an evaluation of the impact of child labor on the individual and the country, as well as its implications on the quality of the future labor force.

The Government of Kenya is taking part in a 3-year, USD 5.3 million USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional project aimed at building capacity to eliminate the worst forms of

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2613 Ibid.
2614 Ibid.
2615 U.S. Embassy- Nairobi official, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
2616 Ibid. See also U.S. State Department official, email communication to USDOL official, August 18, 2006.
2619 Ibid.
2620 U.S. Embassy- Nairobi official, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
The government also participates in a 4-year, USD 5 million USDOL-funded Timebound Program implemented by ILO-IPEC that focuses on withdrawing and preventing children from engaging in domestic service; commercial sex; commercial and subsistence agriculture; fishing and pastoralism; as well as informal sector street work. In partnership with the ILO, the government removes children from the street and provides them with educational and vocational training. Kenya is also part of a USDOL-funded regional project that aims to improve access to and quality of basic, technical, and vocational education and training for HIV/AIDS-affected children who are working or at risk of working in the worst forms of child labor. The government also took part in a Sweden-funded ILO-IPEC project on child labor in domestic work, which ended in June 2005. Kenya also participated in two Dutch-funded inter-regional ILO-IPEC projects which focused on combating child labor with educational interventions. The government also participated in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC East Africa Commercial Agriculture project, which ended in May 2005.

In 2005, the Kenyan Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, UNICEF, the World Tourism Organization, and ECPAT worked with hotels and tour operators to increase their awareness of child prostitution and sex tourism and to develop a Code of Conduct to combat child sex tourism and protect children. In 2004, the government implemented a new program requiring owners of tourist guesthouses to register all workers, partly to deter sex tourism. Subsequently, eight guesthouses were closed due to violations and the government provided assistance to seven foreign children. Beginning in 2005, the Ministry of Tourism mounted a campaign to register villas and cottages, putting them under the same strictures and requirements as hotels, and encouraging them to participate in the ECPAT Code of Conduct initiative. Government officials, prosecutors, and police also attended training workshops on human trafficking conducted by the American Bar Association. The government provides shelter and medical care to street children.

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2622 The project’s core countries also include Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zambia. ILO-IPEC, Building the Foundations for Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Anglophone Africa, project document, Geneva, September 24, 2002.
2624 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
2626 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.
2627 One project was funded at USD 2.47 million and ended in December 2005, while the other, which focuses on child domestic workers, was funded at USD 391,615 and is slated to end in February 2006. Ibid.
2629 U.S. Embassy- Nairobi official, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
2632 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
2633 U.S. Embassy- Nairobi official, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
2634 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
working in commercial sexual exploitation. The government and ILO-IPEC are also working to improve a database on abused children, particularly those who are working.

Education sector reforms undertaken by the government include the promotion of the free primary education policy, good governance and school management, as well as the review and development of the curriculum. The Government of Kenya has also received support from UNICEF to raise the enrollment and primary completion rates of girls. The Government of Kenya is currently receiving support from the Education for All Fast Track Initiative to achieve its goal of implementing universal quality primary education. To support the government’s policy of free primary education, the World Bank is providing USD 50 million, the majority of which will be used to expand the Government of Kenya/British Department for International Development textbook program. World Bank funds will also be used for activities such as teacher development and enhancing school accounting policies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is also providing funds to support nutritious school meals for children.

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2635 Ibid.
Kiribati

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Kiribati are not available. However, some school-aged children are reported to be out of school for reasons that are undocumented.

Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 to 14. Basic education includes primary school for grades one through six, and Junior Secondary School for three additional grade levels. In 1999, the gross primary enrollment rate was 128 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate is unavailable. 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. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Kiribati. School quality and access to primary education are still challenges, particularly in the outer islands.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Part IX, Section 84 of the Employment Ordinance, Employment of Children and Other Young Persons, sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, and children under 16 years are prohibited from industrial employment or jobs aboard ships. Although

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2642 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, please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.


2649 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Kiribati, Section 6d.
there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in Kiribati, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. The Constitution prohibits forced labor. The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of minors under 15 years of age for the purpose of sexual relations and establishes a penalty of 2 years of imprisonment for such offenses. The Penal Code also bans parents or guardians from prostituting children under 15 years old. Child labor laws are enforced by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Employment.

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

The Government of Kiribati continues to work within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to support national priorities and initiatives that include promoting the healthy growth and development of Kiribati’s children.

The government also worked with the ADB on the implementation of its 2003-2005 Country Strategy and Program to address key issues that include poverty reduction and human development. As part of these efforts, the government focused on improving the quality and relevancy of education and expanding the coverage of social services, particularly for people living in the outer islands. AusAID and New Zealand’s International Aid and Development Agency are also assisting the country to improve education policy. Bilateral assistance for education programs includes developing curriculum materials, advancing teacher training, and facilitating access to basic education.

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2652 *Kiribati Penal Code*.


The Kyrgyz Republic

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 9.2 percent of children ages 7 to 14 were counted as working in the Kyrgyz Republic in 1998. Approximately 10.2 percent of all boys 7 to 14 were working compared to 8.1 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work selling goods (such as newspapers, cigarettes, candy, alcohol, and gasoline), loading and unloading goods, collecting aluminum and bottles, begging, cleaning and repairing shoes, and washing cars. Some children also work in transportation. In southern rural areas, reports indicate that children work in coal mines and in brick-making. Children are allegedly taken out of school to harvest cotton. Children also work on commercial tobacco farms. Some schools have reportedly required students to participate in the tobacco harvest in fields located on school grounds. Proceeds from the harvest are collected by the schools and do not go to the children. Children are found working on family farms and in family enterprises such as shepherding or selling products at roadside kiosks. ILO reports indicate that a large number of children from rural areas are sent to urban areas to live with wealthier relatives and to work as domestic servants. Child

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2657 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


2659 Ibid. Students sometimes participate in labor training classes involving cleaning and collecting waste. “Subbotnics” (labor days) are also arranged in city areas. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, NGO Commentaries, 27.

2660 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic, Section 6d.

2661 Families tend to be large and consider it necessary for children to begin work at a young age to support their families. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic, Section 6d.


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### Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 182</td>
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<td>ILO-IPEC Associated Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector Action Plan (Trafficking)</td>
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labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, less than 2 percent of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic were living on less than USD 1 a day.  

Children are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation in urban areas throughout the country. Children engaged in prostitution are primarily girls from ages 11 to 16 years. It has been asserted that at least 20 percent of prostitutes in Bishkek are minors. The Kyrgyz Republic is considered to be a country of origin and transit for trafficked children. An IOM study reported that a minimum of 4,000 women are trafficked to, from and through the Kyrgyz Republic for commercial sexual exploitation every year, and approximately 10 percent of the total are children. There are reports of women and girls trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation to the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and South Korea. Girls as young as 10 years old are trafficked internally and internationally. Girls from poor rural areas are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked.

The Constitution establishes free and compulsory education beginning no later than age 7. This extends through grade 9 or until age 14. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 101 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 89 percent. 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. In 1998, 91.6 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school. A national economic crisis and family poverty have induced many children to drop out of school and take up work. In April 2003, the government passed a law on education to help the
country meet mandatory basic education standards. Residence registration limits access to education and other social services for refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, and non-citizens.

The quality of education is poorest in rural areas. Rural schools account for over 80 percent of all schools in the country. Educational reforms have shifted the burden of financing education to regional authorities and families, often resulting in the inability of low-income families to pay for their children’s school supplies and other administrative fees. Not all school-aged children have access to secondary education. Wages of teachers start at the equivalent of USD 7 per month and are among the lowest paid in the world. This has impacted the ability to attract and retain professionals to the education sector and affects the ability of schools to provide all compulsory subjects. The severe deterioration of school buildings and lack of heat in winter months have closed schools. Without improvements in school infrastructure, improving teachers’ performance and access to school materials will have little impact.

Numerous studies carried out by international aid agencies have found that the number of out-of-school children is higher than officially reported because long-term non-attendance of school or “hidden-dropout” is not taken into account. A report from the Centre for the Protection of Children noted that 74 to 83 percent of children working on the streets dropped out of school. A 2003 UNICEF-supported survey of 207 street and working children in Bishkek found that up to 90 percent did not attend school at all.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

A new Labor Code was passed on August 4, 2004 that established the minimum age for basic employment as 16, except in limited circumstances with parental permission.

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Limited light work is permitted at age 14. Maximum work hours for children ages 14 and 15 are 5 hours per day. Maximum work hours for children ages 16 and 17 are 7 hours per day. A 2002 decree banned the employment of persons under 18 in certain industries including oil and gas, mining and prospecting, food, entertainment, and machine building.\textsuperscript{2685} A violation of labor laws is punishable by a fine of up to USD 120.\textsuperscript{2686} Children studying in educational establishments are forbidden from participating in agricultural or other work not related to their schooling.\textsuperscript{2687} The law penalizes parents who restrict their children’s access to schooling, but it is not strictly enforced, especially in rural areas.\textsuperscript{2688} The penalty for preventing a child from attending school ranges from a public reprimand to 1 year of forced labor.\textsuperscript{2689}

Although there is no law specifically prohibiting the worst forms of child labor in the Kyrgyz Republic, there are statutes under which the worst forms can be prosecuted. Both the Constitution and the Labor Code prohibit forced labor under most circumstances.\textsuperscript{2690} The minimum age for recruitment to active military service is age 18; however, boys age 17 may volunteer for military schools.\textsuperscript{2691}

Adult prostitution is not illegal, and although the operation of brothels, pimping, and recruiting persons into prostitution is punishable by up to 5 years in jail, there is no legal penalty for consorting with underage prostitutes.\textsuperscript{2692} A lack of legal regulation and oversight makes prostitution a growing problem.\textsuperscript{2693} The Criminal Code prohibits trafficking in persons and imposes punishments of up to 20 years of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{2694} A comprehensive anti-trafficking law was adopted in January 2005 that grants immunity from prosecution to victims of trafficking who cooperate with authorities.\textsuperscript{2695}

The General Procurator’s Office and the State Labor Inspectorate are responsible for enforcing child labor laws. During 2004, the Labor Inspectorate had 54 inspectors throughout the country. The Federation of Trade Unions also has the right to carry out

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{2685} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic}, Section 6d.
\item \textsuperscript{2686} Articles 124, 125, 142, and 143 of the Criminal Code as reported in U.S. Embassy- Bishkek, \textit{reporting}, August 15, 2003.
\item \textsuperscript{2687} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties: Kyrgyzstan}, para. 340.
\item \textsuperscript{2688} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic}, Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{2689} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties: Kyrgyzstan}, para. 67.
\item \textsuperscript{2690} Forced labor is prohibited except in cases of war, natural disaster, epidemic, or other extraordinary circumstances, as well as upon sentence by the court. See \textit{Constitution, 1996}, Article 28. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic}, Section 6c.
\item \textsuperscript{2693} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic}, Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{2694} Ibid.
\end{itemize}
child labor inspections when it receives a complaint.\textsuperscript{2696} The Office of the Ombudsman has a special department dealing with the rights of minors. It has the authority to order other agencies to deliver information or conduct investigations.\textsuperscript{2697} The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) has a division of Inspectorates of Minors’ Affairs mandated to enforce child-related laws. The MVD also runs two poorly equipped juvenile rehabilitation centers and operates an anti-trafficking unit.\textsuperscript{2698}

Since many children work for their families or in informal occupations, it is difficult for the government to identify violators and few have been punished. Budget constraints make enforcement difficult as does corruption at lower levels in government.\textsuperscript{2699} Prosecution is difficult in anti-trafficking cases. The reluctance of victims to file charges due to fear, mistrust, and social pressures also has reduced arrest and conviction rates.\textsuperscript{2700} Despite these obstacles, the government has had some success. Efforts are being made to eliminate government corruption as it relates to trafficking.\textsuperscript{2701} The government has established contacts with law enforcement agencies in South Korea and the United Arab Emirates and participated in joint anti-trafficking operations with Ukrainian and Azeri officials.\textsuperscript{2702}

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

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is participating in a USD 2.5 million USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC sub-regional project that will enhance the capacity of national institutions to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the Kyrgyz Republic and share information and experiences across Central Asia.\textsuperscript{2703} \textsuperscript{2704} The government’s inter-ministerial body, known as the New Generation program, is studying suitable working conditions for young persons and will introduce new techniques for monitoring employers’ compliance with national labor law.\textsuperscript{2704} A Coordination Council on Child Labor was established by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.\textsuperscript{2705}

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\textsuperscript{2696} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{2698} The centers are located in Bishkek and Osh, the largest cities in the Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic*, Section 5. See also Youth Human Rights Group, "Alternative NGO Report," 5.
\textsuperscript{2699} Ibid., Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{2700} Ibid., Section 5.
\textsuperscript{2701} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2702} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 139.
\textsuperscript{2703} ILO-IPEC, *CAR Capacity Building Project: Regional Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, project document, RER/04/P54/USA, Geneva, September 2004.
\textsuperscript{2705} Youth Human Rights Group, "Alternative NGO Report," 27.
Since March 2004, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has been funding the Secretariat of the National Council to Combat Trafficking. The National Council is responsible for coordinating the actions of various government agencies and ensuring adherence to the 2002-2005 Anti-trafficking Plan of Action. The government worked with NGOs such as SEZIM and IOM to provide special services for trafficking victims, and it participated in education campaigns. With assistance from the IOM and a USD 1.6 million grant from the U.S. State Department, the government now issues new forgery-resistant passports intended to reduce incidents of human trafficking in the Kyrgyz Republic. The government’s Commission on the Affairs of Under-Age Children coordinates activities and works with the Kyrgyz Children’s Fund (KCF) and other NGOs to monitor the condition of children and provide shelters. An IOM-sponsored program involves strengthening the capacity of local NGOs to assist and reintegrate victims of trafficking.

Addressing child poverty and education has been given priority in Kyrgyzstan’s National Poverty Reduction Strategy. The government’s budget for 2005-2007 provides for increased spending in the areas of social services, education, and health. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has established ongoing national education programs such as Araket (National Poverty Reduction Program, 1998-2005), Jashtyk (National Youth Development Program until 2010), and Jetkinchek (Access to Education Program). Jetkinchek focuses on attendance problems in schools and overcrowded classrooms. ADB and UNDP provide support to the project.

USAID is supporting the Basic Education Strengthening Program (2003-2006) that is improving in-service teacher training; learning material and textbook development;

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2707 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Kyrgyz Republic, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 139.
2708 In November 2004, the government provided 10 spaces for shelter use by Sezim. The space has provided shelter for 80 adults and 24 children. The number of trafficking victims among these is not known. An IOM-sponsored shelter opened in July 2004 in Osh. Several NGOs such as Women’s Support Center, TAIS-Plus, New Chance Sezim, and Podruga provided legal, medical, and economic aid to victims.
2713 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 987th Meeting: Kyrgyzstan, para. 49.
parent and community involvement in education management; capacity of school administration; and school infrastructure.2715 Through this program, community education committees are established and linked to pilot schools that will undergo infrastructure improvements.2716 The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working with the government as part of a global effort to provide meals for schoolchildren.2717

UNHCR, in cooperation with the government, is providing assistance to under-funded schools serving Tajik refugees displaced after the 1992-1997 Tajik civil war. UNHCR plans to provide books and equipment to accommodate children at no expense to their families.2718 With USD 15 million in World Bank financing, the Education Ministry’s Rural School Program was developed to create a new evaluation system for teachers and implement a new performance-based salary schedule.2719 Through the Program, financial assistance is being provided to encourage new teachers to practice in rural schools.2720

2716 Ibid.
Lebanon

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Lebanon are unavailable.\textsuperscript{2721} According to UNICEF, more than half of all children ages 6 to 14 who work are girls.\textsuperscript{2722} Working children are more prevalent in poor, rural areas and are more likely to come from large families.\textsuperscript{2723} The majority of working children ages 6 to 14 years are found in North and South Lebanon and in the Beqaa region.\textsuperscript{2724} Children in urban areas work in several hazardous sectors, including metal works, street peddling, automobile repair, carpentry, domestic service, electrical and electronics repair, and construction work. Exploitative work in domestic service is a particular problem for girls in North Lebanon.\textsuperscript{2725} Children in rural areas work in handicrafts and artisanry, as well as in more hazardous work associated with mining and seasonal agriculture (especially tobacco production in South Lebanon).\textsuperscript{2726} Approximately 11 percent of working children are employed in agriculture.\textsuperscript{2727} In 2000, a government assessment estimated that 25,000

\textsuperscript{2721} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.


\textsuperscript{2726} ILO-IPEC, Supporting the National Policy and Programme Framework for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon and Yemen: Consolidating Action against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, project document, Geneva, September 3, 2004, 10. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."

\textsuperscript{2727} ILO-IPEC, Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment, 9.
children ages 7 to 14 were working in tobacco cultivation. The majority of children working in tobacco cultivation are unpaid. Children ages 10 to 15 years are involved in tobacco drying, harvesting, and planting; children 5 to 10 years work in seedling transplant and leaf drying; and those under 5 years assist with leaf drying.

Palestinian refugee children and children from poor families are often forced to leave school at an early age to go to work. It is common for non-Lebanese children to earn family income by working in the fields or begging in the streets. Many street children are Syrian nationals and Palestinian refugees. Non-Lebanese children constitute 10 to 20 percent of children working in the formal sector, but make up a larger share of children working on the street. In December 2004, the Ministry of Interior released a study on working street children in Lebanon. According to the study, the majority of working street children are Palestinian and Syrian boys who are poorly educated or illiterate, many of whom are forced by adults to work long hours on the streets. The most common types of work were selling goods, shoe polishing and washing car windshields. Less than one-fifth of the children surveyed said they keep their income, while nearly one quarter of them said they give their entire earnings to the head of the household.

There have been reported cases of child prostitution and other situations that amount to forced labor. Lebanon is a destination country for women and children trafficked from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union for the purposes of involuntary domestic servitude and prostitution. Although there are no official estimates on the extent of child trafficking in the country, child trafficking is known to exist. Young children, particularly street children, are exploited as child beggars by

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2728 The survey was conducted by the Consultation and Research Institute in Lebanon with the support of the ILO between July and September 2000. See Ibid., viii, 7-8.
2729 Ibid., viii.
organized gangs, and girls are forced into prostitution, in some cases by their own parents. There are some indications that organized criminal groups are involved in the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. In addition, there are cases in which underage girls are forced into early marriages in exchange for payments to the girl’s family, and underage girls are also trafficked to Lebanon for the purpose of forced marriage.\textsuperscript{2737} While children are not known to participate in armed militia attacks, children continue to be involved in militia training and rallies by groups such as Hizbollah and are also known to participate in various armed groups operating in the country.\textsuperscript{2738} Education is free and compulsory through the age of 12.\textsuperscript{2739} Despite this legislation, in practice, education is not without cost. Expenditure on education constitutes 13.1 percent of the family budget, the third largest expense after food and transportation.\textsuperscript{2740} Lebanon has a unique education system made up of government and private institutions, to which the government pays partial fees. Primary school is considered free in official state schools or state-funded private institutions. However, in these “free” schools students are responsible for registration and other fees.\textsuperscript{2741} In addition, public schools reportedly lack proper facilities, equipment, and trained teachers, and the curricula do not adequately correspond to the demands of the labor market.\textsuperscript{2742} The leading reasons for families not being able to provide their children with an education include: uneven geographic distribution of the public schools; the lack of availability of public transportation in all areas; and the direct and indirect costs of education.\textsuperscript{2743} Most notably, refugee families are often not able to afford school tuition, and instead take their children out of school and send them to work.\textsuperscript{2744}

The 1998 Law (No. 686) that called for the provision of compulsory free education to all Lebanese children ages 6 to 12 years also called for the gradual extension of this right to all children up to age 15 (the minimum age for admission to employment). However, the

\textsuperscript{2739} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Lebanon}, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{2741} ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."
\textsuperscript{2743} Partners for Development- Civil Group, \textit{Gender, Education and Child Labour in Lebanon}, 38.
government has yet to issue the legal steps to enforce this law across the country. Moreover, no ministerial decree has been issued in conjunction with the law to officially extend the age beyond 12 years.\textsuperscript{2745}

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 103 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent.\textsuperscript{2746} 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. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Lebanon.\textsuperscript{2747} While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children’s participation in school.\textsuperscript{2748} Although the majority of the children working in tobacco cultivation enroll in elementary school, work-related absenteeism negatively affects these children’s education and contributes to high dropout rates, preventing many from reaching the secondary level.\textsuperscript{2749} As of 2001, 92 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2750}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code of 1996 sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years.\textsuperscript{2751} Children working in domestic service, family businesses, and agriculture are not covered by the child labor provisions. Children ages 14 to 17 may be employed under special conditions relating to matters such as working hours and conditions, and type of work. A 1999 amendment to the Labor Code forbids the employment of children under the age of 18 for more than 6 hours per day. The amendment also requires a 13-hour period of rest between workdays. In addition, youths under the age of 18 must be given an hour break after a 4-hour period of labor. An employer may not employ these youths between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Adolescents ages 14 to 18 must pass a medical examination to ensure that they can undertake the work for which they are to be engaged, and the prospective employer must request the child’s identity card to verify his or her age.\textsuperscript{2752} In addition, it is illegal to employ a child under the age of 17 in industrial

\textsuperscript{2745} See Partners for Development- Civil Group, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Lebanon*, 2, 24, 38, 60. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."

\textsuperscript{2746} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{2747} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section for more information about sources used.

\textsuperscript{2748} For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.

\textsuperscript{2749} ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment*, viii.


\textsuperscript{2752} Loi no. 91, Modifiant les dispositions des articles 23 et 25 du Code du travail, (June 14, 1999); available from http://natlex.ilo.org/scripts/natlexcgi.exe?lang=E. See also Code du Travail. Despite these protections, by virtue of Section 1 of the Labor Code, the scope of application of these regulations is limited to persons who work in an industrial, commercial or agricultural undertaking for a wage or for
enterprises that are harmful or detrimental to their health, or to hire youth below the age of 16 to work in dangerous environments that threaten their life, health or morals. These types of work include work in underground mines and quarries, manufacturing or sale of alcohol, exposure to or production of chemicals or explosives, demolition work, work in tanneries or with machinery, street vending, begging, domestic service, and pornography, among others.2753 Sections 107 and 108 of the Labor Code provide for a fine of 100 to 1,000 Lebanese pounds (USD 0.06 to 0.67) and 30 days’ to 3 months of imprisonment for anyone who infringes the provisions of the Labor Code, which include the prohibitions relating to child labor.2754

There are a number of statutes under which the worst forms of child labor can be prosecuted in Lebanon. There are no laws specifically prohibiting trafficking or forced labor; however, other laws are used to address such offenses. These include article 569 of the Penal Code, which prohibits deprivation of personal freedom and article 11 of the labor code, which limits the scope of work agreements.2755 Moreover, abduction of a person under the age of 18 for purposes of exploitation is prohibited and punishable by up to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine.2756 Prostitution is illegal in Lebanon; however, prostitution does occur with the implicit consent of the government.2757 The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the armed forces is 18 years of age and there are no indications of children in government armed forces.2758 Since 1999, the Government of Lebanon has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.2759

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws, but the Ministry does not apply these laws rigorously, and discrepancies in various legislative measures provide loopholes that facilitate child labor in certain circumstances.2760 The MOL has a Labor Inspection Team composed of 97 labor inspectors nationwide, but the Child Labor Unit has a shortage of personnel and inadequate resources, which limit the unit’s

another kind of remuneration. See ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."

2753 Decree No. 700, Prohibiting Employment of Young Persons under the Age of 16 or 17 in Occupations that are Hazardous by Nature or which Endanger Life, Health or Morals, (June 3), Articles 1-3; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/SERIAL/71934/72963/F1415871086/LBN71934.pdf. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments."

2754 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments". For currency conversions, See FXConverter, in Oanda.com, [online] [cited December 9, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.


2756 ECPAT International, Lebanon, Protection.

2757 U.S. Embassy - Beirut, reporting, March 1, 2005.

2758 Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2004, Lebanon.

2759 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

ability to investigate conditions in small or informal establishments.\textsuperscript{2761} Unlike previous years, the government provided no training this year for officials charged with enforcing child labor laws.\textsuperscript{2762} In August 2005, the Secretary General of the Higher Council for Childhood stated that officials dealing with the issue of child labor face three main problems: lack of coordination between the appropriate ministries; little capacity building for NGOs who offer education/vocational training to working children; and the absence of a problem-solving approach that addresses prevention, rather than detection of the problem.\textsuperscript{2763}

\textbf{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

The Child Labor Unit of the MOL, with strong support from the National Steering Committee, has been responsible for the development of a National Policy and Program Framework (NPPF) to eliminate child labor. The NPPF outlines effective strategies to eliminate child labor in priority sectors in Lebanon within an established timeframe, using common measures of progress and a plan for coordination among all actors.\textsuperscript{2764} The MOL launched the NPPF strategy to combat child labor in cooperation with ILO-IPEC and the National Council for Children in February 2005,\textsuperscript{2765} and MOL forwarded the framework to the Cabinet to endorse it as an official document.\textsuperscript{2766} In 2005, the Higher Council for Childhood, administered through the Ministry of Social Affairs, organized five regional workshops with NGOs to address obstacles that hinder the application of the law on compulsory education. The Council also participated in a regional project implemented by Catholic Relief Services and CARITAS-Lebanon to raise awareness of working children and their parents on the risks surrounding child labor.\textsuperscript{2767}

The government is continuing efforts to counter trafficking in persons, including producing and distributing pamphlets on trafficking to inform victims about various sources of assistance. The government is also improving its cooperation with NGOs, immigration authorities, and source country embassies in victim protection and repatriation.\textsuperscript{2768} With support from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Ministry of Justice is implementing a 2-year project, which aims to prevent and combat trafficking in

\textsuperscript{2761} U.S. Embassy- Beirut, \textit{reporting}, August 31, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2762} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2763} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{2764} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Consolidating Action against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, project document}, 8.
\textsuperscript{2765} CHF International, \textit{Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Educational and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa Region (ACCESS-MENA)}, technical progress report, Beirut, March 2005, 8.
\textsuperscript{2766} U.S. Embassy- Beirut, \textit{reporting}, August 31, 2005.
\textsuperscript{2767} The awareness raising campaigns were held in the regions of Sin el Fil and Burj Hammud (East Beirut), Sidon (South Lebanon) and Tripoli/Bab el Tebbaneh (North Lebanon). Ibid.
human beings in Lebanon by strengthening criminal justice mechanisms and harmonizing legislation with international conventions and norms.\textsuperscript{2769}

The Government of Lebanon is continuing to participate in two child labor projects funded by USDOL. The first is a USD 1.5 million ILO-IPEC project to support the MOL and its implementation of the NPPF to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{2770} CHF International and its Lebanese partner Rene Moawad Foundation are implementing a USDOL-funded USD 8 million sub-regional project to combat child labor through education in Lebanon and Yemen, with substantial involvement by the Ministries of Education and Labor.\textsuperscript{2771} In July 2005, in collaboration with the ILO and various NGOs that assist working children, the MOL convened a forum to highlight the educational and health rights of working children, which received wide coverage in the media.\textsuperscript{2772}

The World Bank is continuing to support a USD 56.6 million project to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport. This 5-year program, which aims to benefit 20,000 primary and secondary students through school construction and 130,000 secondary students through the introduction of new technology and in-service teacher training, will continue through 2007.\textsuperscript{2773}


\textsuperscript{2770} Through its ongoing collaboration with MOL, ILO-IPEC will implement direction action programs in the poverty belts of Beirut (north-eastern and southern suburbs); South Lebanon (Muhaifazat el-Nabbatiye and Saida); and North Lebanon (the cities of Tripoli and Akkar and the Beqaa area). These programs are aimed at the prevention, rehabilitation, and withdrawal of children from the worst forms of child labor. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Consolidating Action against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, project document}, 27-28. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, \textit{reporting}, August 31, 2005. Among the activities already underway in the ILO-IPEC program are a survey to identify the hazardous industries involving child labor in Lebanon and focus groups with working children, ages 14 to 18, to identify the negative consequences of child labor. See U.S. Embassy- Beirut, \textit{reporting}, March 1, 2005.

\textsuperscript{2771} The project aims to provide education, skills training, and entrepreneurial opportunities to 4,500 working and at-risk children in seasonal agriculture in Akkar, industrial labor and domestic work in Bab el-Tebbaneh, urban work in Beirut, and tobacco cultivation in southern Lebanon. See CHF International, \textit{March 2005, technical progress report}. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, \textit{reporting}, August 31, 2005.

\textsuperscript{2772} U.S. Embassy- Beirut, \textit{reporting}, August 31, 2005.

Lesotho

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 28.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Lesotho in 2000. Approximately 31.3 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 25 percent of girls in the same age group.\textsuperscript{2774} Available information on the occupations in which they work is anecdotal, but suggests that jobs performed by children tend to be gender specific. Boys as young as 4 are employed as livestock herders in the highlands, either for their family or through an arrangement where they are hired out by their parents. Boys also work as load bearers, car washers, and taxi fare collectors. Girls are employed as domestic servants. Some teenage children, primarily girls, are involved in prostitution. UNICEF and the Government of Lesotho (GOL) believe that the number of individuals under the age of 18 who are involved in prostitution is small, but increasing.\textsuperscript{2775} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. A severe HIV/AIDS epidemic in Lesotho has left many children orphaned and vulnerable, and has led to an increase in poverty among children. The number of children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS is placed conservatively at 18,000.\textsuperscript{2776} In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, 36.4 percent of the population in Lesotho were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2777}

The Constitution of Lesotho, which went into force in 1993, states that Lesotho “shall endeavour to make education available to all.”\textsuperscript{2778} In 2005, the first 6 of 7 years of primary education were free.\textsuperscript{2779} Education is compulsory for children between the ages

\textsuperscript{2774} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


\textsuperscript{2776} U.S. Embassy- Maseru official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.

\textsuperscript{2777} World Bank, World Development Indicators 2005 [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.


of 6 and 13. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 126 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 86 percent. 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. In 2000, 80.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2002, 78 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Many children in rural areas do not receive full primary education due to their participation in subsistence activities, their inability to pay school-related fees such as for uniforms and materials, and the relatively small number of schools. Many boys’ attendance in primary school is low because their participation in livestock herding involves long hours in remote locations.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Constitution of Lesotho identifies the “protection of children and young persons” as a principle of state policy. The Labor Code of 1992 establishes the minimum age for employment at 15, although children between 13 and 15 may perform light work in a home-based environment, technical school, or other institution approved by the government. Also exempt from the minimum age is work performed by a child of any age in a private undertaking of their own family, so long as there are no more than 5 other employees, and each is a member of the child’s family. Although there is no specific listing of work that is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of children, the Labor Code in general prohibits employment of children in work that is harmful to their health or development. It sets restrictions on night work by children, and also restricts work by children in mines and quarries. Persons under the age of 16 may not work for more than 4 consecutive hours without a break of at least one hour, and may not work...
more than 8 hours in any one day. Each employer is required to keep a register of all its employees, including those under the age of 18.\textsuperscript{2789} Unconditional worst forms of child labor are not separately prohibited but some instances of the WFCL can be prosecuted under a variety of laws. The Constitution of Lesotho identifies freedom from forced labor and slavery as a fundamental right available to all people.\textsuperscript{2790} The Labor Code further defines forced labor and makes it illegal.\textsuperscript{2791} By the Defense Act of 1996, there is no compulsory military service, and the minimum age for voluntary enrollment is 18. Proclamation No. 14 of 1949 makes it illegal to procure or attempt to procure a woman or a girl to become a prostitute within Lesotho, or to leave Lesotho so that she may be a prostitute elsewhere. Proclamation No. 9 of 1912 addresses “Obscene Publications,” and makes it illegal to import, manufacture, sell, distribute, or otherwise make public any indecent or obscene publication. Proclamation 35 of 1922 covers “Opium and Habit Forming Drugs,” and makes illegal the manufacture, sale, procurement, barter, gifting, administration, import or export of opium or other habit-forming drugs.\textsuperscript{2792} There are no laws prohibiting trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{2793}

Penalties for the violation of the above-mentioned laws may include fines, prison time, or both. The Labor Code dictates a fine of 300 Maloti (approximately USD 45), imprisonment of up to 3 months, or both, for any employer who employs an underage child; or, for an employer who fails to keep a register of all employees who are children and young persons (under age 18). An identical set of penalties may be levied on parents or guardians who permit their child to be employed in violation of the Labor Code. The Labor Code also dictates a fine of 600 Maloti (approximately USD 90), imprisonment of up to 6 months, or both, for persons who employ a child or young person in violation of restrictions related to dangerous work, required rest periods, parental rights to refuse work for their children, and children’s rights to return each night to the home of their parents or guardians. The use of forced labor—adult or child—may bring a penalty of 2000 Maloti (approximately USD 300) or up to 1 year in prison.\textsuperscript{2794} Prison time is governed by the following maximum penalties: up to 6 years for procuring a girl or woman for prostitution; up to 2 years for the production and distribution of obscene materials; and, up to 3 years for the production, trade, or trafficking of opium and habit-forming drugs.\textsuperscript{2795}

\textsuperscript{2789} \textit{Labour Code Order}, Sections 125-128.
\textsuperscript{2790} \textit{The Constitution of Lesotho}, Chapter 2, Section 9. Conscripted labor by convicts, prisoners, members of the military, under certain emergency circumstances, and for “reasonable and normal” community service is not defined as forced labor.
\textsuperscript{2791} \textit{Labour Code Order}, Sections 3 and 7.
\textsuperscript{2792} CEACR, \textit{Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); Direct request, CEACR 2004/75th Session}. The CEACR has noted that Proclamation No. 14 does not cover boys.
\textsuperscript{2793} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Lesotho}, Section 5. See also \textit{The Constitution of Lesotho}.
\textsuperscript{2794} \textit{Labour Code Order}, Sections 3, 7, 124-129. U.S. currency equivalents approximated based on CEACR, \textit{Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); Direct request, CEACR 2004/75th Session}.
\textsuperscript{2795} CEACR, \textit{Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); Direct request, CEACR 2004/75th Session}.
The Labor Code indicates that a Labor Commissioner should be appointed to administer the code, and provides broad powers for the Commissioner and subordinates to perform workplace inspections. The Ministry of Employment and Labor has 24 trained inspectors who are responsible for uncovering all violations of the Labor Code, not only those related to child labor. Each quarter a random sample of employers is inspected. In checking for child labor violations, inspectors are trained to identify by sight workers they believe to be children, verify their documentation and work activities against the employer’s register of children and young people, and assess the permissibility of activities of individuals confirmed to be children against the Labor Code. Employers identified by inspection as problematic are revisited. The CEACR has noted that little information is forthcoming from the GOL on the effectiveness of its enforcement efforts, and that general concerns have been raised by others to suggest that the provisions of the Labor Code related to children may not be adequately enforced. Little information exists on the enforcement of laws related to the unconditional worst forms of child labor. The CEACR has asked the Government “to provide information on the practical application of the penalties laid down in the relevant provisions.”

In 2002, the Government of Lesotho, in cooperation with UNICEF, created the Gender and Child Protection Unit (GCPu) which serves as the nation’s lead child protection law enforcement agency. The GCPu became fully functional in 2004. While it is typically involved with domestic and child abuse issues, the GCPu also has the mandate to confront child labor issues.

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

Lesotho’s Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) has prepared a draft child labor action plan that is currently under government review. It is scheduled for finalization in 2006.

Child labor in herding has been the focus of much recent attention. In 2005, with funding assistance from USDOL, ILO-IPEC worked with Lesotho’s Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) to complete a case study of the situation of herd

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2796 Ibid.
2798 CEACR, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); Direct request, CEACR 2004/75th Session.
2799 U.S. Embassy- Maseru official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
2801 American Institutes for Research official, email communication to USDOL official, December 14, 2005.
The Ministry of Gender Youth Sports and Recreation is formulating an action plan to reach 8,000 herd boys in 10 districts. Herd boys are major beneficiaries of literacy courses and non-formal education efforts coordinated by the Ministry of Education.

USDOL-funded projects are also concerned with other forms of child labor in Lesotho. The ILO-IPEC/MOEL project is a multi-year project carrying out a number of activities related to child labor. In 2005, the MOEL finalized a report based on a nationally representative statistical survey of households. It also finalized case studies of commercial sexual exploitation of children, child domestics, and street children. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) was awarded a USD 9 million grant by USDOL in August 2004 to implement a multi-year regional Child Labor Education Initiative project in Southern Africa, and is working with stakeholders in Lesotho on activities there. In 2005, an AIR-supported consortium of NGOs completed a baseline study on alternative education delivery systems to increase working children’s access to education.

The Government of Lesotho has also partnered with UNICEF and other organizations to address child labor-related issues. Press reports indicate that in March 2005, the government released two studies, one on child domestic workers and the other dealing with youth sexuality issues, including prostitution. The studies were commissioned jointly by Lesotho’s Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation, and UNICEF. In 2005, the Government of Lesotho completed a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) that is meant primarily to guide poverty-reduction programs sponsored by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but may also provide guidance to other efforts. The PRSP contains a brief section on the relationship between adult unemployment and child labor.

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2805 U.S. Embassy - Maseru, reporting. Non-formal education is education that takes place out of the context of the normal schooling system, e.g., away from formal schools or outside of normal schooling hours.
generally, a joint assessment by staff of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund identified the attention paid to children as a major strength of the PRSP.\textsuperscript{2810}

In 2005, the government extended implementation of a free primary education policy to cover an additional year of schooling.\textsuperscript{2811} The government is operating an Education Sector Strategic Plan. It incorporates the free education policy and aims to increase access to education at all levels, reform curriculum, ensure the provision of teaching and learning materials, and invest in teacher training and professional development.\textsuperscript{2812} The Ministry of Education has also introduced a textbook loan program which dramatically reduces a portion of educational costs traditionally passed on to students. Two other programs have helped vulnerable children defray the costs of secondary education: His Majesty’s Scholarship Program for Vulnerable Children, and the U.S. Embassy’s Ambassador’s Girls Scholarship Program.\textsuperscript{2813}


\textsuperscript{2813} U.S. Embassy- Maseru official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
Macedonia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Macedonia are unavailable. Children work in the informal sector, on family farms (though usually not during school hours) and in illegal small businesses. They also beg on the streets and sell cigarettes and other small items in markets, on the streets, and in bars or restaurants, including at night. It is believed that these children are predominantly of the minority Roma ethnic group. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2003, the most recent year for which data are available, less than 2.0 percent of the population in Macedonia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Macedonia is primarily a transit and destination country for trafficking. Girls are involved in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficked for the purposes of forced prostitution, particularly in tourist areas. Children trafficked to Macedonia for commercial sexual exploitation come from the former Soviet Union and Eastern and Southeastern Europe, particularly Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Romania. Macedonia is also a country of origin for small numbers of trafficked persons. The government provides no official data on internal trafficking due to a reluctance to

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 182  5/30/2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector Action Plan (Trafficking)</td>
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2814 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.


2816 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Macedonia, Section 6d.

2817 U.S. Embassy- Skopje, reporting. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Macedonia, Section 5.


acknowledge that the problem exists; however, reports of its occurrence have increased and suggest that Roma children are particularly vulnerable. The Constitution mandates free and compulsory primary education and all children are guaranteed equal access, although students pay for books and other materials. Education is mandatory through grade 8 or through the age of 16. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 97 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent. 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 Macedonia. School attendance and completion rates appear to be lower among ethnic minorities such as the Albanian and Roma communities.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution and the Labor Relations Act set the minimum age for employment at 15. The Constitution prohibits the employment of minors in work that is “detrimental to their health or morality.” The Labor Relations Act further prohibits children under the age of 18 from performing underground work in mines, working overtime, working at night between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., or performing work that involves “strenuous physical labor, underground or underwater work or other jobs, which may be harmful or threatening to their health and life.” The law allows children 14 years of age to work if it is part of an official education program such as an apprenticeship or vocational training program. Employers who illegally employ minors face a potential fine of 50

2827 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.
2831 U.S. Embassy- Skopje, reporting.
to 100 times the national average monthly salary. The Defense Law prohibits individuals under the age of 18 from serving in the armed forces.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Macedonia. The Criminal Code prohibits child trafficking and punishes those convicted of such an offence with at least 8 years in prison. Individuals who knowingly engage in sexual relations with a trafficked child are also subject to 8 years in prison. The Constitution prohibits forced labor. The Criminal Code prohibits the procurement of juveniles for sexual acts.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is responsible for enforcing laws regulating the employment of children, and is also responsible for providing services to children who are victims of child labor through the Centers for Social Care. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare inspectors are responsible for investigating child labor violations. The Government also established an Ombudsman’s Office responsible for protecting citizens from violations of their constitutional and legal rights by administrative and other government bodies, which includes a Department for Protection of Children’s Rights. The Ombudsman’s office has not received a child labor related case since its establishment.

While a legal framework is in place, there has been little practical implementation of child labor laws and policies. As of August, the government had not levied any penalties for child labor violations in 2005.

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

The Government of Macedonia is developing a National Action Plan of Child Rights, which will include victims of the worst of forms of child labor as a target group, and a National Plan of Action for the Fight against Trafficking of Children. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for developing the plan of action against child trafficking and established a group to combat this particular problem. In cooperation with the

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2832 Ibid.
2838 U.S. Embassy- Skopje, reporting.
2840 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
2842 U.S. Embassy- Skopje, reporting.
2843 Ibid.
government, UNICEF is developing public awareness raising campaigns on street children and child trafficking.\textsuperscript{2845}

The Government of Macedonia is also implementing a number of programs aimed at improving the general welfare and education of children. The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, through the National Centers for Social Care, runs a center for street children in Skopje. The center is government funded, and has also received support from UNICEF and local private companies. Since it opened in December 2004, 286 children between the ages of 4 and 14 have received assistance from the center. Approximately 85 percent of the children are from the Roma community. This center serves approximately 60 children daily and is staffed by social workers, psychologists, and teachers.\textsuperscript{2846} The government also operates the “Project for Children on the Streets,” which organized shelters for abandoned children and is intended to prevent children from working.\textsuperscript{2847} The government also runs a transition center for women and children involved in prostitution, and a center for women and children who are victims of family violence\textsuperscript{2848}

Programs to improve children’s education include a USD 3.2 million USAID project to improve teaching methods and curriculum, a USD 10 million USAID project to provide information technology access and training to all primary and secondary schools, and a USD 3 million program funded by a number of international organizations to improve school attendance and performance of Roma children.\textsuperscript{2849} The World Bank is funding the Community Development Project, which includes a component to rehabilitate school heating systems and provide school furniture.\textsuperscript{2850} It also funded the $5 million Education Modernization project to strengthen school-level planning and management and build the capacity of central and local governments to operate a decentralized education system.\textsuperscript{2851} In addition, the OSCE is training public school teachers on how to educate students about children’s human rights.\textsuperscript{2852}

\textsuperscript{2845} U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2846} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Macedonia}, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2847} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Macedonia}, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{2848} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Macedonia}, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
\textsuperscript{2849} U.S. Embassy- Skopje, \textit{reporting}. See also U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.
Madagascar

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 24.3 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were counted as working in Madagascar in 2001. Approximately 24.8 percent of all boys 6 to 14 were working compared to 23.7 percent of girls in the same age group.\textsuperscript{2853} Children work in agriculture, commercial fishing, domestic service, salt production, gemstone mining, and stone quarries.\textsuperscript{2854} They also work as porters, cattle herders, and welders.\textsuperscript{2855} Children can also be found working in bars and night clubs.\textsuperscript{2856} Commercial sexual exploitation is a problem in most of Madagascar’s urban areas and child sex tourism is most common in small coastal towns and villages.\textsuperscript{2857} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 61 percent of the population in Madagascar were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2858}

Children from Madagascar are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation and possibly forced labor. Children in Antananarivo are trafficked to coastal cities for commercial sexual exploitation under false pretenses of legitimate job prospects, such as domestic service.\textsuperscript{2859}

\begin{table}[h]
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Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments & \\
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Ratified Convention 138 & 5/31/2000 & U \\
Ratified Convention 182 & 10/4/2001 & U \\
ILO-IPEC Member & & U \\
National Plan for Children & & \\
National Child Labor Action Plan & U & \\
Sector Action Plan & & \\
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\textsuperscript{2853} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}, October 7, 2005. 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.


\textsuperscript{2855} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Madagascar}, 7, 5, 8.

\textsuperscript{2856} Ibid., 5-6.

\textsuperscript{2857} Ibid., 6. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Madagascar}, Section 5.


The Constitution guarantees children the right to a free education, but parents must pay for furniture and teachers’ salaries. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 120 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 79 percent. 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. In 2001, 65.6 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 53 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five. Student repetition and dropout rates are high, at 24.5 percent and 7.4 percent respectively. A government policy requiring all children to have a birth certificate prior to enrolling in school has limited school attendance in Madagascar. The education system is further hindered by a lack of materials and equipment in schools; unmotivated teachers; uneven class and school sizes; poorly developed vocational and technical training programs; few non-formal education programs for dropouts; and parents’ lack of confidence in the education system.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Government of Madagascar reformed its Labor Code in 2005, increasing the minimum age for employment to 15 years from 14 years. In addition, the newly-reformed Labor Code strengthened the penalties for child labor violations. All violations of the Labor Code will now result in 1 to 3 years’ imprisonment and a fine of 1 to 3 million Ariary (USD 470 to 1409). The Labor Code also prohibits children from engaging in work that is harmful to their health and normal development. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from performing work at night, on Sundays, or in

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2862 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

2863 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


2865 ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Madagascar*, 3.


excess of 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week.\textsuperscript{2872} A labor inspector can request a medical examination to ensure that children’s work does not exceed their capacity.\textsuperscript{2873}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Madagascar. Forced or bonded labor by children is prohibited under the Labor Code.\textsuperscript{2874} The Penal Code prohibits engaging in sexual activities of any type with children under the age of 14, and the production and dissemination of pornographic materials showing minors is illegal.\textsuperscript{2875} The Penal Code also bars children under the age of 18 years from entering discotheques and nightclubs. While there is no law that prohibits trafficking in persons, the government is currently working to overhaul its trafficking-related laws.\textsuperscript{2876} Malagasy law does not allow children under 18 years to be recruited for service in armed conflicts.\textsuperscript{2877} Since 1999, the Government of Madagascar has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{2878} The Government of Madagascar considers domestic service, stone quarry work, gemstone mining, hazardous and unhealthy work in the rural and urban informal sectors, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children to be worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{2879}

The Ministry of Civil Service, Social Laws, and Labor enforces child labor laws through inspections.\textsuperscript{2880} At the end of 2005, there were 74 labor inspectors in Madagascar.\textsuperscript{2881} Labor inspectors are not responsible for enforcing laws in rural areas or the informal sector, where most children work, and they lack the resources to enforce labor laws properly.\textsuperscript{2882} According to the U.S. Department of State, enforcement of child labor laws in Madagascar’s informal sector was inadequate.\textsuperscript{2883}

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

The Government of Madagascar began implementing the first phase of its 15-year National Action Plan on Child Labor in the second half of 2004. The government is also implementing an ILO-IPEC Timebound Program, funded by USDOL, which aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and provide education and other services to

\textsuperscript{2872} Labor Code, Chapter III, Articles 101 and 95.  
\textsuperscript{2873} Ibid., Chapter III, Article 101.  
\textsuperscript{2874} Ibid., Title I, Article III.  See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Madagascar*, Section 6c.  
\textsuperscript{2876} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2005*.  
\textsuperscript{2878} ILO- IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.  
\textsuperscript{2879} ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Madagascar*, 5.  
\textsuperscript{2881} U.S. Embassy Antananarivo official, email communication to USDOL official, August 10, 2006.  
\textsuperscript{2882} ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Madagascar*, 10.  
\textsuperscript{2883} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Madagascar*, Section 6d.
vulnerable children. The Timebound Program focuses on eliminating exploitative child labor in domestic service, stone quarry work, gemstone mining, child prostitution, and hazardous and unhealthy work in the rural and urban informal sectors. The Government of Madagascar continued to participate in two French-funded ILO-IPEC projects to combat child labor in Francophone African countries. In addition, UNICEF, the National Council for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, and Groupe Développement have worked with the government to raise awareness about commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and have expressed interest in collaborating with the government to implement National Plan of Action activities to eliminate CSEC in Madagascar.

The Committee on the National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labor undertook numerous efforts in 2005. The Committee conducted a series of child labor workshops and met to refine its child labor strategy for 2005-2008. The Committee has also been implementing systems at the regional and provincial levels to track the incidence of child labor in Madagascar. The government also continues its efforts to construct Welcome Centers for children involved in the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor and trafficking. The Ministry of Labor has provided education or professional training to over 70 children through its Welcome Centers. The government is active in raising public awareness about trafficking, prostitution, and child labor through skits, radio programs, films, and children’s drawing, poetry, and essay contests. The Ministry of Labor collaborated with ILO-IPEC to launch an awareness-raising campaign in June 2005 that included televised public service announcements by high-level government officials.

The Government of Madagascar is making significant efforts to reduce the sexual exploitation of children by increasing its enforcement of laws that bar children from nightclubs. The government collaborated with UNICEF in training 180 police officers on how to identify, investigate, and prosecute trafficking cases, and also sponsored a workshop on sex tourism that was widely attended. In 2005, the government

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2884 ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Madagascar*, 11.
2885 In the rural informal sector, children working on sisal plantations and in fishing will be targeted for services. Ibid., 43. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Madagascar*, Section 6d.
2886 One project was funded at USD 1.4 million and ended in June 2005, while the other was funded at USD 1.6 million and is slated to end in December 2006. Both projects include the following countries: Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Morocco, Niger, and Senegal. ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.
2888 These systems were operational as of August 2005 in the cities of Antananarivo, Nosy Be, Tamatave, and Diego Suarez. U.S. Embassy- Antananarivo, reporting, August 23, 2005.
2889 Two Welcome Centers are currently operational, and a third is being constructed. Ibid.
2892 The police unit responsible for enforcing these laws is the Minors’ Brigade. The Minors’ Brigade in Antananarivo recently performed three raids of nightclubs, discovering a total of 53 children under age 18. Three new Minors’ Brigades have been established in the provinces as well. U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2005*.
named “combating trafficking in persons” as one of its strategic goals that it published in the country’s major newspapers.  

The government distributes school supplies to primary school children as part of the Education for All program.  A World Bank-funded project working to universalize quality primary education, improve the capacity of the education ministry at local levels, and improve access to quality student and teacher learning materials in primary schools was completed in 2005. The Government of Madagascar is currently receiving support from the Education for All Fast Track Initiative to achieve its goal of implementing universal quality primary education. In 2005, the World Bank approved a USD 80 million credit for Madagascar to implement its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, which includes continued support for Education for All activities. The credit will continue support for policy measures to increase both quality and access to primary education, including material support to all primary students and the elimination of school fees. The WFP is collaborating with the government to improve access to basic education for children, especially girls, through its Madagascar food program. UNICEF is working to help the government adopt a new “competency-based learning approach,” which will encourage girls to attend and participate in schools, and provide outreach services to children who are out of school. The Government of Madagascar, in collaboration with UNICEF, continued to implement a program to issue birth certificates to all Malagasy children, which is expected to increase school enrollment.

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2893 Ibid.
2900 This three-year campaign was launched in 2004. Children are not able to attend school in Madagascar without a birth certificate, and currently there is no uniform system for registering births in the country. U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Madagascar, Section 5. However, in some instances, children are allowed to attend school without a birth certificate, but are required to have a birth certificate in order to take the exam at the end of primary school. U.S. Embassy-Antananarivo official, email communication to USDOL official, August 10, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC, Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Madagascar, 3-4.
Malawi

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 8.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in Malawi in 2000. Approximately 7.7 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 10 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work on tobacco and tea farms, on subsistence farms, and as domestic servants and vendors. Girls working as domestic servants in urban areas often receive little or no pay. To a lesser extent, children also work in other informal sector jobs, such as welding, furniture making, bicycle repair, carpentry, and brick making. Children in the agricultural sector often work alongside their parents in fields where their parents work as tenant farmers. Situations of bonded labor have been reported among tobacco tenants and their families, including children. Reports indicate an increased number of children perform agricultural work to earn money for food or to support their families. Along the border with Tanzania, young girls have reportedly been traded or sold to tribal chiefs and taken to other villages. Over the past few years, the practice of poor families exchanging daughters

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2901 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report entitled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


2904 U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, reporting, October 2, 2001. An ILO-IPEC study demonstrated that in a survey of 74 children in four districts, 94 percent of children working in agriculture in the sample study were under 14 years old, 87 percent missed school as a result of work, and 51 percent were injured on the job during the previous 12 months. See ILO-IPEC, Malawi Child Labor Baseline Survey Report, February 12, 2003, 25, 26, 30.


2906 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Malawi, Section 6d.


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for cattle or money has reportedly re-emerged, though it is not widespread.\textsuperscript{2908} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1997, the most recent year for which data are available, 41.7 percent of the population in Malawi were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{2909} Malawi is a source country for children trafficked internally and to South Africa for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked within the country for exploitation in forced agricultural labor.\textsuperscript{2910} There are unconfirmed reports of small numbers of children trafficked internally to resort areas around Lake Malawi for exploitation in the sex tourism industry.\textsuperscript{2911} Child prostitutes are reported to be found outside nightclubs and hotels in urban areas.\textsuperscript{2912} The HIV/AIDS pandemic has increased the incidence of sexual exploitation of minors, who are perceived by their exploiters to be healthier.\textsuperscript{2913}

Primary education is free and guaranteed by the Constitution for at least 5 years, although it is not compulsory.\textsuperscript{2914} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 140 percent.\textsuperscript{2915} Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2000, 72.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{2916} As of 2001, 44 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{2917} Educational costs such as stationery and school clothes, opportunity costs of sending a child to school, family illnesses, and lack of interest in education are lowering school

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{2908} U.S. Department of State,  \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Malawi}, Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe official, email communication to USDOL official, May 20, 2005.  
\textsuperscript{2909} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.  
\textsuperscript{2912} ECPAT International, \textit{Malawi}.  
\textsuperscript{2915} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rates in the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.  
\textsuperscript{2916} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}.  
attendance. HIV/AIDS is exacerbating dropout rates, particularly for girls who are expected to take on increased domestic roles following the death of a parent. The sexual abuse of female students by teachers and older male students has also had a negative impact on girls’ attendance. Insufficient finances, lack of teachers and teaching materials, poor sanitation, poor teaching methods, and inadequate classrooms have contributed to the inconsistent quality of education.

**Child Labor Law and Enforcement**

The Employment Act of 2000 sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years. Exceptions are made for work done under certain conditions in vocational technical schools, other training institutions, and in homes. The Act prohibits children between the ages of 14 and 18 from performing hazardous work or work that interferes with their attendance at school or any vocational or training program. The Constitution of Malawi protects children under 16 against economic exploitation as well as any treatment, work, or punishment that is hazardous, interferes with their education, or is harmful to their health or physical, mental, or spiritual and social development. The government published a national code of conduct regarding child labor. The code will be disseminated to all farmers found guilty of violating the code. Employers are required to keep a register of all employees under the age of 18 years. Violation of the law can result in a fine of Malawi Kwacha (MK) 20,000 (USD 168.74) and 5 years of imprisonment.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Malawi. Both the Constitution and the Employment Act prohibit forced and compulsory labor. Violators are liable for penalties of MK 10,000 (USD 84.37) and 2 years of imprisonment under the Employment Act. Trafficking in persons is not specifically prohibited by law, but the Penal Code contains several provisions that may be used to prosecute human

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2922 Ibid., Part IV-Employment of Young Persons, 22.


2926 Constitution of the Republic of Malawi, Chapter IV, Human Rights, 27. See also Employment Act, Part II-Fundamental Principles, 4. (1)-(2). For currency conversion see FX Converter.
Specifically, it prohibits the procuring of any girl under the age of 21 years for the purpose of unlawful sexual relations, either in Malawi or elsewhere. Abduction, procuring of a person for prostitution or work in a brothel, and involuntary detention for sexual purposes are also prohibited by the Penal Code. The government has also strengthened legal protections for students who are subject to exploitation and inappropriate relationships at school. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the military is 18 years, although those younger may enlist with parental consent.

Beginning in November 2004, inspectors from the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT) were given the authority to conduct investigations and press charges. According to the U.S. Department of State, enforcement of child labor laws by the police and labor inspectors is limited due to resource and capacity constraints, although there is some monitoring of rural child labor by MOLVT youth committees. Police and the Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare, and Community Services handle trafficking cases that are brought to the attention of the authorities. In August 2005, a Zambian trafficker was arrested and fined 24,000 Kwacha (USD 200) for attempting to smuggle 15 boys between 9 and 15 years across the border. In 2005, seven employers, mostly cattle farmers and tobacco growers, were prosecuted and convicted of employing children, paying fines between USD 60 and 100. Also in 2005, 14 children were rescued from situations of trafficking in persons and repatriated, in part due to the efforts of child protection workers in the rural areas.

The government implemented a Child Justice Act in 2004. The Act was developed in coordination with UNICEF, international donors, and NGOs, and is intended to provide access to the justice system for juveniles by establishing a court dedicated to children’s
The child labor elimination unit within MOLVT is working with UNICEF to register violations of child labor laws and build capacity on child labor issues.

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

The Government of Malawi participated in a regional ILO-IPEC program funded by USDOL to withdraw and rehabilitate children engaged in hazardous work in the commercial agriculture sector in East Africa, including in Malawi’s tobacco sector; the project ended in May 2005. Currently, the government is participating in a USD 2.1 million, USDOL-funded project to combat child labor in tobacco growing and domestic service. Also funded by USDOL, Winrock International is implementing a project to combat exploitative child labor through the provision of basic education.

The Government of Malawi, through its MOLVT, chairs a National Steering Committee on Child Labor, which has developed an action plan against child labor. The plan includes the drafting of a national policy against child labor and reviewing existing legislation, establishing child labor monitoring committees, and coordinating income generation activities. Through the plan, the government has published a code of conduct on child labor and trained 77 child labor youth activists to raise awareness in local communities. In 2005, the Ministry also conducted training courses for its 150 child labor inspectors and its community and district level labor committees. For the first time, in 2005/2006, the Government of Malawi earmarked USD 60,000 to support MOLVT child labor education activities and to purchase equipment for labor inspectors at the district level.

The Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare, and Community Services formulates policies on childcare and protection and relies on the Child Rights Unit and other partners to help
carry out those policies. In 2005, with funding from the Nordic Agency for Development, the Ministry trained 240 child protection workers from all regions of the country to work with vulnerable children, including street children.

In 2004, the government established an inter-ministerial anti-trafficking committee. The government has also undertaken various measures to raise public awareness of trafficking issues, including workshops for teachers and traditional authorities, meetings for rural families with young children, and radio jingles. The Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare, and Community Services has launched a National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children that aims to improve access to essential services, including education, health, water, sanitation, and birth registration. The Plan includes provisions for trafficking victim protection, awareness raising, and prevention. As part of the plan, approximately 200 child protection officers were trained to identify trafficking victims, and 37 Victim Support Units were established in collaboration with UNICEF. The units are responsible for providing protective and support services to exploited children, including trafficking victims. The government also works to rehabilitate and reintegrate children in prostitution by providing them with education and vocational training. The government has also provided immigration officers and police with basic counter-trafficking training.

The government is implementing a long-term education strategy called Vision 2020 that focuses on improving access, quality and equity in primary, secondary and tertiary education; strengthening the science, technical, vocational and commercial components of school curriculum; improving special education; and improving the education management plan. In May 2005, the World Bank began financing a 5-year project to support Malawi’s education sector. Among the project’s components are improving the

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2953 Ibid.

quality and capacity of teacher training, improving learning conditions at secondary schools, providing schools with basic learning materials, and strengthening community participation.\textsuperscript{2956}

Mali

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 21.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Mali in 2001. Approximately 27.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 15.6 percent of girls in the same age group.2957 The majority of children work in rural areas in the agricultural and domestic help sectors, and in the informal sector as street vendors, shoe shiners, and firewood cutters.2958 In some cases, children work as street beggars under a traditional Koranic educational system in which the children are forced into begging by their religious teachers as part of the learning process. Money received from begging on the streets is reportedly used to support the schools. It was also reported that children spent more time begging on the streets than they spent learning in classrooms.2959

Mali is a point of origin, as well as a transit and destination country, for trafficked children. Increased controls at the Cote d’Ivoire border altered trafficking routes and decreased trafficking in general to that country, while the flow of trafficked persons to other neighboring countries increased.2960 Children were trafficked internally to the central regions to work in rice fields. Boys in particular were trafficked to work in mines in the southeastern part of the country. Girls were typically trafficked to work as domestic servants in Bamako. Children were also trafficked between Mali and neighboring countries such as Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Guinea. Women and girls were trafficked from Nigeria for sexual exploitation.2961

Primary education is compulsory up to age 12; however, students must pay for their own uniforms and school supplies to attend public schools.2962 The Malian education system is marked by extremely low rates of enrollment, attendance, and completion, particularly

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2957 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


2960 Ibid.


among girls. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 58 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 44 percent.\textsuperscript{2963} 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. In 2001, 31.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{2964} As of 2001, 75 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\textsuperscript{2965} The quality of formal education services in Mali is poor due to inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained teachers, pedagogic materials, and use of curriculum that has little relevance for students’ lives.\textsuperscript{2966}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 187 of the Labor Code of 1992 sets the general minimum age for employment and apprenticeship at 14 years.\textsuperscript{2967} Article D 189-35 allows for some exceptions, stating that children ages 12 to 14 may be employed with the express authorization of their parents or guardians if they work in the same establishment and at their side. However, they may not be employed for more than 4.5 hours per day (2 hours a day if they are in school).\textsuperscript{2968} Children under 18 years are not allowed to engage in work that threatens their safety or morals, exceeds 8 hours per day, exceeds their physical capacity, or occurs at night.\textsuperscript{2969} The Labor Code establishes penalties for violations of the minimum age law, which range from a fine of 20,000 to 200,000 F (USD 36 to 360).\textsuperscript{2970}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Mali. The Labor Code prohibits forced or obligatory labor.\textsuperscript{2971} In 2001 Mali’s parliament approved a law making child trafficking punishable by 5 to 20 years of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{2972} The government also requires that Malian children under 18 years of age carry travel


\textsuperscript{2964} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005.


\textsuperscript{2966} USAID, USAID Mali Strategic Objectives: Basic Education, [online] [cited June 20, 2005]; available from http://mali.viky.net/usaid/cgi-bin/index.pl.


\textsuperscript{2969} Ibid., Articles D.189-14, D.189-15, and D.189-16.

\textsuperscript{2970} Code du Travail, Article 326. For currency conversion see FXConverter, [online] [cited December 12, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.

\textsuperscript{2971} Code du Travail, Article 6.

documents in an attempt to slow cross-border trafficking.\textsuperscript{2973} However, a recent study published by Save the Children and UNICEF concluded that the legislation is largely ineffective and may result in increased vulnerability of children due to corruption.\textsuperscript{2974} Article 183 of the Criminal Code establishes penalties for sexual exploitation and abuse.\textsuperscript{2975} The minimum age for military conscription into the National Youth Service is 18, and military service is reported to be voluntary in practice.\textsuperscript{2976}

Since 1999, the Government of the Republic of Mali has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{2977}

Inspectors from the Ministry of Labor and State Reforms conduct surprise and complaint-based inspections in the formal sector, but, according to the U.S. Department of State, lack of resources limit the frequency and effectiveness of the monitoring and enforcement of child labor laws.\textsuperscript{2978} ILO-IPEC is responsible for investigating cases of abusive labor reported by NGOs or the media. ILO-IPEC depends on government monitors to carry out these investigations.\textsuperscript{2979}

The government made significant progress in increasing public awareness and community involvement in the fight against trafficking. According to the U.S. Department of State, however, no reports confirm any action taken against those responsible for trafficking and no penalties for trafficking were imposed during the first half of 2005, the most recent date for which such information is available.\textsuperscript{2980}


\textsuperscript{2974} Sarah Castle and Aisse Diarra, The International Migration of Young Malians: Tradition, Necessity or Rite of Passage, Save the Children, UNICEF, Bamako, 2004, Executive Summary.


\textsuperscript{2977} ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005. The State Department reports that some of the worst forms of child labor identified include traditional gold mining and agricultural sector occupations; in the informal sector, some of the worst forms of child labor identified include girls working as domestics, in restaurants, or as cooks and children used for money-laundering schemes. See U.S. Embassy- Bamako, reporting, August 19, 2003.

\textsuperscript{2978} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Mali, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{2979} Ibid.

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

The government is one of ten countries participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative labor in West and Central Africa. The government is also participating in a USDOL-funded program to increase access to quality basic education to children at risk of trafficking in Mali.

Several Malian government ministries have collectively developed a program to identify and rehabilitate trafficking victims, raise public awareness about the problem, and strengthen the legal system as it applies to the trafficking of minors. The government signed new bilateral agreements with Senegal and Burkina Faso in 2004 to improve cross-border coordination, and facilitate repatriation efforts. As an element of this initiative, the government operates welcome centers in several cities to aid child trafficking victims to return to their families. In 2005, the Government of Mali was one of nine countries to sign a multilateral agreement to coordinate mechanisms for the prevention and protection of child trafficking and prosecution of traffickers.

The Government of Mali received a $45 million loan from the World Bank to support ongoing education sector improvements, including measures to improve the quality of schooling, increase access through the construction of new schools, and build the capacity of local government systems and personnel.

USAID Mali funded a radio-based soap opera in 2004-05 to combat child trafficking. The 144-episodes were broadcast over 118 FM radio stations throughout Mali, as well as 51 radio stations in Burkina Faso and 25 in Côte d’Ivoire. In Mali, a survey determined that 38 percent of the target audience in the coverage area listened regularly to the program.

Through a bilateral agreement with the Government of Mali signed in 2001, USAID is working with the Ministry of Education to improve the quality of learning by training

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2984 Government agencies working on this issue include the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family, the Ministry of Labor and Civil Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Territorial Administration. U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Mali*, Section 5.


teachers, improving the national curriculum, and increasing community and parent participation in schooling.\textsuperscript{2988} UNICEF is supporting an education for life initiative to promote access to quality education and provide life skills to children, particularly girls, who have dropped out or are not enrolled.\textsuperscript{2989}


Mauritania

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Mauritania are unavailable. In rural areas, children traditionally work with families in activities such as farming, herding, and fishing as a means of survival. Children perform a wide range of urban informal activities, such as street work and domestic work. They also work as cashiers, dishwashers in restaurants, car washers, and apprentices in garages. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 25.9 percent of the population in Mauritania were living on less than USD 1 a day.

The government indicated to the ILO Committee of Experts that excessive physical demands sometimes made on children negatively affect their health. In addition, some children living with marabouts, or Koranic teachers, are forced to beg, sometimes for over 12 hours a day. Mauritania is also a source and destination country for trafficking in children for forced labor purposes.

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2990 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report for information about sources used. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted that there is no reliable statistical data on the employment of children and the nature and number of contraventions in Mauritania. See Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, CEACR: Individual Observation concerning Convention No. 138, Minimum Age, 1973 Mauritania (ratification: 2001), ILO Conference, 93rd Session, Geneva, 2005; available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm. 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.


2993 Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation of the Committee of Experts.


Education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 88 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 68 percent. 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. In 1996, 41.8 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 61 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. However, a lack of adequate school facilities and teachers, particularly in rural areas, is likely to impede the full realization of the government’s goal of universal primary education in Mauritania until at least 2007.

Public school is free, but other costs such as books and lunches make education unaffordable for many poor children. Ongoing challenges to the provision of quality education in Mauritania include high dropout and repetition rates, inadequate curriculum, and a poor national infrastructure that prevents children from traveling to and from school. In 2002, a World Food Program (WFP) survey of out-of-school children in Mauritania found that 25 percent did not attend school due to the need to support their families or perform domestic work, and another 22 percent did not attend due to the distance to school.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

There are various statutes under which the worst forms of child labor can be prosecuted in Mauritania. The 2004 Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years and defines what the government considers to be worst forms of child labor. The Labor Law also prohibits forced and compulsory labor and sets 18 years as the

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2999 World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004.
3000 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
3003 Ely Samake, interview, August 15, 2002.
3005 Ely Samake, interview, August 15, 2002.
3007 Worst forms of child labor are defined as all forms of slavery and child exploitation, activities that exceed the physical capacity of a child or can be considered degrading, work connected to trafficking in children, activities that require children to handle chemicals or dangerous materials, work on Fridays or holidays, and work outside of the country. Provisions establishing the minimum age for employment are found in Articles 153 and 154. See also: U.S. Embassy- Nouakchott, reporting, August 19, 2004.
minimum age for work requiring excessive force or work that could harm the health, safety, or morals of children.\textsuperscript{3009} The Criminal Code establishes strict penalties for engaging in prostitution or procuring prostitutes, ranging from fines to imprisonment for 2 to 5 years for cases involving minors.\textsuperscript{3010} Cases involving trafficking of children are addressed under the Law against Human Trafficking.\textsuperscript{3011} Penalties for violations of this law include 5 to 10 years of forced labor and a fine.\textsuperscript{3012} In addition, the Criminal Code sets a penalty of 5 to 10 years’ imprisonment for the use of fraud or violence to abduct minors.\textsuperscript{3013} With parental consent, or failing that, permission from the Minister of Defense, children may enlist voluntarily in the military at age 16; however, in practice, the military does not recruit minors. The law also requires every citizen at age 17 to register for military service, though there has been no active military registration since 1978.\textsuperscript{3014} Since 1999, the Government of Mauritania has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{3015}

The Ministry of Labor and Employment is the primary agency responsible for enforcing child labor laws and regulations. The Ministry has an institutional mechanism in place to receive child labor complaints. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, the labor inspectorate lacks the capacity to investigate and address potential violations due to a lack of resources. There are eight labor inspectors assigned to cover the entire country, and they are reported to lack adequate vehicles, telephones, and other requisite equipment.\textsuperscript{3016}

\textbf{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

The Government of Mauritania has established an inter-ministerial working group on trafficking composed of high-level representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Labor, and Communications. The Government of Mauritania provided additional victim services in 2004 and 2005. It opened six centers to provide food, shelter and limited medical care to indigent people, including \textit{talibes}, indigent boys who

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\textsuperscript{3009} Ibid., Livre Deuxième, Article 47.

\textsuperscript{3010} \textit{Criminal Code of Mauritania}; available from [hard copy on file].


\textsuperscript{3012} Mauritania, \textit{Public Comments}.


\textsuperscript{3015} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

\textsuperscript{3016} U.S. Embassy- Nouakchott, \textit{reporting}.
often become beggars. In 2004, a government-sponsored NGO began offering resources to marabouts to focus on educating their charges.3017

The Government of Mauritania continues to implement its current educational plan, adopted in 1999, which is intended to run for 15 years. The plan aims to provide all children with 10 years of basic schooling (elementary plus the first secondary level), followed by training opportunities tailored to the requirements of the labor market.3018 In 2004, the Government of Mauritania provided USD 20.2 million to match USD 16.1 million provided by donors under the Education for All Fast Track Initiative program. Efforts to promote access to quality education include the increased use of multi-grade classrooms, the provision of allowances for teachers in remote schools, and improvements in the teacher-to-student ratio.3019 The World Bank is further assisting the government to achieve education sector goals through a USD 49.2 million education loan project aimed at increasing enrollment, particularly among girls and in low-performing regions, among other activities.3020 The government is also receiving funds from the African Development Bank for a 5-year education sector improvement project, including the promotion of girls’ and women’s education and literacy, and increased government capacity for education planning and management.3021

WFP is implementing a school feeding program intended to increase school enrollment, particularly among girls.3022 UNICEF is also supporting the government’s education sector reforms, with a particular focus on adolescent girls’ enrollment, improving parent


3018 New emphasis is being placed on pre-school education that prepares children for basic education and on creating incentives to encourage private investment to promote private education. The goals for elementary school education are to achieve universal access by 2005, raise the retention rate from 55 percent to 78 percent by 2010, eliminate gender and regional disparities, improve the quality and relevance of education, and lower the pupil-teacher ratio. See Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), Mauritania: Debt Relief Will Facilitate Implementation of the Ambitious Ten-Year Program for Education, ADEA Newsletter, vol. 13, no. 2 (April-June 2001), 2001 [cited June 15, 2005]; available from http://www.adeanet.org/newsletter/latest/06.html.

3019 In June 2002, the Government of Mauritania became eligible to receive funding from the World Bank and other donors under the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI), which aims to provide all children with a primary school education by the year 2015. Education for All (EFA) - Fast Track Initiative Progress Report, International Monetary Fund and World Bank, March 26, 2004; available from [hard copy on file]. See also World Bank, World Bank Announces First Group Of Countries For ‘Education For All’ Fast Track, press release, Washington, D.C., June 12, 2002; available from http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,contentMDK:20049839~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424,00.html.


and student associations, and assisting children who have never attended school or who have dropped out.\textsuperscript{3023}

Mauritius

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Mauritius are unavailable. Children are usually found working in the informal sector including work with street traders and other small businesses, in restaurants and in agriculture. On the island of Rodrigues, children reportedly work as domestic servants in third-party homes, on farms and in shops. Child prostitution occurs in Mauritius. The country is a source country for children internally trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation.

The Education Act provides for compulsory schooling up to the age of 16. Education is free up to the tertiary level. The government also subsidizes school fees for 4-year old children to ensure that students begin primary school with at least one year of preschool education. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 104 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 97 percent. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 138  7/30/1990  U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 182  6/8/2000  U</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation)  U</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3024 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.

3025 Embassy of Mauritius official, survey questionnaire response to USDOL official, September 2004.


3027 Ibid.


Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Mauritius. As of 2001, 99 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five. In 2004, 63 percent of students who took part in the Certificate of Primary Education Exam passed.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Act of 1975 sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years. Young persons between the ages of 15 and 18 are not allowed to work in activities that are harmful to health, dangerous, or otherwise unsuitable for a young person. The Occupational Safety, Health, and Welfare Act of 1988 prohibits young persons who have not been fully instructed and have not been adequately supervised from being required to operate dangerous machinery. The Protection of the Child (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1998 prohibits the handling of explosives by minors. The Merchant Shipping Act makes provisions for the health and safety of children working aboard ships.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Mauritius. The Criminal Code contains provisions prohibiting child prostitution, the keeping of brothels where children are prostituted, the corruption of youth, and the sale, trafficking, and abduction of children. The Constitution prohibits forced labor and slavery and there is no system of military conscription. Since 1999, the Government of Mauritius has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor and Industrial Relations and Employment (MLIRE) enforces child labor laws. Child labor inspections are carried out in the course of routine labor inspection visits. Persons identified as employing children receive a verbal warning. Subsequently, surprise site visits are undertaken to ensure compliance. If recurrence is

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3032 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report.
3034 Central Statistical Office website: http://statsmauritius.gov.mu
3035 Embassy of Mauritius official, Child Labor Questionnaire response, September 2004.
3036 Dr. U. Jeetah Mauritius Embassy official, survey questionnaire response to USDOL official, September 2004.
3041 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
3042 U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, unclassified telegram no. 658, August 18, 2003.
discovered, written warnings are issued. As a last recourse, criminal action is initiated. Convicted offenders may be fined up to 2,000 rupees (USD 68) and subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, unclassified telegram no. 658.} In 2003, the government established a Tourism Police Force to monitor for trafficking in tourist sites and identify victims of the sex tourism trade.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2004: Mauritius}.} The U.S. Department of State reports that Mauritius’ anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts increased dramatically during 2005.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Mauritius}, Washington, DC, 2005; available from http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005.}

\textbf{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}


The government has a National Plan of Action on the Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse including Commercial Sexual Exploitation.\footnote{Ministry of Women, Family Welfare, and Child Development of Mauritius, \textit{Children’s Development Unit}, [online] [cited September 27, 2004]; available from http://women.gov.mu/child/sschildwatch.htm.} In 2005, funding was granted to increase the manpower and mobility of the Minors Brigade (the police unit responsible for investigating cases of children in prostitution) from 5 to 25 officers and from 1 to 5 vehicles. In 2003, the Mauritius Family Planning Association, in collaboration with the MWFWCD, opened a “Drop-In Center” for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.\footnote{Ibid.} The MWFWCD implements a Child Watch Network to coordinate NGOs and professionals working with children to detect cases of child abuse, including child prostitution.\footnote{Ibid.} The Ministry has collaborated with the Mauritian Police Force to conduct training for NGOs on combating commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Ministry of Tourism seeks to discourage child prostitution in tourist destinations through workshops to facilitate information sharing. Government officials have spoken publicly on the topic of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and
according to the U.S. Department of State, have implemented outreach in schools and training for law enforcement and community leaders.⁴⁰⁵³

Through the Education Priority Zones program, the Ministry of Education has made efforts to improve the performance of low achieving schools in less developed areas.⁴⁰⁵⁴ The government has also introduced a national Literacy Strategy to ensure that every child leaving primary school has achieved the appropriate level of literacy and numeracy.⁴⁰⁵⁵ Various projects have been introduced to integrate out-of-school children into the school system.⁴⁰⁵⁶ In addition, the Industrial and Vocational Training Board provides preparatory courses for primary school drop-outs between the ages of 12 to 14 years at pre-vocational Training Centers.⁴⁰⁵⁷

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Moldova

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 30.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Moldova in 2000. Approximately 31.2 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 28.9 percent of girls in the same age group. According to national custom, it is common for children in rural areas to work on family farms or help with household chores. According to the Government of Moldova, the number of registered cases of the worst forms of child labor increased between 2001 and 2004, the most recent time period for which such information is available. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 21.8 percent of the population in Moldova were living on less than USD 1 a day.

According to the IOM, Moldova is considered the primary country of origin in Europe for trafficking of women and children for prostitution throughout Southeastern Europe, the European Union, and the Middle East. Moldova is also a transit country with victims trafficked from the former Soviet Union. Estimates on the numbers of child trafficking victims remain limited. Of the Moldovan victims, including those from Transnistria, assisted by the IOM between 2000 and 2005, children accounted for seven percent of those trafficked for labor and sexual exploitation. The most common activities for which children were trafficked include begging and delinquency (selling drugs, stealing, or other criminal activity). A particularly vulnerable group is institutionalized orphans, who upon graduation from school at age 16 or 17 leave

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3058 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


3064 Surtees, 334, 80.
orphanages without the ability to sustain themselves or continue their education. According to information gathered by ILO-IPEC through a rapid assessment survey, boys and girls as young as 12 years old are trafficked, many of them recruited by people they know. A December 2003 UN report states that Moldovan children are also being trafficked to Russia for begging and to Ukraine for agricultural labor. The IOM also reports that an increasing number of families are trafficked to neighboring counties for the purpose of forced begging.

Education for children is compulsory through grade 9, beginning at age 6. While the Constitution guarantees free public education, families face significant additional expenses, including supplies, clothes, and transportation fees. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 86 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 79 percent. 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.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Article 46 of the Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years. In certain cases, children 15 years of age can work with parental or legal authorization, provided that the work will not interfere with the child’s education or growth. Articles 96 and 100 state that children between the ages of 15 and 16 can only work a maximum of 24 hours a week, and no more than 5 hours a day. Children between the ages of 16 and 18 years can only work a maximum of 35 hours a week, and no more than 7 hours a day.

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Children must pass a medical exam every year until they reach 18 to be eligible to work. Children under 18 years are prohibited from participating in hazardous work, including work at night clubs or work involving gambling or selling tobacco or alcohol. Legal remedies, civil fines and criminal penalties exist to enforce the provisions of the labor law, with prison terms of up to 3 years for repeat offenses. The government has approved a list of hazardous work forbidden to children, including underground work, metal work, energy and heat production, and well drilling. Since 1999, the Government of Moldova has submitted to the ILO the list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

On September 7, 2005, the Ministry of Education issued a decree which authorized the use of children from village schools in agricultural labor at the request of local public authorities. The decree stipulated that children between the ages 11 and 14 could work for 2 weeks in support of the fall harvest, a direct violation of the Labor Code of the Republic of Moldova. In response to criticisms, the Ministry of Education promised to coordinate any future measures with the National Steering Committee for the Elimination of Child Labor and the ILO, but did not discard the possibility of a similar decree for 2006.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Moldova. The Constitution prohibits forced labor and the exploitation of minors. In an effort to combat the trafficking of children, the parliament passed Law No. 692 in September 2004 that amends legislation to better protect and monitor children crossing the borders of Moldova. The parliament ratified new legislation to address all aspects of trafficking comprehensively and the law entered into force on December 9, 2005. Article 206 of the Criminal Code provides for 10 years to life imprisonment for trafficking and the use

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3073 See the Labor Law as cited in U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, reporting, August 26, 2005.
3074 Article 152 of the Labor Law, as cited in Ibid.
3076 The definition of hazardous work addresses work that is harmful or dangerous, as well as jobs that can damage children’s health or moral integrity. See Article 255 of the Labor Law as cited in Ibid. U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, reporting, August 26, 2005.
3077 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
3078 Labor Code, article 46.
3079 U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
3080 U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, reporting, August 26, 2005.
3081 Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, Articles 44 and 50.
3082 ILO-IPEC, Combating Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans and Ukraine, technical progress report, Bucharest, March 2005, 3. Now children can exit Moldova only when accompanied by a legal guardian, a person authorized by a guardian with notarized documentation, or with permission by child welfare authorities. Children above the age of 10 year are required to have a passport, where before they were only required a birth certificate to travel. U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Moldova, Section 5. See also Surtees, Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking, 357.
3083 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Moldova. See also ILO-IPEC, Child Trafficking Project, progress report March 2006, 3. The law was reviewed by the Council of Europe and includes special provisions against trafficking in children. A referral mechanism for services will be established based on this law. See ILO-IPEC, Child Trafficking Project, progress report March 2005, 2.
of children in the worst forms of child labor, as defined by Convention 182.\textsuperscript{3084}  The Law on Children’s Rights protects children under 18 years of age from prostitution or sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{3085}

Decision No. 1059 issued in September 2004 hands over all juvenile justice functions and responsibilities to the Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for addressing juvenile delinquency and the social reintegration of children who have been used for criminal activities and are at risk of trafficking.\textsuperscript{3086}  The minimum age for compulsory military services is 18 years.  The minimum age for voluntary military services for officer trainees is 17 years, though participation in active combat is not permitted until 18 years.\textsuperscript{3087}

The Labor Inspection Office is responsible for enforcing all labor laws, including those pertaining to child labor.  While child labor violations are known to occur, there were no formally reported or uncovered cases during 2005.\textsuperscript{3088}  On June 2, 2005, the Parliament adopted several amendments to the Law on Labor Inspection, now permitting inspection of both legal workplaces and “physical persons.”  The changes are aimed at greater inspection of work in the informal sector, as the amendments cover persons involved in work in non-fixed locations, such as street sales.  The inspectors will also be allowed to seek assistance from local public administrators to withdraw licenses of employers who repeatedly neglect labor inspection recommendations.\textsuperscript{3089}

Law No. 1458 on the State Protection of the Victims, of Witness and Other Persons Who Provide Assistance in the Criminal Proceedings was adopted in 1998 and amended in 2001 to stipulate police protection for the victims/witnesses in trafficking cases.  Due to financial constraints, the U.S. Department of State and others report that the law has not been implemented and very few witnesses have received protection.\textsuperscript{3090}  In 2004, the latest date for which such information is available, the government withdrew the licenses of some employment and tourism agencies that were suspected to be involved in trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{3091}

\textsuperscript{3084} As reported in U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, \textit{reporting}, August 26, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Moldova}, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3085} U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, \textit{reporting}, August 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3088} In April 2005, the government was restructured and labor issues were split between a newly formed Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Economy and Trade.  The Labor Inspection Office was moved under the Ministry of Economy and Trade.  U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, \textit{reporting}, August 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3089} The Code of Administrative Offenses was also amended to allow labor inspectors to apply administrative sanctions for non-criminal violations without referring the case to a court.  Suspected criminal offenses are submitted to a prosecutor’s office for investigation.  U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, \textit{reporting}, August 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3091} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Moldova}.  

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The National Strategy of Labor Force Employment (2002-2008) aims to end discrimination against youth of legal working age in the labor market, considered an important anti-trafficking strategy.\textsuperscript{3092} The National Human Rights Action Plan (2004-2008) was also revised to include measures to address trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{3093} In June 2005, the Parliament amended the Law on Employment and Social Protection to allow vulnerable youth from 16 to 18 years of age (including those living in residential institutions, orphans, children from single parent families, and victims of trafficking) to receive benefits from the Unemployment Fund.\textsuperscript{3094}

The National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons created an interdepartmental working group, including NGO representation, to develop a second national action plan for the prevention and combating trafficking in persons (2005-2006) that was approved by the Government of Moldova in August 2005.\textsuperscript{3095} A working group to address the trafficking of children was formed and tasked to contribute to the development of this plan.\textsuperscript{3096} The government also participates in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, which fosters regional cooperation and offers assistance to governments to combat trafficking.\textsuperscript{3097} In partnership with OSCE and the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Trade conducted a special training for trafficking investigators.\textsuperscript{3098} The Ministry of Economy and Trade has partnered on a small scale with international and local NGOs to provide employment assistance to victims of trafficking and to address the root causes that increase at-risk populations’ vulnerability of being trafficked.\textsuperscript{3099} The Government of Moldova is participating in a USDOL-funded

\textsuperscript{3094} U.S. Embassy- Chisinau, \textit{reporting}, August 26, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3095} Ibid. See also ILO-IPEC, \textit{Child Trafficking Project, progress report March 2006}, 3
\textsuperscript{3097} The Task Force has assisted a number of countries, including Moldova, in developing national action plans as well supports projects on prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers. See Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, \textit{Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe: Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings}, [online] [cited May 11, 2004], [hard copy on file].
\textsuperscript{3099} In August 2004, USAID funded a four-year, USD 4 million Moldova Anti-Trafficking Initiative titled New Perspectives for Women that focuses on prevention of trafficking that improving the economic
ILO-IPEC regional project to combat the trafficking of children for labor and sexual exploitation. The project is working in partnership with local organizations.3100

Local committees established in each region by the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons conducted trafficking awareness-raising activities in schools.3101 Despite government efforts, the government relies on local NGOs and international organizations to fund and provide social services to victims of trafficking.3102 Various U.S. Government donor agencies have supported establishing a network of transition centers for victims returned to Moldova who were trafficked and for those vulnerable to trafficking. The centers link victims to legitimate employment opportunities and strengthen law enforcement efforts.3103

In November 2004, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced their support to implement the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (EGPRSP), which contains direct references to trafficking in persons.3104 In an effort to provide youth in Moldova with developmental opportunities, the government’s State Department for Youth and Sports has begun implementation of the National Youth Strategy that includes the establishment of 9 community centers for youth; non-formal education sessions that reach more than 14,000 young people; and financial support to 25 youth NGOs. A draft of the UN Country Common Assessment that will serve as a basis for the development of the UN’s development framework for the next 3 years (2005-2008) has integrated child labor issues, including the trafficking of children.3105

The National Strategy on Education for All (2004-2008) aims to provide access to high quality early education and basic education to all children, with particular attention provided to vulnerable families.3106 The government provides allowances to families with many children, and provides school supplies to primary school children from low-income families. Assistance for school supplies is provided by local authorities and ranges from approximately 100 to 330 lei (USD 7-22).3107


3100 The 3-year project began in September 2003 and in addition to Moldova, ILO-IPEC is implementing activities in Albania, Romania and Ukraine. See ILO-IPEC, ILO-IPEC Child Trafficking Project, project document. The ILO-IPEC project has established community-based youth centers and is working with employers’ and workers’ organizations to promote employment of at-risk youth and parents, and to improve care for child victims of trafficking. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Moldova, Section 6d.


3102 Ibid.


3105 Ibid.


Mongolia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 21.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Mongolia in 2000. Approximately 22.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 20.3 percent of girls in the same age group.\(^{3108}\) In this traditionally nomadic society, children are normally found working in the livestock sector. Boys typically tend livestock, while girls mostly perform domestic tasks such as processing milk into dairy products, preparing food, cleaning and washing, gathering dung for fires, and collecting fruit and nuts.\(^{3109}\) In rural areas, children also work in informal coal, gold,\(^{3110}\) and fluorspar mines.\(^{3111}\) Particularly in gold mining, children face severe health hazards including direct contact with mercury.\(^{3112}\) In mining communities, very young children can be found preparing, selling, and delivering food to miners; washing clothes; working in bars and restaurants; fetching firewood; and cleaning. Children working in these areas are also vulnerable to abuse and exploitation in prostitution.\(^{3113}\)

\(^{3108}\) UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


years work as jockeys in the traditional sport of horse racing. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 27 percent of the population in Mongolia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

In urban areas, children sell goods, scavenge for coal and other saleable materials, and work in factories, and there are recent reports of children working in brick-making; cutting and handling of lumber; and other construction activities. There are increasing numbers of street children in cities who are at risk of entering into hazardous work or commercial sexual exploitation. Although comprehensive information about trafficking in Mongolia is not available, there is evidence that Mongolian teenagers may be trafficked to Asian and Eastern European countries for commercial sexual exploitation, and that children are trafficked internally for this purpose. The U.S. Department of State also reports that forced child labor exists in Mongolia.

The Mongolian Constitution provides for free basic education, and the revised Law on Primary and Secondary Education of May 2002 increased the length of compulsory basic education from 10 years to 11 years. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 101 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 79 percent. 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. In 2000,
percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. The government has shown considerable political will toward educating girls, and Mongolia outranks most countries of comparable GDP in girls’ enrollment in school. However, girls’ comparatively high enrollment statistics could also be attributed to the fact that boys leave school early to assist their families with agricultural work.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Law sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, but children aged 14 and 15 may work under certain conditions with the permission of a parent or guardian. Children aged 14 may also work in vocational education programs with the consent of a parent or guardian. Children ages 14 and 15 may not work more than 30 hours, and children ages 16 and 17 may not work more than 36 hours per week. Children under 18 may not work at night or in arduous occupations. The law sets the penalty for violation of child labor laws at between 15,000 and 30,000 Tugriks (USD 13 to 27). The law prohibits workers under 18 from working overtime, on holidays or on weekly rest days.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Mongolia. The Constitution of Mongolia prohibits forced labor. The Criminal Code of 2002 prohibits forced child labor and trafficking in persons, but the government has acknowledged that the trafficking provisions of the Code could be strengthened. Trafficking of children is punishable by a prison term of 10 to 15 years and a fine, and violations of forced child labor provisions are punishable with up to 4 years of imprisonment or a fine. The Criminal Code also prohibits prostitution of individuals under the age of 16, and penalties apply to those who procure and solicit underage prostitutes and those who facilitate underage prostitution. Penalties range from fines to imprisonment of up to 5 years. The production and dissemination of pornographic materials is also illegal under the Criminal Code, with imprisonment of up to 2 years, correctional work for a maximum of 1.5 years, or a fine. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, as amended in 2003, contains provisions prohibiting the use of

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3124 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.
3128 Constitution of Mongolia, 1992, Article 16(4).
3129 Criminal Code of Mongolia, (2002), Articles 113, 121. The Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs and the National Human Rights Commission have formed a task force to propose revisions to these provisions, but little progress has been made to date. See U.S. Embassy- Ulaanbaatar, *reporting*, March 9, 2005.
3131 Criminal Code of Mongolia, Articles 122-123.
children in forced labor, illicit activities, begging, slavery, and other employment
dangerous to their health, morality, or life. The minimum age for conscription into
the Mongolian military is 18. Since 1999, the Government of Mongolia has submitted
to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has
determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182
or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare’s (MOSWL) Department of Employment and
Social Welfare Services (ESWS) and the National Department for Children (NDC)
(under the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) share responsibility for child labor
issues. The MOSWL has jurisdiction over the Labor Code, while the NDC oversees and
coordinates the National Plan of Action for the Protection and Development of Children
(2002-2010). The Plan includes provisions to combat the worst forms of child labor;
 improve working conditions and wages for adolescents; and provide access to education
and health services.

The Labor Inspection division of the State Specialized Inspection Agency enforces child
labor laws through its network of labor inspectors in regional and local offices. However,
the U.S. Department of State characterizes enforcement as limited, in part due to resource
constraints in the labor inspectorate. The MOSWL is the lead government agency on
trafficking issues, but trafficking-related laws are enforced by the Ministry of Justice
and Home Affairs (MOJ). The U.S. Department of State considers current law
enforcement efforts against trafficking only modest; by and large the government is not
complicit in any trafficking crimes, but there have been reports of a few law enforcement
officers’ collusion with traffickers.

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Labor

In January 2005, the MOSWL began to implement a new Child Benefit Program, which
provides a stipend of 3,000 (USD 2.5) Tugriks per child to low-income families with 3 or
more children, provided that the children have all required vaccinations, attend school or

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3134 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
a non-formal education program, and do not participate in the worst forms of child labor. By June, the program had benefited 380,000 children with over USD 11 million in assistance, and in mid-year the program was expanded to cover children through age 18. The National Department for Children has developed and disseminated a handbook on child labor for government workers, and has worked to integrate child labor into the curriculum for social workers. Health authorities work with World Vision, the Mongolian Red Cross, and other NGOs to procure registration documents for street children, often a necessary step in order to enroll in school and access various medical and social services.

The governors’ offices of several local administrative districts have approved and implemented Child Labor Action Plans, which include such measures as medical exams for working children, income generation opportunities for families of working children, and child labor monitoring activities. In April 2005, the government approved a National Program for Improving Occupational Safety and Health, and began to provide safety and health training to workers in the informal sector, where the majority of working children are found.

In 2005, the Government of Mongolia participated in two ILO-IPEC projects funded by USDOL. The 6-year, USD 1.5 million Mongolia Country Program, which ended in 2005, carried out awareness-raising on child labor, direct services to working children, capacity building of NGOs and government agencies, and research on child labor. In 2005, Mongolia began a 4-year, USD 2.9 million Time-Bound Program that aims to withdraw or prevent children from the worst forms of child labor and to combat the problem through policy and legislative reform, research, and institutional capacity building.

The Government of Mongolia is party to a Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism industries, in partnership with the Mongolian Tourism Association, ECPAT International, and UNICEF. The Police

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3139 Law of Mongolia Concerning Amendments to the Social Assistance Law, State Gazette No. 2 (383), (January 1, 2005).
3143 ILO-IPEC official, Local Action Plans - Section on Child Labor, working English translation of Mongolian administrative district action plans, June, 2005.
3145 ILO-IPEC, National Program in Mongolia, Phase II, project document, 6.
3146 This project aims to directly support Mongolia’s National Sub-Program to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor, which was drafted by the MOSWL in consultation with relevant government ministries and social partners. The National Sub-Program, still in draft form, was designed for implementation under the framework of the National Plan of Action for the Development and Protection of Children (2002-2010).
3147 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Mongolia. See also U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, Written Replies by the Government of Mongolia Concerning the List of Issues Received by the Committee on the Rights of the Child Relating to the Consideration of the Second Periodic
Department’s Crime Prevention Division has received training from ILO-IPEC in recognizing trafficking, and police officers work together with representatives from a local NGO, the Mongolian Youth Development Federation, to remove girls from prostitution and enroll them in rehabilitative programs.3148

The National Program of Action for the Development and Protection of Children (2002-2010) aims to increase the number of children attending pre-school, primary school, and basic education.3149 However, an acute shortage of teachers and school materials persists as a serious problem throughout the school system.3150 The government operates a system to train teachers in non-formal education techniques, materials, and curricula.3151 Local administrative governments provide non-formal education programs,3152 and children who enroll in non-formal education are entitled to take the formal school exams in order to receive primary or secondary school certifications.3153 The government also provides primary-level vocational courses, including lodging, and short-term skills training courses which do not require completion of compulsory schooling.3154 The government qualified for funding from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account and, in October 2005, submitted a proposal for development funding including USD 21.4 million for vocational training programs targeting poor youth that make up the majority of the unemployed in Mongolia.3155

The ADB is supporting the Second Education Development Project, a USD 14 million loan continuing through 2007, which supports the Ministry of Science, Technology, Education and Culture (MOSTEC) in rehabilitating and constructing schools; modernizing science education; and improving education management at provincial, district and school levels.3156 The ADB has also committed to continue with a Third Education Development Project, a USD 13 million loan from 2007-2011 that will work with MOSTEC to improve quality and relevance of education in primary and secondary

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3153 ILO-IPEC, National Program in Mongolia, Phase II, project document, 12.
schools; improve teaching and learning environments in primary and secondary schools; and promote demand-driven vocational education for youth.\textsuperscript{3157} The World Bank is providing a USD 8 million loan to support the Government of Mongolia’s Economic Growth Support and Poverty Reduction Strategy, which aims to deliver high quality basic social services such as health care and education to all Mongolians.\textsuperscript{3158} The Government of Mongolia became eligible for the World Bank’s Education for All Fast Track Initiative in 2004, but did not join the Initiative in 2005.\textsuperscript{3159} However, the government held a national Education for All Forum and continued to work toward its EFA goals in 2005, which include committing 20 percent of the national budget to education expenditures; extending educational services to children with special vulnerabilities or living in remote areas, particularly for early childhood; improving government capacity for education policy planning, management and implementation; reducing illiteracy; and achieving quality basic education for all.\textsuperscript{3160}


Morocco

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 13.2 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were counted as working in Morocco in 1998/1999. Approximately 13.5 percent of all boys 7 to 14 were working compared to 12.8 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (60.6 percent), followed by other sectors (21.1 percent), services (10.1 percent), and manufacturing (8.2 percent). Of the children who work in the agricultural sector, the vast majority work on family farms, picking fruit and vegetables or as shepherds, and do not attend school. Children in rural areas are reportedly six times more likely to be working than those in urban areas. Children also work in the industrial and artisanal sectors in the production of leather goods, textiles, carpets, garments, pottery, and other light manufacturing activities. A large number of children work as junior artisans in the handicraft industry, many of them working as apprentices before they reach 12 years of age and

3161 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


3163 Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Morocco, 2.

under substandard health and safety conditions.\textsuperscript{3165} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, less than 2 percent of the population in Morocco were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{3166}

Morocco is a country of destination for children trafficked from sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and Asia and serves as a transit and origin point for children trafficked to Europe for the purposes of forced labor, drug trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked internally for exploitation as child domestic workers and beggars, and for prostitution.\textsuperscript{3167} In urban areas, many girls working as domestic servants can be found in situations of unregulated “adoptive servitude,” in which girls from rural areas are “sold” by their parents, trafficked, and “adopted” by wealthy urban families to work in their homes.\textsuperscript{3168} Children are also “rented” out by their parents or other relatives to beg.\textsuperscript{3169}

Thousands of street children live and work in Morocco’s urban centers. Street children in Morocco engage in diverse forms of work including selling cigarettes, begging, shining shoes, washing and polishing cars, and other miscellaneous occupations.\textsuperscript{3170} Street children are predominantly boys, but girls, commonly former household maids who have fled abusive employers, are also seen on the street in increasing numbers. Street children are vulnerable to sexual, physical and substance abuse and to being forced into illicit activities such as prostitution, drug-selling or theft in order to collect money for gang leaders.\textsuperscript{3171} There are official reports of child prostitution in the cities of Agadir, Casablanca, Meknès, Tangier, Marrakech, and Rabat. Child commercial sexual exploitation involves both boys and girls,\textsuperscript{3172} and is perpetrated by Moroccan nationals and, to a lesser extent, by foreigners, particularly from Western countries and the Gulf

\begin{footnotes}
\item[3165] Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Morocco, 26. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 6d.


\item[3169] According to a 2004 survey conducted by the Moroccan League for the Protection of Children, 15 percent of children surveyed below the age of 7 had been offered by their parents to serve as props of sympathy for adult beggars. Some were rented for as little as 50 dirhams per week (USD 5.50). See U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, reporting, January 20, 2005.

\item[3170] Kingdom of Morocco, Ministry in Charge of the Condition of Women, the Protection of the Family, Childhood, and the Integration of the Handicapped, Synthèse d'une étude préliminaire sur les enfants de la rue, Rabat, October 2001. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports, under Article 12: Morocco, para. 137.

\item[3171] Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Morocco, 29-30.

\item[3172] Ibid., 28-29. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 5. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, reporting, September 16, 2005.
\end{footnotes}
States. Commercial sex tourism involving children is acknowledged by government and NGO sources, most notably in the cities of Tangier and Marrakech.\textsuperscript{3173} Isolated cases of child pornography have been reported in the country; however, the Minister of Human Rights and the Parliamentary Commission on Social Affairs have acknowledged the problem but indicate that it goes mostly undetected.\textsuperscript{3174}

Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 to 15 years.\textsuperscript{3175} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 110 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 90 percent.\textsuperscript{3176} 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. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 71.6 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{3177} As of 2001, 81 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{3178} Rural girls often do not complete primary school.\textsuperscript{3179} In 2004, the government began to take steps to enforce the 2000 school attendance law,\textsuperscript{3180} and as many as 140,000 children under the age of 15 are enrolled in government remedial and vocational education programs.\textsuperscript{3181}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{3182} The minimum age restriction applies to the industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors and also extends to children working in apprenticeships and family enterprises.\textsuperscript{3183} According to the Labor Code, children under the age of 16 are prohibited from working more than 10 hours per day, which includes at least a 1 hour break.\textsuperscript{3184} Children under the age of 16


\textsuperscript{3174} Understanding Children's Work (UCW), *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, 29.


\textsuperscript{3176} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary). 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.

\textsuperscript{3177} UNESCO analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


\textsuperscript{3180} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{3181} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Morocco*, Section 5.


\textsuperscript{3184} *Labor Code*, Articles 184 and 188.
are not permitted to work at night between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in non-
aricultural work or between 8 p.m. and 5 p.m. in agricultural activities. It is
prohibited to employ children under the age of 18 in stone quarries or underground work
carried out in mines. Employers are prohibited from permitting workers to use
products or substances, equipment, or machinery deemed potentially hazardous for their
health or safety and from performing activities that pose an extreme danger to them,
exceed their capacities, or result in the breach of public morals. In January 2005, the
Government of Morocco adopted a list of hazardous work prohibited for minors under
the age of 18 years.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Morocco.
The Labor Code and Criminal Code prohibit forced or compulsory labor, including by
children, but these provisions have been difficult to enforce in the informal sector and
private homes where most of this labor occurs. A 1993 law provides protection for
abandoned children in Morocco. According to this law, persons younger than 18 and
unable to support themselves economically are identified as abandoned if their parents
are unknown, unable to be located, or incompetent of assuming a parental role. These
children are then considered eligible for adoption, and adoptive parents are entitled to a
stipend from the government. There has been some concern that girls are being
fostered at higher rates than boys and that this is facilitating the practice of “adoptive
servitude.” The new Family Code, which was published and took effect in February
2004, protects and gives rights to illegitimate and abandoned children who have often
found themselves in desperate situations leading to child labor. The minimum age for
conscription into government armed forces has been raised from 18 to 20 years.

3185 Ibid., Article 172.
3186 Ibid., Articles 179-180.
3187 Ibid., Articles 181 and 287.
3188 It is prohibited to employ minors whose age is less than 18 years in the following occupations: cleaning
and repair of mechanical equipment; use of dangerous machinery; welding; erecting frames of buildings or
homes; roof work; demolition; and glassworks. See Decree No.682.0.2 of December 29, 2004, relating to
the regulation of works prohibited to minors less than 18 years, women and handicapped wage-earners,
(January 3, 2005). See also ILO-IPEC, Combating child labour in Morocco, technical progress report,
technical progress report. Project Adros. Combating Child Labor Through Education in Morocco, Rabat,
March 31, 2005, 1.
3189 Labor Code, Article 588. See also the Criminal Code, Article467 as cited in UN Committee on the
Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports, under Article 12: Morocco, Articles 36 and 40. See also
U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 6c. See U.S. Consulate - Casablanca,
reporting, August 24, 2004.
3190 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 882nd Meeting, Consideration of
18-19; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/8e3b9ac683d8dd0ac1256d7a004
a2b52/SFILE/G0342258.pdf.
3191 Ibid., para. 43.
3193 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties:
Morocco, Second periodic reports of States parties due in 2000, CRC/C/93/Add.3, pursuant to Article 44 of
the Convention on the Rights of the Child, February 12, 2003, paras. 160-161. See also Coalition to Stop
1999, the Government of Morocco has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\footnote{3194}

The prostitution of children, child trafficking, corruption of minors, and involvement of children in pornography are prohibited under the Criminal Code. Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution, as well as aiding, protecting, or profiting from the prostitution of others, are also banned by the Criminal Code.\footnote{3195} In January 2004, revisions were made to the Criminal Code, which made sexual abuse a crime and increased penalties against those who hire children under age 18 for purposes of sexual exploitation. The Criminal Code revisions raised penalties against those involved in child sexual exploitation, child pornography, child sex tourism and abusive child labor. Anyone who incites a minor under age 18 to commit a vice or who contributes to the corruption of a minor is subject to a prison sentence of 2 to 10 years, and a fine of up to 2,000,000 Dirhams (USD 221,925). The same penalties apply in cases where an attempt was made to commit such offenses or when part of the offense was committed outside Morocco.\footnote{3196}

The Immigration and Emigration Act prohibits trafficking of persons through the levying of fines and prison sentences against individuals involved in or failing to prevent trafficking in persons, including government officials.\footnote{3197} There are several other statutes under which traffickers can be prosecuted, including laws on kidnapping, forced prostitution, and coercion. According to Articles 472-478 of the Criminal Code, any person who uses violence, threats, or fraud to abduct (or attempt to abduct) a minor under 18 years of age or facilitate the abduction of a minor may be imprisoned for up to 5 to 10 years. If the minor is under the age of 12, the sentence is doubled from 10 to 20 years.\footnote{3198}

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\footnote{3194}{3194} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\footnote{3197}{3197} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 5. This law went into effect on November 20, 2003 as Law 02-03. See U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, reporting, December 30, 2003.
\footnote{3198}{3198} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 5. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), Report of the Committee of Experts, Direct Request. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), Report of the Committee of Experts, Observation.
According to the U.S. Department of State, law enforcement agencies actively investigate, prosecute, and convict traffickers.3199

The Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Solidarity is responsible for implementing and enforcing child labor laws and regulations.3200 The Labor Code provides for legal sanctions against employers who recruit children under the age of 15, and employers who hire children under age 15 may be punished with a fine of 25,000 to 30,000 Dirhams (USD 2,774 to 3,329).3201 Legal remedies to enforce child labor laws include criminal penalties, civil fines, and withdrawal or suspension of one or more civil, national, or family rights, including denial of legal residence in the country for a period of 5 to 10 years.3202 The new Labor Code and amendments have enabled inspectors and the police to bring charges against employers of children under age 15 in all sectors, including apprenticed children and family businesses.3203 Labor inspectors can now also take action against abusive employers of child maids under age 15, but only a few employers of child maids have been prosecuted.3204 The Government has also passed laws which prohibit begging that exploits children and the buying and selling of child brides. The legal age for girls to marry is 18.3205

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

The Government of Morocco has put in place a number of action programs toward the achievement of its 2005-2015 action plan to eliminate child labor.3206 The government has established national and sectoral action plans to combat child labor, especially its worst forms.3207 The focus of the national plan includes improving implementation and raising awareness of child labor laws, and improving basic education. Sectoral plans target children in agriculture and herding, the industrial sector (carpets and stitching), metal and auto work, construction, the hospitality industry, and food production, as well as children working in the informal sector,3208 such as street children and children subjected to sexual exploitation.3209 In March 2005, the Minister of Labor and

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3200 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 6d.
3201 Labor Code, Article 151. For currency conversion, see FXConverter.
3202 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports: Morocco, para. 647.
3203 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Morocco, Section 6d. See also Labor Code, Article 533.
3205 U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, reporting, January 20, 2005. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, reporting, September 16, 2005.
3206 U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, reporting, September 16, 2005.
3207 U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, reporting, October 2001. See also Kingdom of Morocco, Plans national et sectoriels d'action de la lutte contre le travail des enfants au Maroc, October 1999.
3208 Kingdom of Morocco, Plans national et sectoriels d'action, 5-9.
3209 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports, under Article 12: Morocco, paras. 98-99 and 128-129.
Vocational Training sent a letter to provincial governors urging them to implement child labor legislation.\footnote{Management Systems International, \emph{Project Adros: Combating Child Labor Through Education in Morocco}, technical progress report, Rabat, September 30, 2005, 3.}

In addition to the new legal provisions to protect children, the Government has committed 37.6 million Dirhams (USD 4.2 million) to a joint program of the Ministries of Employment, Health, and Social Welfare, through which the ministries will join with private organizations to offer vocational training, job placement and micro-credits to assist adult beggars and the parents of child beggars.\footnote{U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, \emph{reporting}, January 20, 2005. For currency conversion, see FXConverter.} In May 2005, King Mohammed VI launched the National Initiative for Human Development, which involves replacing shantytowns with new housing units, creating employment, improving education and expanding access to education, and developing literacy programs. Children at risk, including child laborers, are among the priority populations to be served by the Initiative.\footnote{In support of this initiative, the annual budget for the education sector was raised to USD 3.7 billion. See U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, \emph{reporting}, August 8, 2005. See also ILO-IPEC, \emph{Combating child labour in Morocco}, technical progress report, August 14, 2005, 2.}

In December 2004, the Government of Morocco collaborated with UNICEF to organize the second Arab-African Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and the Secretariat of State for the Family, Solidarity and Social Action is coordinating a comprehensive national action plan to combat all forms of sexual exploitation of children in Morocco.\footnote{UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \emph{Consideration of Reports, under Article 12: Morocco}, paras. 14-15, 99.} In cooperation with UNICEF, the Ministry of Justice also provides ongoing training to juvenile judges to increase their awareness of child rights and the associated legal provisions. The National Observatory on the Rights of the Child has established a reception center for abused children, with a 24-hour hotline and staff to provide medical, psychological and social counseling.\footnote{Ibid., paras. 115, 116, and 119.}

In April 2005, the Government of Morocco, ILO-IPEC, UNICEF and the World Bank jointly convened a national seminar in Rabat on “How Best to Integrate the Fight against Child Labor in the Context of Social Development.” The Minister of Employment, who gave the opening remarks, was joined by the Secretaries of State for Literacy and Non-formal Education and for Family, Children and the Disabled. The government officials re-emphasized their commitment to combating child labor, raising awareness of the negative consequences of child labor, and helping rural families increase their incomes.\footnote{U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, \emph{reporting}, May 2, 2005.}

The Secretariat of State for the Family, Solidarity and Social Action in collaboration with NGOs and local authorities, is implementing pilot programs in support of the draft National Action Plan for the rehabilitation and reintegration of street children. Centers to promote the reintegration of street children have been established in Tangier, Tetouan...
and Casablanca. The Ministry of Interior has also carried out a number of activities on behalf of street children and has worked with the U.S. Department of State to improve its anti-trafficking operations.  

The Government of Morocco is participating in two USDOL-funded projects to eliminate child labor and provide educational opportunities for working children. The first USDOL-funded effort is a USD 3 million ADROS project executed by Management Systems International that aims to eliminate the practice of selling and hiring child domestic workers and to create educational opportunities for child laborers and those vulnerable to child labor. The second USDOL-funded effort in the amount of USD 2 million is an ILO-IPEC child labor project in Morocco, which aims to strengthen national efforts against the worst forms of child labor in Morocco and to remove and prevent children from work in rural areas of the country. In 2005, ILO-IPEC received additional funds from other donors to support the activities relating to this program.  

The Ministry of National Education and Youth (MNEY) implements programs for out-of-school children under its Non-Formal Education Program. In 2004, USAID began funding a USD 30 million project entitled “Advancing Learning and Employability for a Better Future” (ALEF), which aims to strengthen the quality of Morocco’s workforce by building the capacity of the educational system to provide young people with skills needed in a changing labor market. Specifically, the project focuses on increasing access to middle schools, especially for girls in rural areas and access to vocational training in the fields of tourism and agriculture.  

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3218 The project targets the Gharb region near Rabat and the Massa-Sousa-Daraa region in the environs of Agadir. See U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, reporting, August 24, 2004. See also ILO-IPEC, Combating child labour in Morocco by creating an enabling national environment and developing direct action against worst forms of child labour in rural areas, project document, Geneva, September 10, 2003, 1-2.


3220 Since 1997, the Ministry’s non-formal education program has given remedial instruction to hundreds of thousands of children and is working to adapt the curriculum to make it more relevant to the needs of older students. See U.S. Consulate - Casablanca, reporting, August 19, 2003.

Mozambique

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Mozambique are unavailable.\footnote{322}{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 section “Data Sources and Definitions.”} A joint Ministry of Labor and UNICEF rapid assessment survey of children under 18 working in selected areas estimated that approximately 50 percent of working children begin to work before the age of 12.\footnote{3223}{Government of Mozambique, Ministry of Labor, and UNICEF, *Child Labour Rapid Assessment: Mozambique (Part I)*, Geneva, 1999/2000, 36.} Poverty, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, lack of employment for adults, and lack of education opportunities are among the many factors that pushed children to work at an early age.\footnote{3224}{U.S. Embassy - Maputo, *reporting*, October 13, 2004. UNICEF, *Latest News*, December 1, 2003 [cited May 26, 2004]; available from http://www.unicef.org/mozambique/late_news.htm.}


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is available, 37.9 percent of the population in Mozambique were living on less than USD 1 a day.  

The number of children in prostitution is growing in both urban and rural regions, particularly in Maputo, Nampula, Beira, and along key transportation routes. Many child victims of commercial sexual exploitation have been infected with HIV/AIDS. Street children have been reported to suffer from police beatings and sexual abuse. However, in 2004, the most recent date for which such information is available, no incidents were reported. Mozambique is a source country for child trafficking. Reliable numbers on the extent of the problem are not available, but a 2003 study reported that 1,000 women and children were trafficked from Mozambique to South Africa in 2002 to work as prostitutes, in restaurants, and on South African farms. 

Education is compulsory and free through the age of 12 years, but matriculation fees are charged and are a burden for many families. Families below the poverty line can obtain a certificate waiving the fees. Enforcement of compulsory education laws is inconsistent, because of the lack of resources and the scarcity of schools in the upper grades. 

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 103 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 55 percent. 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. In 1996, 51.7 percent of children ages 7 to 14 years

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3231 Ibid., Section 5.
3234 Ibid.
3238 In the 1990s almost half of Mozambique’s 3,200 primary schools were destroyed, and learning materials were in short supply. See UNICEF, *Child Workers in the Shadow of AIDS*, 55.
3239 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
were attending school. As of 2001, 49 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. At the end of 2003 an estimated 370,000 children in Mozambique were AIDS orphans. It is estimated that HIV/AIDS could lead to a decline in teacher numbers by 2010.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Law 8/98 sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years. In exceptional cases, the law allows children between the ages of 12 and 15 to work with the joint approval of the Ministries of Labor, Health, and Education. The Law restricts the conditions under which minors between the ages of 15 and 18 may work, limits the number of hours they can work, and establishes training, education, and medical exam requirements. Children between the ages of 15 and 18 are prohibited from being employed in unhealthy or dangerous occupations or occupations requiring significant physical effort, as determined by the Ministry of Labor. According to Article 79 of the Labor Law, employers are required to provide children between 12 and 15 with vocational training and offer age appropriate work conditions.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Mozambique. The Constitution prohibits forced labor, except in the context of penal law. The age for conscription and voluntary recruitment into the military is 18 years. In times of war, however, the minimum age for military conscription may be changed.

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3240 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


3246 For children under 18, the maximum workday is seven hours, and the maximum work week is 38 hours. U.S. Embassy-Maputo, *reporting*, October 13, 2004.


The Penal Code prohibits the offering or procuring of prostitution of any form, including that of children. In May 1999, the National Assembly passed a law prohibiting the access of minors to bars and clubs in an effort to address the problem of child prostitution. Some provisions of the Penal Code protect minors against exploitation, incitement, or compulsion to engage in illegal sexual practices. There is no law against trafficking, but some police have been trained on how to recognize and investigate trafficking cases. Three pilot programs have been set up in police stations in the provinces to assist child trafficking victims.

The Ministry of Labor has the authority to enforce and regulate child labor laws in both the formal and informal sectors. Labor inspectors may obtain court orders and use the police to enforce compliance with child labor legislation. Child labor inspectors have not received specialized training. The police are responsible for investigating complaints relating to child labor offences punishable under the Penal Code. According to the U.S. Department of State, both the Labor Inspectorate and police lack adequate staff, funds, and training to investigate child labor cases, especially outside the capital. In theory, violators of child labor laws would be subject to fines ranging from 1 to 10 times the minimum wage. The Government of Mozambique in 2003 launched a review of its existing laws regarding children for the purpose of undertaking legal reforms in areas including child labor, child trafficking, child prostitution, and child sexual abuse. By the end of 2005, the government was still in the midst of drafting a comprehensive child protection law.

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

The Government of Mozambique is collaborating with UNICEF and ILO-IPEC to implement a plan of action which calls for the prevention of child labor and for the protection and rehabilitation of child workers.

3252 Ibid.
3254 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report - 2003: Mozambique, June 11, 2003; available from http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2003/21276.htm. Prosecution of cases of sexual assault and rape, some which are trafficking-related, have increased.
3257 Ibid.
3258 Ibid.
3259 Ibid.
3260 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports - 2004: Mozambique, Section 6d.
3262 U.S. Department of State official, email communication to USDOL official, August 2, 2006.
3263 Ibid.
Government policies to assist the poor and most vulnerable, such as child laborers, include its Poverty Alleviation Action Plan, and a multi-sectoral approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which often forces children to drop out of school to support their families. The government’s poverty reduction strategy includes investment in education. The Ministry for Women and the Co-ordination of Social Action established a multi-sectoral coordination body in support of orphans and vulnerable children.

The government fights child prostitution and sexual abuse by disseminating pamphlets and flyers and issuing public service announcements. The government has trained some police officials about child prostitution and pornography and initiated a rehabilitation program for children in prostitution by providing education referrals and training opportunities. The Ministry of Women and Social Action Coordination is strengthening its efforts to increase the birth registration of children, protect them against abuse, and enhance their access to education. The government has also launched a program to enhance child protection laws and to enact child trafficking laws. The Ministry of Women and Social Action has provided provincial hospitals with staff trained to assist victims of trafficking. The government participates in the Campaign against Trafficking in Children with a number of public and religious personalities and is establishing an assistance center to aid repatriated victims of child trafficking near the border post of Ressano Garcia.

The government is revising the national Strategic Plan for Education (1999-2003). The country’s Poverty Reduction Strategy 2001-2005 seeks to increase school enrollment by raising the educational budget allocation from 2.4 to 4.5 percent. The Ministry of Education has developed a strategy to reduce the gender gap between boys and girls in

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3268 U.S. Embassy- Maputo, unclassified telegram no. 2817.
3269 Ibid.
3271 Ibid., Section 6f.
3272 Ibid.
terms of access and retention.\textsuperscript{3275} The ministry also aims to improve school quality through teacher training and improved materials, and to build capacity for contingency planning in response to emergencies.\textsuperscript{3276} As a means to increase access and reduce the drop out rate, the government has introduced a reformed basic education curriculum which is better adapted to community and regional economic development needs.\textsuperscript{3277} The government is also working with international donors to expand the primary school network.\textsuperscript{3278}

In addition, the government operates a scholarship program to cover the costs of school materials and fees for children, with a special focus on girls and children whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS.\textsuperscript{3279} Mozambique also receives funds and agricultural commodities from the United States to support nutritious school meals for children.\textsuperscript{3280}

\begin{footnotesize}
\footnotetext{3276}{UNICEF, \textit{Basic Education}, [cited September 2, 2004]; available from http://www.unicef.org/mozambique/education_2.htm.}
\footnotetext{3277}{Ministry of Education, \textit{Speech by his His Excellency Alcido Nguenha--Minister of Education--on the Occasion of the Launch Ceremony of the 2004 State of the World's Children's Report.}}
\footnotetext{3278}{U.S. Embassy- Maputo, \textit{unclassified telegram no. 2817}. See also Republic of Mozambique, "Speech of the Minister of Justice, His Excellency Jose Abudo on the occasion of the launch of the Study of Legal Reform for the Protection of Children in Mozambique."}
\footnotetext{3279}{Republic of Mozambique, "Speech of the Minister of Justice, His Excellency Jose Abudo on the occasion of the launch of the Study of Legal Reform for the Protection of Children in Mozambique."}
\end{footnotesize}
Namibia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 1.8 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were counted as working in Namibia in 1999. Approximately 1.7 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 1.8 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (91.4 percent), followed by services (8.2 percent), manufacturing (0.4 percent), and other sectors (0.1 percent).\(^{3281}\) Children work in commercial and subsistence agriculture, street trading, domestic service, and the informal sector.\(^{3282}\) Commercial sexual exploitation of children is reportedly a problem in cities and on main roads.\(^{3283}\)

Primary education is compulsory and free in Namibia. Children are required to attend school until they complete their primary education or until the age of 16 years.\(^{3284}\) However, there are numerous fees for such items as uniforms, books, and school improvements that prevent some poor children from attending school.\(^{3285}\) Many San children do not attend school.\(^{3286}\) In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 105 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 78 percent.\(^{3287}\) Gross and net enrollment

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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan U</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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\(^{3281}\) UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 1999, 91.6 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were attending school.\(^{3288}\) As of 2001, 95 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\(^{3289}\)

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Act stipulates that children under the age of 14 years cannot be employed for any purpose. The Act prohibits children under the age of 16 years from working in any mine, industrial, or construction setting or underground, and prohibits children under the age of 18 years from engaging in night work.\(^{3290}\) The Constitution provides that children under the age of 16 years are entitled to be protected from economic exploitation and are not to be employed in any work that is likely to be hazardous, harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development, or that would interfere with their education.\(^{3291}\)

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Namibia. Although it does not specifically mention children, the Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.\(^{3292}\) The Prevention of Organized Crime Act, enacted in November 2004, expressly prohibits trafficking in persons.\(^{3293}\) The Combating of Immoral Practices Act of 1980 and the Children’s Act of 1960 protect children from being used as commercial sex workers and make it an offense for any adult, including the parent, guardian, or custodian of a child, to solicit or entice a child to participate in commercial sex work.\(^{3294}\) The Constitution provides for compulsory military service, but individuals currently enlist in the armed forces on a voluntary basis. According to Ministry of Defense policy, the minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years.\(^{3295}\) Since 1999, the Government of Namibia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\(^{3296}\)
The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing the Labor Act. Ministry inspectors are trained on identifying the worst forms of child labor and using the existing enforcement mechanisms. In 2004, the most recent period for which such information is available, labor inspectors used updated inspection forms that included specific provisions to address child labor issues at the workplace. The Women and Child Protection Units of the Namibian Police Force investigate cases involving abduction and child prostitution. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is charged with ensuring that adequate care is provided to children, particularly orphans and other vulnerable children.

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

The Government of Namibia is working with ILO-IPEC to implement a USDOL-funded regional child labor project in Southern Africa, which includes activities in Namibia. Project activities in Namibia include piloting methods for the prevention and withdrawal of children in the worst forms of child labor, conducting research on the nature and incidence of exploitative child labor, and building the capacity of the government to address child labor issues. In collaboration with the government and NGOs, the American Institutes for Research is implementing a USDOL-funded project to improve quality and access to basic and vocational education for children who are working or at risk of being engaged in exploitative child labor.

The Government of Namibia launched a national policy in February 2005, with the support of UNICEF, to protect the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children and reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with the Ministry of

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3299 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Namibia, Section 6d.
3304 Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Namibia: Policy aims to assist OVC", IRINnews.org, [online], February 10, 2005 [cited March 1, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=45493&SelectRegion=S Southern_Africa&Sel. See also Namibia, Statement by the President of Namibia, Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Namibia: Policy aims to assist OVC."
Women’s Affairs and Child Welfare and NGOs, USAID is building community capacity to provide for the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. USAID also supports school programs, psycho-social services for children, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Permanent Task Force, and provides technical assistance to the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Trust Fund. The U.S. Embassy supports child education through the Ambassador’s Girls Scholarship Fund. The Government of Namibia’s Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Social Services aim to keep orphans and vulnerable children in school through the provision of grants and scholarships. These scholarships are directed especially towards child-headed households.

The Government of Namibia’s Ministry of Education is implementing its National Plan of Action 2002-2015 for education, called Education and Training Sector Improvement Program (ETSIP). UNICEF’s country program through 2005 includes a focus on children’s health, care, and development. In an effort to increase the rate of primary school enrollment for marginalized children, particularly girls, UNICEF supports the development of culturally appropriate educational programs, the improvement of quality of education, and the strengthening of family and community capacity to plan and manage child education. The U.S. Government, under its Africa Education Initiative, also provides scholarships to vulnerable primary school girls to enable them to attend and do well in school.

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Nepal

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 39.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in Nepal in 1999. Approximately 35.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 44 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (87.1 percent), followed by services (11 percent), manufacturing (1.3 percent) and other sectors (0.5 percent). According to the National Child Labor Study, 50 types of paid economic activities outside the home have been recorded as involving children. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, 39.1 percent of the population in Nepal were living on less than USD 1 a day.

The 16 worst forms of child labor identified by the Ministry of Labor and Transport Management and listed in the National Master Plan on Child Labor are: slavery/forced labor, prostitution, trafficking in persons, drug peddling, scavenging/rag picking, portering, and domestic service, as well as work or involvement in the following: small restaurants/bars, overland transportation, armed conflicts, carpet factories, brick/tile kilns, match factories, leather tanneries, stone quarries, and coal mines. When working in small restaurants and bars and in domestic service, children lack rest, work long hours, and are at risk of sexual exploitation. When making bricks or in carpet factories, children inhale dust and risk bodily deformation from work posture or carrying heavy loads.

Though bonded labor is outlawed in Nepal, the children of former Kamaiyas continue to

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3310 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


Throughout the country, children carry heavy loads as short-distance and long-distance porters. The majority of the children working in stone quarries work 9 to 10 hours per day and most are girls 11 to 13 years old. Many children under 14 years old are domestic servants. Children also work in family-based weaving operations and smaller factories.

Although more recent figures are not available, a 2001 study found 30 percent of prostitutes in Kathmandu were below 18 years old. The government has reported a range of estimates for the number of child trafficking victims. Some 5,000 to 12,000 girls may be trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation annually, and as many as 200,000 trafficked Nepalese girls are estimated to reside in Indian brothels. While trafficking of children often leads to their sexual exploitation, there is also demand for trafficked boys and girls to work in the informal labor sector. Some reports indicate thousands of children are trafficked to India to work in carpet factories, circuses, agriculture, road construction, domestic service, and begging. Boys are also trafficked to India to work in the embroidery industry.

A Maoist insurrection continues throughout Nepal with violence directed at government, security, and civilian targets. There are reports that Maoist insurgents use children as soldiers, cooks, and messengers. There is anecdotal evidence that unaccompanied children are fleeing areas of civil unrest and migrating to urban areas because of


economic hardship and to avoid recruitment by Maoist insurgents. A network of NGOs that monitor violations against children in armed conflict have documented cases of insurgents destroying schools and using school premises to abduct and recruit thousands of students and teachers from schools. Schools have been battle zones for both the insurgents and the Royal Nepal Army.

Education is not compulsory in Nepal. The Constitution states that it is a fundamental right for each community to operate primary schools and educate children in their mother language. It is government policy to raise the standard of living of the population through development of education and other social investments, making special provisions for females, economically and socially disadvantaged groups, and by making gradual arrangements for free education. Although tuition is not supposed to be charged, primary schools commonly charge fees to pay for other school expenses, and families frequently do not have the money to pay for school supplies and clothing.

In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 119 percent and in 2000, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 70 percent. 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. In 1999, 69.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 65 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**


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325 Government of Nepal, Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, (November 9, 1990), Part 3, Article 18 (2) and Part 4, Articles 26 (1, 7-10); available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/wp000000__html.
327 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/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.
328 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
330 The Labor Act defines a child as anyone below the age of 14 years and a minor as anyone between the ages of 14 and 18 years. Government of Nepal, Labor Act, 1992, Chapter 1, Section 2 (h) and (i); available from http://natlex.ilo.org/txt/E92NPL01.htm. The Children’s Act identifies a child as below the age of 16 years. Government of Nepal, Children's Act, 2048, (1992), Chapter 1, sec. 2(a) and Chapter 5, sec. 47(1); available from http://www.labournepal.org/labourlaws/child_act.html.
(Child Labor Act) consolidates child labor provisions in the Labor and Children’s Acts and lists different occupations in which children below 16 years cannot be employed, provides for penalties for those who do not comply, and calls for establishment of a Child Labor Elimination Committee and Child Labor Elimination Fund. Children can work up to 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Child Labor Act only covers formal sectors of employment, leaving the majority of children who work in the informal sector without legal protection. The Act imposes a punishment of up to 3 months in prison, a fine of up to 10,000 RS (USD 150) or both for employing an underage child. Employing a child in dangerous work or against their will is punishable with imprisonment for up to 1 year, a fine of up to 50,000 (USD 753), or both. The Labor Act also allows for a fine to be levied against employers in violation of labor laws. The Constitution of Nepal prohibits the employment of minors in factories, mines or other hazardous work. The minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years, but children can begin military training at age 15.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Nepal. The primary anti-trafficking law is the Human Trafficking Control Act of 1986. The Kamaiya system, a form of bonded labor, was banned in 2000, and the Kamaiya Labor (Prohibition) Act came into effect in February 2002. The Act outlaws keeping or employing any person as a bonded laborer and cancels any unpaid loans or bonds between creditors and Kamaiya laborers. Enforcement of the law is inconsistent as approximately 14,000 former Kamaiyas await resettlement, and children from such families continue to work. Since 1999, the Government of Nepal has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Central Child Welfare Board and Child Welfare Officers have the responsibility of enforcing child rights legislation. The Ministry of Labor and Transport Management’s Child Labor Section and Labor Offices are responsible for enforcing child
labor legislation and issues. The U.S. Department of State reports that despite legal protections, resources devoted to enforcement of child labor laws are limited and the Ministry employs too few inspectors to address the problem effectively. There are 10 labor inspectors located in 10 offices in Nepal, who are responsible for conducting inspections of all corporations registered with the Ministry of Labor. In 2005, the Ministry of Labor reached its annual goal of 500 inspections; according to a Ministry official, no instances of child labor were found.

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

The Ministry of Labor and Transport Management of Nepal revised a national Master Plan on Child Labor for 2004-2014 that, at the end of 2005, was still awaiting approval by the Cabinet. The revised plan calls for eliminating the worst forms of child labor by 2009 and all forms of child labor by 2014. The ILO-IPEC Core Timebound Program Project targets 7 of the 16 worst forms of child labor in 35 districts of Nepal in two phases (totaling 7 years). Targeted children are porters, rag pickers (recyclers), domestic workers, laborers in the carpet industry and in mines, bonded laborers, and children trafficked for sexual or labor exploitation. World Education and its local partner organizations also continue to implement a child labor educational initiative program funded by USDOL and share knowledge gained at the community level to inform government policies related to child labor. The government has a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and has established a 16-member National Coordination Committee with a National Task Force that provides policy direction and coordinates activities on child trafficking.

The government continues to take action in order to rescue and rehabilitate freed bonded laborers and has established a Freed Kamaiya Rehabilitation and Monitoring Committee to promote this work at the district level; however, distribution of land to former Kamaiyas has not been consistent with the level of need. In 2000, USDOL funded a project that is on-going to support former child bonded laborers and their families.

3340 Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (No. 14), Section 20 and 21.
Nepal continues to be a part of an ILO-IPEC regional project to combat trafficking in Asia.\footnote{ILO-IPEC, \textit{Combating Child Trafficking for Labor and Sexual Exploitation (TICSA Phase II)}, project document, Geneva, February 2002.}

Nicaragua

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 10.9 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were counted as working in Nicaragua in 2001. Approximately 15.7 percent of all boys 6 to 14 were working compared to 5.8 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (62.5 percent), followed by services (31.8 percent), manufacturing (5.3 percent), and other sectors (0.4 percent). Children work in the production of such crops as coffee, corn, sugar, and tobacco. Children also work in markets, street sales, restaurants, and hotels; manufacturing; and personal services, such as domestic service in third-party homes. A small percentage of children engage in mining, stone quarrying, construction, and transport. The majority of children work in the informal sector, and some are engaged in garbage dump scavenging. Some children engage in begging, and the Ministry of Labor of Nicaragua reports that some children are “rented” out by their parents to organized groups of beggars. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2001, 45.1 percent of the population in Nicaragua were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Child prostitution is a problem in Nicaragua. Nicaragua is a source and transit country for children trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Children are

3354 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”
3355 See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Written Replies by the Government of Nicaragua Concerning the List of Issues (CRC/C/Q/NIC/3) Formulated by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Connection with Consideration of the Third Periodic Report of Nicaragua, CRC/C/RESP/83, prepared by Government of Nicaragua, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, April 18 2005, 56; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/3fa16ea862e67b2c125701f00457e2f/$FILE/CRC_C_RESP_83(E).doc.
3358 Ibid.
trafficked within Nicaragua from rural to urban areas and from the country to other parts of Central America and Mexico. The U.S. Department of State reports, however, that this provision is not enforced. In addition, although education is theoretically free, parents are still charged school fees in some instances. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 108 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 85 percent. 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. In 2001, 85 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 65 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five. In 2000, 50 percent of working children did not attend school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code of 1996 and the Child and Adolescent Code of 1998 set the minimum age for employment at 14 years. A ministerial resolution also specifically prohibits children under 14 from work in export processing zones, while another prohibits contracting children under 16 for work at sea.


the Child has raised concerns about the gap between age for completing compulsory schooling and the minimum age of work.\textsuperscript{3371} The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) has stated that the minimum age provision in Nicaraguan law appears to apply only to work relationships where a contract between employer and worker exists, thereby excluding children working on their own account or children in the informal sector who often do not have formal contracts with their employer.\textsuperscript{3372}

Children 14 to 16 years old cannot work without parental permission.\textsuperscript{3373} Under the Labor Code, adolescents 14 to 18 cannot work over 6 hours a day or 30 hours a week. Adolescents are also prohibited from engaging in work that endangers their health and safety, such as work in mines, garbage dumps, and night entertainment venues, and work that may interfere with schooling.\textsuperscript{3374} ILO’s CEACR has expressed concern that adolescents ages 16 to 18 may not be fully protected against performing certain kinds of hazardous work.\textsuperscript{3375} For violations of child labor laws, the Labor Code calls for the imposition of fines from 5 to 15 times the average minimum wage in Nicaragua. Revenues for fines are assigned to the National Commission for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Young Worker (CNEPTI). As of May 2005, minimum wages ranged from 769 Cordobas (USD 43) per month in agriculture to 1838 Cordobas (USD 103) per month in banking and construction.\textsuperscript{3376}

The worst forms of child labor are prohibited under different laws in Nicaragua. The Constitution prohibits forced labor, slavery, and indentured servitude.\textsuperscript{3377} The Constitution, which had abolished obligatory military service, was amended in 1995 to allow conscription. There has been no policy of conscription since that time, however, and the minimum age for conscription is unclear.\textsuperscript{3378} The Penal Code establishes a penalty of 4 to 8 years of imprisonment for those found guilty of recruiting children

\begin{footnotes}
\textsuperscript{3371} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{List of Issues to be taken up in Connection with Consideration of the Third Periodic Report of Nicaragua}, CRC/C/Q/NIC/3, February 11, 2005, 3; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/0f01c004cf2737b2e1256fe10037e1d9/$FILE/CRC.C.Q.NIC.3(Nicaragua).pdf.
\textsuperscript{3373} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Nicaragua}, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3374} \textit{Ley núm. 474}, Articles 3-5.
\textsuperscript{3375} ILO-CEACR, \textit{Direct request}.
\textsuperscript{3377} Constitución de Nicaragua. Articles 40-4. See also U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Nicaragua}, Section 6c.
\end{footnotes}
under 16 years into prostitution and 12 years of imprisonment for recruiting children under 12 years.\textsuperscript{3379} The Children and Adolescents’ Code forbids any person from promoting, filming, or selling child pornography.\textsuperscript{3380} The Penal Code prohibits trafficking in persons and imposes a penalty of 4 to 10 years of imprisonment for those found in violation of the law.\textsuperscript{3381} Since 1999, the Government of Nicaragua has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{3382}

The government has a Child Labor Inspector’s Office within the Ministry of Labor’s Inspector General’s Office; however, the Office does not have its own inspectors. The country’s 72 general inspectors and 18 hygiene and safety inspectors are responsible for carrying out regular inspections throughout the country monitoring labor conditions including compliance with child labor laws and regulations.\textsuperscript{3383} During 2004, the most recent year for which such information is available, 121 infractions of child labor laws were discovered involving 2,102 children. The majority of infractions were found in the agricultural sector in rural areas, and the three most common types of infractions were contract violations, excessive working hours, and health and safety violations.\textsuperscript{3384} The Ministry of Labor reports that strip clubs are inspected several times a year to prevent the employment of children.\textsuperscript{3385} The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and levying fines against employers violating the Labor Code.\textsuperscript{3386} The Ministry of Government is responsible for overall law enforcement in the country and operates an anti-trafficking office.\textsuperscript{3387} According to the U.S. Department of State, the government did not allocate adequate resources to enable the Ministry of Labor to perform its duties effectively.\textsuperscript{3388}

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

Through CNEPTI, the Government of Nicaragua worked during the year with international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to implement its 4-year strategic plan (2001-2005) for addressing child labor.\textsuperscript{3389} This plan has been introduced

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{3380} \textit{Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia}, Article 69.
\item \textsuperscript{3381} \textit{Código Penal de la República de Nicaragua}, Article 203.
\item \textsuperscript{3382} ILO-IPEC official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\item \textsuperscript{3383} U.S. Embassy- Managua, \textit{reporting}, August 12, 2004.
\item \textsuperscript{3384} Ministry of Labor, ”Trabajo Infantil,” \textit{Anuario Laboral 2004} (n.d.).
\item \textsuperscript{3385} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Nicaragua}, Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{3386} Ministerio del Trabajo, República de Nicaragua, Política Institucional, http://www.mitrab.gob.ni/mision.html, accessed 8/16/06. See also HRR 2005, section 6d.
\item \textsuperscript{3387} U.S. Embassy- Managua, \textit{reporting}, July 26, 2005.
\item \textsuperscript{3388} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2005: Nicaragua}, Section 6d.
\item \textsuperscript{3389} CNEPTI, \textit{Plan estratégico nacional para la prevención y erradicación del trabajo infantil y protección del adolescente trabajador: Nicaragua, 2001-2005}, Managua, October 2000, 2. See also U.S. Embassy- Managua, \textit{reporting}, July 26, 2005. For a list of member organizations of CNEPTI from both the public
\end{itemize}
into municipal government agendas to facilitate local implementation of the plan’s objectives. The issue of child labor is also included in the country’s National Development Plan. The government’s National Council for the Integral Attention and Protection of Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) directs a 10-year National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents and a 5-year National Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

The Government of Nicaragua participates in a number of ILO-IPEC projects. The government collaborated in a USDOL-funded USD 1.1 million project to combat child labor in garbage scavenging and a Canadian-funded USD 1.1 million project to combat child domestic labor that were completed during 2005. The government continues to participate in two USDOL-funded regional projects: a USD 4 million project to combat hazardous child labor in agriculture and a USD 8.4 million project to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The government also continues to collaborate in a USD 500,000 ILO-IPEC project to combat child domestic work funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

In coordination with the Nicaraguan government, CARE-USA is implementing a USDOL-funded USD 5.5 million regional project to combat exploitative child labor through education. The government also implements a project to prevent and eradicate child labor in small-scale mining and another to combat child labor in the tobacco growing sector. The Ministry of Labor has conducted workshops with employers, workers, trade unions, teachers, parents, and other government agencies on child labor.

Through its Program for Children and Adolescents at Risk (PAINAR), the Ministry of Family works to remove children from work, provide counseling to children and their


3390 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Written Replies by the Government of Nicaragua Concerning the List of Issues (CRC/C/Q/NIC/3)*, 42 and 46.


3394 ILO - IPEC official, e-mail communication, November 8, 2005.

3395 CARE USA, *APRENDO Project: Combating Exploitative Child Labor Through Education in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and the Dominican Republic*, 2004.

3396 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Written Replies by the Government of Nicaragua Concerning the List of Issues (CRC/C/Q/NIC/3)*, 56.

3397 Ibid., 49-50.
families, and coordinate with other government agencies, the police, and NGOs to provide services.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- Managua, \textit{reporting}, July 26, 2005.} The ministry also operates a “traffic lights” project to assist children who perform odd jobs around traffic intersections.\footnote{UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Written Replies by the Government of Nicaragua Concerning the List of Issues (CRC/C/Q/NIC/3)}, 56.} In addition, the ministry provides support to children and adolescents who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Managua.\footnote{Nicaraguan Embassy Counselor, letter to USDOL official, August 16, 2004.}

The government is implementing a massive birth registration campaign to address long standing problems with registering children from indigenous communities and in rural areas of the country, in order to facilitate their access to schooling and other services, and reduce their vulnerability to crimes such as trafficking.\footnote{UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Written Replies by the Government of Nicaragua Concerning the List of Issues (CRC/C/Q/NIC/3)}, 35. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations}, CRC/C/15/Add.264, Geneva, 2005, 7; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/e7d17147aa4249f6c1257018002e3a41/$FILE/CRC_C_15_Add264(unedited).pdf.}

With assistance from the ILO, the government continued to implement a trafficking awareness campaign specifically for border police and immigration officials and the Women’s Commission of the Police carried out a nationwide trafficking awareness campaign in high schools.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Nicaragua}, Section 5.}

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECD) is implementing a 15-year National Education Plan that includes strategies to improve teacher training, access to education, and relevance of education, which are common barriers for working children to obtaining an education.\footnote{Ministry of Education, Sport, and Culture, \textit{Plan Nacional de Educación}, Managua, 2000; available from http://www.mecd.gob.ni/plan1.asp.} The government is also operating a number of specific programs to promote basic education. The government has mounted an effort to eliminate the “voluntary” school fees that are still charged in some areas.\footnote{UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Written Replies by the Government of Nicaragua Concerning the List of Issues (CRC/C/Q/NIC/3)}, 35.} The government also operates flexible education programs that enable older and out-of-school children to complete primary school.\footnote{Director of Primary Education, letter to Secretary General of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports, October 20, 2003.}

Various donors are also providing support to government basic education efforts. With support from USAID, MECD has implemented updated quality curricula and teacher training programs in primary schools.\footnote{USAID, \textit{Nicaragua: USAID Program Profile}, [online] May 13, 2005 [cited June 27, 2005]; available from http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/country/program_profiles/nicaraguaprofile.html.} UNICEF is implementing programs such as the Child-Friendly and Healthy Schools initiative, which is intended to promote quality
teaching and improve school meals and sanitation services in schools.\textsuperscript{3407} With support from the World Food Program and donors such as Japan, MECD operates school feeding programs that encourage attendance.\textsuperscript{3408} The IDB is providing funding of USD 880,000 to MECD to promote completion of basic education among fifth and sixth graders.\textsuperscript{3409} The Government of Nicaragua was endorsed for funding from a variety of donors through the World Bank’s Education for All Fast Track Initiative, which aims to provide all children with a primary school education by the year 2015.\textsuperscript{3410} Currently, the World Bank is providing support for three basic education projects in Nicaragua, for a total funding of approximately USD 69 million.\textsuperscript{3411}


Niger

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 66.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Niger in 2000. Approximately 71.8 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 60.6 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work primarily in the urban informal and agricultural sectors. Children in rural areas mainly work on family farms gathering water or firewood, pounding grain, tending animals, or working in the fields. Children as young as 6 years old are reported to work on grain farms in the southwest. Children also shine shoes; guard cars; work as apprentices for artisans, tailors, and mechanics; perform domestic work; and work as porters and street beggars. Children work in hazardous conditions in small trona, salt, gypsum, and gold mines and quarries as well as in slaughterhouses. In 2000, the ILO estimated that 57 percent of the workers in small quarries in Niger were children. Some 250,000 children were estimated to be working in this sector. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, 60.6 percent of the population in Niger were living on less than USD 1 a day.

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3412 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and Work Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


3417 Trona is a mineral used as a source of sodium compounds.


Children also are exploited in prostitution and drug trafficking. In the shantytowns that spring up around mines, there are reports that girls as young as 10 are vulnerable to exploitation in prostitution and that both boys and girls are exploited in drug trafficking.\footnote{Alfa, Child Labour in Small-Scale Mines in Niger. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, unclassified telegram no. 1166.}

Traditional forms of caste-based servitude still exist in isolated parts of Niger,\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Niger, Section 6c.} although estimates on the exact number of Nigeriens involved vary. In addition to being subjected to social discrimination, many are forced into labor of various forms.\footnote{U.S. Embassy – Niamey Official, email correspondence to USDOL Official, July 31, 2006.} Children’s’ caste standing often determines the sort of work in which they engage. Depending on the region, slave-caste children’s work is likely to be agricultural or domestic in nature, while other children are involved in cattle rearing, leather, wood, or iron-working.\footnote{U.S. Embassy – Niamey Official, email correspondence to USDOL Official, July 31, 2006. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Niger, Section 6c. See also Moustapha Kadi Oumani: Un Tabou Brise, L'Esclavage En Afrique, Cas du Niger, L’Harmattan, Paris, 2005. See also Galy Kadir Abdellkader, ed., Slavery in Niger: Historical, Legal, and Contemporary Perspectives, Slavery International and Association Timidira, March 2004, 2004. See also The Economist, "Still With Us," The Economist, March 9, 2005; available from http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?Story_id=5%27%29%28%2FQ%21%3F%26%20%24%224 %0A&tranMode=none.}


Primary education is free and compulsory for six years.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Niger, Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, email communication to USDOL official, October 4, 2005.} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 44 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 38 percent.\footnote{UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005).} 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. In 2000, 31.1 percent of children ages 5 to14 years were attending school.\footnote{UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and Work Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates. A large number of children, particularly in rural areas, are not registered at birth. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Niger, Geneva, June 13 2002.} As of 2001,
69 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\textsuperscript{3429}

Among the challenges faced by the Nigerien education system are outdated primary teaching methodologies, pre-school education that is restricted primarily to urban areas, negative parental attitudes towards Nigerien education, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of supplies.\textsuperscript{3430} Children are often made to work rather than attend school, particularly during planting or harvesting periods. In addition, nomadic children in northern parts of the country often do not have the opportunity to attend school.\textsuperscript{3431} Slave caste children’s enrollment in school is decided by their masters. In some cases, slave caste children are allowed to attend school, but their masters can withdraw them at will for work or to give away or sell.\textsuperscript{3432} As with other nomadic children, however, the primary constraint facing slave caste children is lack of access to schools.\textsuperscript{3433}

Education initiatives were temporarily threatened by the food security emergency that forced families to migrate in search of pasture and food in 2004 and 2005.\textsuperscript{3434}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, although children between 12 and 14 years of age may work with special authorization. Children 14 to 18 years old may not work for more than 4.5 hours per day nor in industrial jobs.\textsuperscript{3435} The law also requires that employers guarantee minimum sanitary working conditions for children.\textsuperscript{3436} The Labor Code prohibits forced and bonded labor, except for work by legally-convicted prisoners.\textsuperscript{3437}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Niger. Niger’s 2003 Anti-Slavery Law outlaws all forms of slavery and provides for a prison sentence of 10 to 30 years and a fine for violations.\textsuperscript{3438} The minimum age for

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{3430} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Rapports initiaux, para. 302, 303, 305, 306. See also Abdulkader, *Slavery in Niger.*
\textsuperscript{3431} U.S. Embassy- Niamey, reporting, July 2000.
\textsuperscript{3432} Masters often give slave caste children away when their own daughter marries and receive, as part of her trousseau, a slave caste boy or girl to take to her new home. See Abdulkader, *Slavery in Niger.* See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Niger: The Government Says Slavery No Longer Exists, the Slaves Disagree", June 24 2005; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=47813&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=NIGER.
\textsuperscript{3433} U.S. Embassy- Niamey Official, email communication to USDOL Official, July 31, 2006.
\textsuperscript{3434} Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger, Catholic Relief Services, Niamey, March 28 2005. The food crisis had been corrected by October 2005 as harvests were coming in. See U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, email communication, October 4, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3435} U.S. Embassy- Niamey, reporting, February 1998.
\textsuperscript{3436} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Niger*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3437} Despite these legal proscriptions, a traditional caste system is practiced by some ethnic minorities, which promotes slave-like relationships between the upper and lower castes. See International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), *Core Labour Standards in Niger and Senegal*, 8-9. Forced child labor does occur. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Niger*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3438} Du crime d'esclavage, Special No 4, (April 7, 2004).
\end{footnotesize}
conscription into the military is 18 years old.\textsuperscript{3439} The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of a minor for the purpose of prostitution.\textsuperscript{3440} Since 1999, the Government of Niger has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{3441}

The Ministry of Labor is charged with enforcing labor laws, but has very limited resources with which to do so.\textsuperscript{3442} The Ministry of Labor has approximately 30 inspectors deployed nation-wide. They are responsible for investigating cases of child labor, but are also responsible for enforcing all other elements of the labor code as well. As part of a recent project to aid the Government of Niger’s fight against child labor, the ILO trained 50 Ministry of Labor inspectors. Each inspector is responsible for the design and implementation of a project on child labor.\textsuperscript{3443}

\textbf{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

The Ministry of Labor continued its work with ILO-IPEC and UNICEF on a child labor program to determine the extent of the problem in the four areas of gold mines, slaughterhouses, street children, and agriculture on the Niger River.\textsuperscript{3444} As a result the Ministry of Mines is cooperating in a regional ILO-IPEC project to remove children from the artisanal gold mining in two sites in Niger.\textsuperscript{3445} In 2003, the ILO – Government of Niger cooperative project was successful in eliminating child labor from the Niamey slaughterhouse. The project withdrew children from the labor force and reinserted them into schools and vocational training programs.\textsuperscript{3446} A child labor network headed by UNICEF and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection has been organized and will meet on a quarterly basis.\textsuperscript{3447} The Government of Niger is also participating in a 4-year USD 2 million USDOL Education Initiative project designed to combat child labor through education.\textsuperscript{3448} The program has already provided direct benefits to child laborers and at-risk children, while providing indirect benefits to others who attend the program’s schools. The Government of Niger’s Ministry of Basic Education has assisted the project

\textsuperscript{3439} US Embassy Niamey, email communication, October 4, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3440} The penalty for procuring a minor is two to five years of imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 to 5,000,000 francs (USD 91.05 to 9,105.03). See Government of Niger, \textit{Criminal Code: Chapter VIII- Offenses Against Public Morals}, as cited in The Protection Project Legal Library, [database online], Articles 291 and 292; available from http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/NigerF.pdf. Universal Currency Converter, in XE.com, [online] [cited October 4, 2005]; available from http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi.
\textsuperscript{3441} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3442} As of August 2003, there were only 8 labor inspectors in the country, one for each region. U.S. Embassy- Niamey, reporting.
\textsuperscript{3443} U.S. Embassy Niamey, reporting.
\textsuperscript{3444} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Niger}, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3446} U.S. Embassy Niamey, reporting.
\textsuperscript{3447} \textit{Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger}, 2.
\textsuperscript{3448} Ibid.
by providing teachers and working with the implementing partners on teacher training and curricula reform. Slave-caste children have been included in the community schools in their regions, and parents of at-risk children have benefited from connected income generating activities. The government has also taken steps on anti-trafficking measures including training on trafficking victim identification and public education sessions, and has signed a Multilateral Agreement on Child Trafficking. In March 2005, the government began to educate communities on the new Anti-Slavery Law, including the rights of victims.

Education is a cornerstone of the country’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper under the IMF’s Enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The goals of this initiative include increasing primary school enrollment and completion rates, especially among girls, as well as enrollment in rural secondary schools. UNICEF is also supporting government education efforts to improve primary education through programs like the African Girls’ Education Initiative, as well as general improvements to educational infrastructure and curricula. WFP is also active in Niger, implementing activities to increase enrollment and attendance in primary schools through a school feeding program.

Nigeria

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Nigeria are unavailable. Many children work in agriculture and related sectors, helping the family in fishing, farming, or cattle herding. Children also work on commercial farms. In urban areas, children work as domestic servants, street hawkers, vendors, beggars, scavengers, shoe shiners, car washers/watchers, and bus conductors. Children also work in cottage industries and mechanical workshops as iron and metal workers, carpenters, tailors, weavers, caterers, barbers and hairdressers. Child begging is especially widespread in northern Nigeria. The almajiranci system of semi-formal Koranic education has come to rely on child pupils begging to support their mallam, or Islamic teacher. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1996, the most recent year for which data are available, 70.2 percent of the population in Nigeria were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is common in many cities in Nigeria. The country is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for forced

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3455 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section in the front of the report 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.


3458 Hodges, Children's and Women's Rights in Nigeria, 205.

3459 Ibid., 209.

3460 Ibid.


labor and forced prostitution.\textsuperscript{3463} Children from Benin and other African countries are trafficked to Nigeria, where some are forced to work as domestic workers, prostitutes,\textsuperscript{3464} or under other exploitative labor conditions.\textsuperscript{3465} Nigerian children are trafficked internally and to West and Central Africa for domestic labor, commercial agriculture (including cocoa), quarrying, and street hawking, and to Europe for commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{3466} Children are also trafficked to Saudi Arabia.\textsuperscript{3467}

The Constitution of Nigeria requires the government to provide free, compulsory primary education “when practical.”\textsuperscript{3468} The compulsory education period in Nigeria is 9 years.\textsuperscript{3469} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 119 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 67 percent.\textsuperscript{3470} 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 Nigeria.\textsuperscript{3471} Although more than two-thirds of all states in Nigeria have declared free basic education,\textsuperscript{3472} access to education is hindered by the costs of books, transportation, and uniforms.\textsuperscript{3473} Girls who are unable to attend school are often required to work as domestics, traders or street vendors.\textsuperscript{3474}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Act sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, except for light agricultural, horticultural, or domestic work performed for the family.\textsuperscript{3475} The minimum age for apprenticeships is 13 years.\textsuperscript{3476} The Labor Act prohibits employing children to


\textsuperscript{3464}ILO-IPEC, *Combating the trafficking of children for labour exploitation in West & Central Africa (Phase II)*, 1.


\textsuperscript{3466}Ibid. See also ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Programme to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labour (WACAP)*, project document, RAF/02/P50/USA, Geneva, September 2002. Children are often trafficked by relatives or other familiar people who offer salary payments, schooling or training. See U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Nigeria*, section 5.


\textsuperscript{3469}Nigerian Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity official, interview with DOL contractor, March 29, 2005.


\textsuperscript{3471}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.


\textsuperscript{3475}Ibid., section 6d. See also *Nigeria Labour Act*, (1974), article 59; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/42156/64980/E7RNGA01.htm#p3.

\textsuperscript{3476}Nigeria Labour Act, article 49.
lift or carry any load likely to negatively affect their physical development, and establishes a minimum age of 15 years for industrial work and maritime employment. Children under 16 years are prohibited from working underground, on machines, at night, on a public holiday, or in employment that is dangerous or immoral, for more than 4 consecutive hours, or for more than 8 hours a day. The Act authorizes the Ministry of Labor to regulate child domestic service.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Nigeria. According to section 11 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, any person who traffics a child under the age of 18 years into or out of Nigeria with the intent to prostitute him/her is subject to imprisonment from ten years to life. The Act stipulates a prison term for any person who procures for himself or others any child under the age of 18, and for any person who commits a child in their care to prostitution or indecent assault. The Act also prohibits forced labor, trafficking in slaves, pornography, drug trafficking, or forced or compulsory recruitment into armed conflict. The Act applies to all residents of Nigeria, and to Nigerians who are convicted outside of Nigeria for trafficking-related offenses. It also provides for the rights of victims of trafficking, including the right to access health and social services while a temporary resident, protection of identity, and the right to press charges against the trafficker.

Eleven Nigerian states afflicted by trafficking have established anti-trafficking police units.

The Child Rights Act provides for a ten-year sentence for the trafficking of children for the purposes of hawking, begging, prostitution, pornography, labor under slave-like conditions, and activities related to illicit drugs. Nigeria has no military conscription. Recruitment into the professional armed forces is on a voluntary basis. The minimum legal recruitment age is 18.

Child labor regulations, policies and laws are promoted and enforced at the federal, state and local levels by various ministries and agencies. The Federal Ministry of Employment, Labor and Productivity coordinates all efforts to combat child labor through its Inspectorate Department, which includes a Child Labor Unit. As of March,

3477 Ibid., articles 59-61.
3478 Ibid., articles 59-60.
3479 Ibid., articles 59 and 65.
3481 Also UNFPA, Nigeria Enacts Anti-Human Trafficking Law.
the Ministry had 318 Labor Officers and Inspectors, 80 of whom had been trained in child labor issues. According to the U.S. Department of State, government initiatives to stem the incidence of child labor have been ineffective. Inspectors are hindered by inadequate funding, transportation, training, incentives, and resistance by employers, children and their families. The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act established The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), a national agency to coordinate trafficking in persons efforts, oversee enforcement of the Act, and to provide for victim rehabilitation. According to U.S. Department of State, trafficking in persons funding is inadequate and official corruption, particularly among immigration and airport authorities, allows traffickers to gain access into the country.

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

The Government of Nigeria participates in two USDOL-funded regional projects: the first aims to combat the trafficking of children, and the second, funded jointly with the Cocoa Global Issues Group, withdraws children from hazardous work in the cocoa sector, generates income for families, and improves access to and the quality of education. In addition, the USAID-supported Sustainable Tree Crops Program incorporates child labor issues into its program in Nigeria, and coordinates with the ILO-IPEC program to address child labor in the cocoa sector. In 2005, the U.S. Department of State began funding four anti-trafficking awareness raising projects throughout the country.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) Global Program against Trafficking in Human Beings provides technical assistance to the government to assess trends in human trafficking. In addition, the Governments of Nigeria and Italy are collaborating on a separate UNODC project to reduce the trafficking of women and minors for the purpose

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3487 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Nigeria, 6d.
3489 Trafficking in Persons Act.
3491 The project began in 1999 and is currently in its second phase. See ILO-IPEC, Combating the trafficking of children for labour exploitation in West & Central Africa (Phase I), project document, RAF/01/P53/USA, Geneva, July 1999. See also ILO-IPEC, Combating the trafficking of children for labour exploitation in West & Central Africa (Phase II). See also U.S. Department of Labor, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary: Combating Trafficking in Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa, Phases 1 & 2 (LUTRENA), summary.
3492 ILO-IPEC, West Africa Cocoa/Commercial Agriculture Programme, project document, 1, 12.
3494 U.S. Department of State- INL, reporting, November 9, 2005.
3495 The project is supported by funds from Canada, France and Norway. See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Pilot Projects: Technical Cooperation by Geographical Region: Africa, [online] [cited January 22, 2006]; available from http://www.odccp.org/odccp-trafficking_projects.html.
of commercial sexual exploitation between the two countries. With funding from the U.S. Department of State and USAID, IOM and local non-governmental organizations have developed and currently operate temporary shelters and training centers in Edo State for returned trafficking victims.

NAPTIP has been working with other federal ministries, law enforcement and immigration officers, and civil society organizations in 22 states to establish anti-trafficking committees at the state level to sensitize the local populations on the dangers of trafficking in persons. As of August, NAPTIP had successfully convicted 3 traffickers and had 2 additional cases pending. NAPTIP is also working with international governments and organizations to establish a center for the maintenance and analysis of records from all agencies and organizations working on TIP issues.

In June 2005, the Governments of Nigeria and Benin signed a cooperation agreement to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, with an emphasis on trafficking in women and children. In March 2005, police rescued more than 100 trafficked children who were concealed in a frozen food truck on its way to Lagos for work as domestic servants. Sixty seven of these children were between the ages of 1 and 14. In July, police in Cross River State intercepted a bus traveling to Cameroon carrying 40 children destined to be exploited in forced labor situations.

The Government of Nigeria’s “National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy” (NEEDS 2003-2007) sets an institutional and governmental reform agenda for the country. Among other things, the NEEDS seeks to provide a safety net to vulnerable groups and emphasizes the importance of education and the protection of children from all forms of abuse including hazardous work, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. The

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3496 UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Programme of action against trafficking in minors and young women from Nigeria into Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation, January 22, 2006; available from http://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/humantrafficking.html.
3499 Ibid.
3503 U.S. Consulate General- Lagos, reporting, August 31, 2005.
Government of Nigeria’s Education strategies include full implementation of the free and compulsory education requirement, decreasing gender gaps in the educational system, and improving the quality of education through teacher reform. In addition, the Government’s 2004-2007 Strategic National Education Plan aims to improve the quality of education at all levels.\footnote{3505}

In September, the President of Nigeria launched a school feeding program that aimed to provide one meal per school day to 10 percent of all primary school children in the pilot phase of the program. The program aims to increase enrollment and completion rates of children living in poor urban neighborhoods and rural communities.\footnote{3506}

UNICEF, in collaboration with the government, has been implementing a Strategy for Acceleration of Girls Education in Nigeria to promote equal access to education for girls.\footnote{3507} UNICEF also works to improve enrollment and retention rates, educational attainment and nutritional status in primary schools by focusing on teaching and learning practices.\footnote{3508} The Government of Nigeria is implementing a USD 101 million Universal Basic Education Project supported by the World Bank, which aims to improve the quality of schools, increase access to education, and strengthen the Education Management Information System in Nigeria.\footnote{3509} USAID funds the Literacy Enhancement Assistance Program (LEAP) which supports teacher training, community participation, and the use of educational data in the development of school budgets and policy in three states (Lagos, Kano, and Nasarawa), as well as youth skills development for unemployed youth in Delta, Lagos, and Kano.\footnote{3510}


\footnote{3510}{The LEAP program operates in primary grades 3-6. USAID, \textit{S03 - Basic Education}, [online] no date [cited November 22, 2005]; available from http://www.usaid.gov/ng/so3.htm.}
Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Oman are unavailable. However, children are known to work in the informal and family-based subsistence agriculture and fishery sectors of the economy. Bedouin children participated in camel racing for their families as part of their cultural heritage, however, there were no substantiated recent reports of trafficking of foreign children to work as camel jockeys. UNICEF and the Government of Oman agree that foreign children were not trafficked and employed as camel jockeys. The ILO does not consider the use of child camel jockeys, as practiced in Oman, to be a significant problem.

Education is free for all children ages 6 to 18 years, but is not compulsory by law. In order to achieve the goal of education for all, the government provides free transportation to and from school and free textbooks and learning materials to every student. Additionally, the government and private sector provide assistance, such as support for the purchase of school uniforms, to low income families. In 2002, the

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3511 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


3516 U.S. Embassy- Muscat official, email communication to USDOL official, March 1, 2004. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat official, email communication to USDOL official, January 7, 2006. Employers typically ask for documentation that young people have completed their basic education through grade 10 before hiring them. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat, reporting, August 23, 2004.

3517 UNESCO, EFA Country Report: Oman, Section II.3.2.1.

gross primary enrollment rate was 81 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 72 percent.\(^{3519}\) 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 Oman.\(^{3520}\) As of 2001, 98 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\(^{3521}\)

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Oman Labor Law, updated in 2003, establishes a minimum age of 15 years for employment, while minors ages 15 to 18 years are permitted to work only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Minors are prohibited from working overtime or in certain hazardous occupations.\(^{3522}\) Employers are prohibited from requiring minors to work on official days of rest or holidays or more than 6 hours per day.\(^{3523}\) Workplaces that employ minors are required to post certain items for display, including: a copy of the provisions of the law regulating the employment of children; an updated log with the names of minors employed in the workplace with their ages and dates of employment; and a work schedule showing work hours, rest periods, and weekly holidays.\(^{3524}\)

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Oman. Forced or compulsory labor by children is specifically prohibited by law.\(^{3525}\) In August 2005, the Ministry of Sport issued a decree to raise the minimum legal age of camel jockeys annually by one year until it reaches 18 in 2009. The current minimum age is set at 14 and rises annually by one year until achieving the 18-year minimum by the 2009 camel racing season.\(^{3526}\) Under Article 220 of the Penal Code, the enticement of a minor into an act of prostitution is a crime punishable by not less than five years of imprisonment.\(^{3527}\) There is no specific legal provision prohibiting trafficking in persons,\(^{3528}\) however, Article 260 of the Penal Code imposes prison sentences of between five and fifteen years to anyone who enslaves a person or places a person in a situation similar to servitude.\(^{3529}\) The minimum age for voluntary military recruitment is 18.\(^{3530}\)


\(^{3520}\) 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.


\(^{3522}\) *Oman Labour Law*, Royal Decree no. 35/2003, (April 26, 2003), Article 77.


\(^{3524}\) *Oman Labour Law*, Article 78.


The Ministry of Manpower is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws. In practice, most employers will ask prospective employees for a certificate indicating that he or she has completed basic education through grade 10. Considering that children usually begin their basic education at age 6, this means that workers, in most cases, will be age 16 when they begin work. Registration with the Omani Camel Racing Federation and submission of a passport, photograph, and birth certificate confirming compliance with minimum age laws is required of all persons seeking work as camel jockeys. While restrictions on the employment of youth are generally followed, enforcement does not always extend to small family businesses, especially those engaged in agriculture and fishing.

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

The Government has entered into a Country Program of Cooperation with UNICEF for the years 2004-2006. This program features a joint strategy that focuses on improving the well-being of children and families, promoting quality education, child protection, and the development of life-skills and healthy lifestyles among adolescents.

The Government of Oman, through the Ministry of Education, is working to increase net enrollment among children and improve the education curriculum. The Basic Education initiative aims to replace the existing three-level General Education system with a unified, child-centered system that covers the first 10 years of schooling. This initiative involves curriculum reform in math, science, and life skills for grades 1 through 10 and will provide teacher training to support the process. This program expanded from 17 public schools in 1998 to 352 for the 2003-2004 school year. The Government plans to expand the program by about 40 schools per year until all of the country’s approximately 1020 public schools are covered.

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3536 Ibid., 16.
Pakistan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Pakistan are unavailable.\footnote{3538} The majority of working children are located in rural areas\footnote{3539} and engaged in agricultural activities. In urban areas, children mainly work in the informal sector in activities such as street vending, domestic work, auto repair, construction, and assisting in family businesses.\footnote{3540} Children working on the streets and in private homes are especially vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.\footnote{3541} Children are also employed in several hazardous sectors, including leather tanning; mining and quarrying; deep-sea fishing; brick-making; rag-picking; carpet-weaving; manufacturing of surgical instruments and glass bangles; and other manufacturing work that involves exposure to dangerous

\begin{table}[h]
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments & \\
\hline
Ratified Convention 138 & \\
Ratified Convention 182 & 10/11/2001 \text{ U} \\
ILO-IPEC Member & \text{ U} \\
National Plan for Children & \text{ U} \\
National Child Labor Action Plan & \text{ U} \\
Sector Action Plan (Bonded Labor) & \text{ U} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\footnote{3538}{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.}


machinery, electrical wires, and toxic, explosive, or carcinogenic chemicals. Bonded child labor is still reported to exist in Pakistan in agriculture and in the mining, brick, and carpet-weaving industries, among others. The commercial sexual exploitation of both boys and girls also continues to be a problem. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 13.4 percent of the population in Pakistan were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Boys studying in certain madrassas, or religious schools, are recruited, often forcibly, as child soldiers to fight with Islamic militants in Afghanistan and Pakistani-administered Kashmir. There are reports of girls being used by Pakistani armed groups as well. Pakistan is a source, transit, and destination country for child trafficking. Girls, primarily from Bangladesh, India, Burma, Afghanistan, Iran, and various Central Asian countries, are trafficked into Pakistan for the purposes of sexual exploitation, begging, domestic service, and bonded labor. Children are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation and other types of exploitative labor, and Pakistani children are trafficked to Middle Eastern countries, Turkey, and Greece for domestic service, bonded labor, and other purposes. Recent attention by NGOs and the media and stronger government enforcement have reduced the number of Pakistani boys that are trafficked to Gulf countries to serves as camel jockeys, but the practice persists.

3548 U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan).
On October 8, 2005, a powerful earthquake struck parts of Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. In Pakistan the provinces of northern Punjab, Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP), and Pakistani-administered Kashmir were particularly hard-hit, with over 73,000 people killed, over 69,000 injured, and 2.8 million left homeless. According to UNICEF, over half of those killed were children, 17,000 of them in collapsed school buildings in NWFP and Pakistani-administered Kashmir. Thousands of child survivors were orphaned or separated from their families, making them more vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of exploitative child labor. There were reports that increased numbers of children in the affected areas were working in such activities as domestic service and delivery of goods.

Some provinces mandate basic education, with varying age requirements, but the federal government has not made basic education compulsory. The Constitution stipulates that the government “shall remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within a minimum possible period.” Public education is officially free, but students are often charged fees for books, supplies, and uniforms. Rural children often do not have access to schools, and in urban areas many public schools suffer from low education quality and lack of facilities, leading parents to opt for madrassas or other private schools. Even before the earthquake, low levels of public spending on education resulted in poor performance on many education indicators, including literacy and gender disparity. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 68 percent and

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3552 IRINnews, "Interview with UNICEF representative". See also Basic Education Coalition, After the Earthquake: Pakistan's Affected Children and Schools, Washington, D.C., October, 2005. See also En-Lai Yeoh, "Pakistan Earthquake Orphans Thousands", Guardian Unlimited online, [online], October 18, 2005; available from http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-5352482,00.html.
in 2000, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 59 percent.\textsuperscript{3558} Gross and net enrollment rates 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 Pakistan.\textsuperscript{3559}

The earthquake demolished the majority of the primary and secondary schools in the region - an estimated 10,000 schools - and school books and supplies were also destroyed. In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir and the closest city to the quake’s epicenter, all of the schools collapsed.\textsuperscript{3560} Many teachers were also killed. Some schools have reopened, and some are operating in makeshift tents,\textsuperscript{3561} but rebuilding permanent structures will take years.\textsuperscript{3562}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Constitution prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, or other hazardous occupations.\textsuperscript{3563} The Factories Act of 1934, Shops and Establishments Ordinance of 1969, and the Mines Act of 1923 prohibit the employment of children in certain hazardous situations and processes.\textsuperscript{3564} The Employment of Children Act of 1991 prohibits the employment of children under age 15 in 6 specific occupations and 14 specific processes deemed hazardous or exploitative, including working on trains or in railway stations, carpet-weaving, building, and manufacturing cement, explosives, and other products that involve the use of toxic substances.\textsuperscript{3565} The Act also prohibits overtime and night work by children (after 7 p.m.); limits the workday of a child to 7 hours; requires a 1-hour break after 3 hours of work and at least one day of rest per week for children; and requires employers to maintain a register of working children. However, children working in family-run enterprises are excluded from these provisions.\textsuperscript{3566} The 1995 Employment of Children Rules detail employers’ requirements

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{3559} 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. For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.
\textsuperscript{3560} Koster, "Increased child labour in quake area." Some Pakistani citizens’ groups have attributed the number of collapsed schools to misallocation of resources in school construction projects. See David Montero, "The Pakistan quake: Why 10,000 schools collapsed," The Christian Science Monitor (Boston), November 8, 2005; available from http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1108/p01s03-wosc.htm.
\textsuperscript{3561} Koster, "Increased child labour in quake area."
\textsuperscript{3562} RINnews, "Interview with UNICEF representative."
\textsuperscript{3563} Constitution of Pakistan, Chapter 1, Article 11(3).
\textsuperscript{3564} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. See also Government of Pakistan, Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
\textsuperscript{3565} Employment of Children Act, (June 4, 1991), Sections 2 and 3 (I, II); available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/22707/64834/E91PAK01.htm. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern over variable and contradictory definitions of a “child” in various Pakistani laws. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC Concluding Observations (2003), para. 27.
\textsuperscript{3566} Employment of Children Act, Sections 3, 7, 8, 11.
\end{footnotesize}
for maintaining minimum standards of health and safety in a child’s working environment.\footnote{Employment of Children Rules, (1995); available from \url{http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/44242/65005/E95PAK01.htm}.}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Pakistan. Forced labor is prohibited by the Constitution and by the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act of 1992, and those found in violation can face 2 to 5 years of imprisonment and fines of 50,000 rupees (approximately USD 838).\footnote{See also Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act of 1992, as cited in ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, \url{http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.details?p_lang=en&p_country=PAK&p_classification=03&p_origin=COUNTRY (Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1992 (abstract); accessed October 1, 2005). See also Constitution of Pakistan, Chapter I, Article 11 (2). See also ILO-IPEC, National Legislation and Policies Against Child Labour in Pakistan, [online] March 21, 2005 [cited June 29, 2005]; available from \url{http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipec/responses/pakistan/national.htm}. For currency conversion, see FXConverter, [database online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from \url{http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic}.} The Constitution and the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking and Smuggling Ordinance of 2002 prohibit trafficking in persons, and the Ordinance assigns strict penalties for individuals or groups found guilty of engaging in or profiting from such activities.\footnote{Constitution of Pakistan, Article 11(2). See also Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking and Smuggling Ordinance (No. 54 of 2002), as cited in U.S. Department of State, Country Report- 2004: Pakistan, Section 5. See also ILO-IPEC, National Legislation and Policies. Under the Ordinance, trafficking is punishable by fines and 7 to 14 years of imprisonment. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, reporting, March 11, 2005.} The Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance prohibits enticing, leading away, concealing, or detaining a female of any age for the purpose of a sexual act.\footnote{The term \textit{zina} refers to sexual acts outside of marriage. The ordinance is part of a body of law known as the Hudood Ordinances, which also cover certain crimes against property. See (Enforcement of Hudood) Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance, as cited in ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan). See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, \url{http://www.usembassy-pakistan.org/reports/2005/tr/05tr0112.pdf}. See also World Organization Against Torture, Rights of the Child in Pakistan: Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Pakistan, Geneva, May, 2003; available from \url{http://www.omct.org/pdf/cc/pakistan_report_09_2003_en.pdf}. See also Amnesty International Asia-Pacific Regional Office, \textit{Hudood Ordinances- The Crime And Punishment For Zina [sic]}, [online] n.d. [cited January 18, 2006]; available from \url{http://asiapacific.amnesty.org/apro/APROweb.nsf/pages/svaw_hudoop}.} The Penal Code also criminalizes the procuring of a minor for prostitution, punishable by a fine and up to 10 years of imprisonment, and kidnapping or abduction of a minor under 10 years old, punishable by imprisonment or capital punishment.\footnote{Pakistan Penal Code, Articles 372, 373, and 364(A), as cited in World Organization Against Torture, Rights of the Child in Pakistan. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{CRC Second Periodic Report of States Parties (2003)}, Paragraph 104. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan).} The law does not specifically prohibit child pornography, but the Penal Code prohibits circulation of any obscene material, with violations subject to fines and up to 3 months of imprisonment.\footnote{ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan).} There is no compulsory conscription into the Pakistani armed forces. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment is 16 years for technical services only, and 17 years to serve in combat.\footnote{Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Child Soldiers 2004}.} In December 2005, President Musharraf issued an ordinance containing
specific accountability requirements for madrassas in the federal capital, in an effort to combat the promotion of militancy in certain religious schools.\textsuperscript{3574}

Since 1999, the Government of Pakistan has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{3575} With technical assistance from ILO-IPEC, the Ministry of Labor convened a tripartite committee in September 2002 that identified 29 occupations as hazardous for workers under age 18, including mining, stone crushing, ship breaking, deep-sea fishing, manufacturing glass bangles, fireworks, and tobacco, work with heavy machinery or live electrical wires, and work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.\textsuperscript{3576}

Child labor laws are enforced by provincial governments through the labor inspectorate system,\textsuperscript{3577} and violations can result in a maximum 1-year prison term and/or a fine of 20,000 rupees (approximately USD 335).\textsuperscript{3578} However, the U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement of these laws is weak due to an inadequate number of inspectors, lack of training and resources, corruption, and the exclusion of many small businesses from the inspectorate’s jurisdiction. Employers found in violation of child labor laws often are not penalized, or the fines levied by the courts are too low to act as a deterrent.\textsuperscript{3579} The Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has primary responsibility for enforcing trafficking-related laws.\textsuperscript{3580} According to the U.S. Department of State, Pakistan has made significant recent improvements in enforcement, with higher numbers of trafficking-related case registrations, arrests, court cases, and convictions.\textsuperscript{3581}

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

Since 2000 the Government of Pakistan and provincial-level governments have been implementing a National Policy and Action Plan to Combat Child Labor (NPPA) that calls for immediate eradication of the worst forms of child labor and the progressive

\textsuperscript{3575} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3576} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Time-Bound Program in Pakistan, project document}, 34-35. See also Government of Pakistan, \textit{Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour}. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended the inclusion of five additional sectors in the list, but the government has not yet approved any additions. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Supporting the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Pakistan, technical progress report}, Geneva, September 12, 2005, 2.
\textsuperscript{3577} Government of Pakistan, \textit{Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour}, 1.
\textsuperscript{3578} \textit{Employment of Children Act, Section 14}. For currency conversion see FXConverter.
\textsuperscript{3579} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Report- 2004: Pakistan}, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3580} Ibid., Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, \textit{reporting}, March 11, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3581} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan}. Government and security officials have been implicated in trafficking and during 2004, 17 public officials were prosecuted and 3 FIA inspectors were arrested for involvement in facilitating trafficking. See U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, \textit{reporting}, March 11, 2005.
elimination of child labor from all sectors of employment. The NPPA further seeks to prevent children from entering the work force by offering educational alternatives. The government’s 2003 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) reiterates the government’s commitment to the NPPA, and incorporates the reduction of child labor into its target-setting process. The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development is coordinating the National Project on the Rehabilitation of Child Laborers, which is focused on withdrawing children from hazardous employment and providing rehabilitative services. The project is being implemented by “Pakistan Bait-up-Mal,” an agency of the Ministry of Social Welfare, which was operating over 100 National Centers for the Rehabilitation of Child Labor as of February 2005. The centers assist in removing children from hazardous work environments and providing non-formal education; school uniforms and other clothing; books; medical care; stipends to children; and stipends to families for income generation activities.

The provincial Labor Departments of Punjab, Sindh and NWFP have established Child Labor Resource Centers, and the provincial government of Balochistan has established a Child Labor Vigilance Cell, each for the purposes of providing a focal point for information and data on child labor; forging networks of social partners to combat child labor; and working with the media to disseminate information on efforts to combat child labor. Punjab has also established a Child Protection Welfare Bureau to provide protective and rehabilitative services to street children and many of the trafficked child camel jockeys who have been repatriated from the Middle East.

The National Committee on Abolition of Bonded Labor and Rehabilitation of Freed Bonded Laborers oversees the implementation of the National Policy and Plan of Action for the Abolition of Bonded Labor, with support from the ILO. The government has established a fund of 100 million rupees (approximately USD 1.7 million) to educate working children and freed bonded laborers; three new projects were approved from this fund in May, 2005. With support from IOM, the FIA has trained Anti-Trafficking

3586 Government of Pakistan, Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
3587 ILO-IPEC, Timebound Programme, technical progress report (September 2005), 2.
3590 Government of Pakistan, Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour. For currency conversion, see FXConverter.
Unit staff to identify and investigate trafficking cases. Also in collaboration with IOM, the government has trained law enforcement officials at national and provincial levels to recognize, apprehend, and prosecute traffickers; piloted a model shelter for trafficking victims under Islamabad Capitol Police protection; and implemented public awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking. In 2005, the FIA established a task force to focus on human trafficking in border and coastal areas.

In 2005, the Ministry of Labor, Manpower, and Overseas Pakistanis signed a 5-year extension of its Memorandum of Understanding with ILO-IPEC, through 2009. The government is participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC Time-Bound Program through 2007, designed to remove and rehabilitate child workers from several target sectors including glass bangle manufacturing, surgical instrument manufacturing, tanning, coal mining, scavenging, deep-sea fishing, and seafood processing. In addition, with support from the Swiss, Norwegian, Italian, German, and Danish governments and other donors, ILO-IPEC is implementing several other child labor projects in Pakistan. These include targeted projects to assist vulnerable groups such as trafficked children, child domestic workers, and children in the carpet-weaving sector, and a project that utilizes the electronic and print media to raise awareness of child labor. With support from USDOL, Save the Children-UK is implementing two child labor projects in collaboration with the government. The first is the USD 5 million “Addressing Child Labor through Quality Education for All” project, which aims to withdraw children from hazardous labor in Punjab province and provide them with education and training. The second is the USD 4 million “Mitigating Child Labor through Education” project, which aims to withdraw children from hazardous work and provide educational services in the provinces of Balochistan, NWFP, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Immediately following the October 2005 earthquake, the government and international organizations took steps to prevent vulnerable children from falling into exploitative child labor. A 6-month ban on the adoption of children was imposed, and relocation of

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3591 IOM staff, email communication to USDOL official, June 29, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Report- 2004: Pakistan, Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, reporting, March 11, 2005.
3592 IOM staff, email communication, June 29, 2005.
3595 ILO-IPEC, Time-Bound Program in Pakistan, project document, 32, 77-79.
children from the affected zones was restricted. The Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) established Child Care and Rehabilitation centers with the capacity to provide shelter, education, health care, and psychosocial services to 3,800 quake-affected children. UNICEF is working with MOSW to register all children in emergency settlements in the affected areas. MOSW is further collaborating with the National Database Registration Authority, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and other NGOs, on a comprehensive strategy to find missing children and to assist children who were orphaned, injured, and separated from their families in the disaster. In addition to committing over USD 63 million in earthquake humanitarian assistance and relief, USAID funded the International Rescue Committee to implement child protection programs in certain quake-affected areas. The ILO integrated child protection programs into its earthquake response, to prevent children from being trafficked or from falling into hazardous work.

In 2003, the Ministry of Education set a goal of universal primary education by 2015 as part of its National Plan of Action for Education for All (EFA). The National Plan of Action makes primary education its top priority, and its objectives include improving basic education quality, promoting community participation in basic education, and reaching disadvantaged populations, particularly out-of-school and illiterate girls.

Administration of the Pakistani education system is largely carried out at the provincial and district levels. Punjab, Pakistan’s most populous province, has actively pursued an Education Sector Reform (ESR) program, continuing efforts to improve education access, quality, and governance and to stem the flow of dropouts. Efforts include providing free textbooks; hiring 29,000 additional teachers and over 30,000 support teachers; providing stipends for girls in primary school and for parents of female students; and renovating schools. In 2004, the Punjabi government provided free school books to primary school children grades 1 to 5, resulting in 13 percent increased

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3600 IRINnews, "Child registration."

3601 USAID, South Asia - Earthquake fact sheet.


3605 ILO-IPEC, Time-Bound Program in Pakistan, project document, 1, 18.

enrollment; books will be provided through grade 8 for the coming school year.\textsuperscript{3607} Further, in light of ongoing critical needs in its education system, in March, 2005, the World Bank announced a credit of USD 100 million to Punjab to enhance quality and access to education, strengthen education system accountability, and strengthen parental participation.\textsuperscript{3608} The provincial governments of NWFP and Balochistan have begun work to replicate Punjab’s successful ESR model.\textsuperscript{3609} In addition, the ADB is supporting projects to restructure technical and vocational training in NWFP and Balochistan.\textsuperscript{3610}

In an effort to rehabilitate the education system after the earthquake, the Pakistani Army and relief organizations instituted makeshift schools in temporary shelters. USAID Army also continued to fund a number of initiatives focused on the education sector. These include a 5-year, USD 60 million bilateral agreement with the government to implement programs to support Education Sector Reform and increase access to quality education, with a particular focus on the Balochistan and Sindh provinces,\textsuperscript{3611} and a project co-financed with the Government of Japan to construct 130 public schools in the FATA.\textsuperscript{3612}

\textsuperscript{3607} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Carpet Industry Project - Phase II, technical progress report (March 2005)}.  
\textsuperscript{3609} Save the Children - UK, \textit{ACL-QEFA, technical progress report (September 2005)}, 4.  
Panama

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The Panama Census and Statistics Directorate estimated that 3.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were working in Panama in 2000. Many working children in Panama live in rural areas and are engaged in agricultural activities. Rates of work also tend to be higher among indigenous than non-indigenous children. Children work in subsistence agriculture as well as on commercial farms that produce sugar cane, coffee, watermelons and other melons, tomatoes, and onions. There are conflicting reports as to whether children work in the banana sector. Some children, including children from indigenous communities in Panama, migrate with their families to other regions of the country and to Costa Rica to participate in crop harvests. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 7.2 percent of the population in Panama were living on less than USD 1 a day.

3613 Census and Statistics Directorate, Informe Nacional de los Resultados de la Encuesta del Trabajo Infantil, ILO-IPEC, May, 2003, 50; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/spanish/standards/ipec/simpoc/panama/report/pa_situ_2003.pdf. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

3614 Ibid., 52, 85, 91.

3615 Ibid., 53.


3618 See ILO-IPEC, Informe Final sobre el Estudio Diagnóstico de la Dimensión, Naturaleza, y Entorno Socioeconómico del Trabajo Infantil y de la Adolescencia Trabajadora en el sector del café en la Provincia de Chiriquí, September 2002, 24, 27.

Children are also found working in urban areas in Panama, especially in the informal sector. They work in supermarkets bagging groceries in return for tips. They engage in street vending, work in urban markets and trash dumps, and work as assistants for bus drivers. Children in Panama also work as domestic servants in third-party homes.

Children are engaged in prostitution in Panama. Panama is a source and destination country for children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Children are trafficked within Panama and from Colombia for sexual exploitation. In addition, some child domestic servants may be trafficking victims. There are also reports that insurgent and paramilitary groups from Colombia have forcibly conscripted children from Panama’s border region with Colombia.

In Panama, education is compulsory through the equivalent of ninth grade and free through high school, although fees may be charged after ninth grade. The government does not cover transportation costs, however, which is a barrier for children from some rural communities to access secondary education. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 100 percent. 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. According to the Panama Census and Statistics Directorate, 15.1 percent of children ages 5 to 17 did not attend school in 2000. As of 2001, 90 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five. Compared to national averages, school attendance is lower among older children in rural areas and children from

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3628 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
indigenous communities. Many indigenous families migrate from their impoverished communities to work in crop harvests, interrupting their children’s schooling.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution of Panama, the Family Code, and the Labor Code set the minimum age for employment at 14 years of age. The Constitution specifically prohibits children from engaging in domestic service before the age of 14. In addition, children who have not completed primary school may not begin work until 15 years of age. The law permits children ages 12 to 14, however, to perform farm labor as long as the work is light and does not interfere with schooling. The ILO’s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has noted that Panamanian law does not provide clear regulations for the kind of farm labor in which 12 to 14 year olds may engage.

The law prohibits youth ages 14 to 18 from engaging in potentially hazardous work or work that would impede their school attendance. The law identifies a number of such hazardous forms of work, including work with electric energy, explosives, flammables, and toxic or radioactive substances; work underground; work on railroads, airplanes, or boats; and work in nightclubs, bars, and casinos. Some of these types of work are allowed if the work is performed as part of a training program. Youth younger than 16 may work no more than 6 hours a day or 36 hours per week, while those 16 and 17 years of age may work no more than 7 hours per day or 42 hours per week. Children under the age of 18 may not work between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. Businesses that employ an underage child are subject to civil fines, while employers who endanger the physical or mental health of a child can face 2 to 6 years of imprisonment.

There are different statutes under which the worst forms of child labor can be prosecuted in Panama. The Labor Code prohibits forced labor by children. Panama does not have armed forces, and therefore has no laws regulating age of conscription.

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3631 Census and Statistics Directorate, Informe Nacional del Trabajo Infantil, 65, 68.
3632 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Panama, Section 6d.
3633 Constitution of Panama, Article 66. See also Government of Panama, Código de la familia, (1994), Article 508, 509. See also Government of Panama, Código del Trabajo (annotated), Article 117. See also Government of Panama, Supreme Court Decision, (November 30, 1995).
3634 Código de la familia, Article 716.
3636 Código del Trabajo (annotated), Article 118. See also Código de la familia, Article 510. and art. 511.
3637 Código del Trabajo (annotated), 120, 122.
3638 U.S. Embassy- Panama City, reporting, October 5, 2001.
3639 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Panama, Section 6c.
The Penal Code provides for a range of penalties for engaging in the prostitution of minors, varying from 4 to 12 years of imprisonment and fines depending on the crime and the age of the victim.\textsuperscript{3641} Production or distribution of child pornography is punishable by 4 to 6 years in prison and fines.\textsuperscript{3642} The Penal Code also includes penalties for involvement in sex tourism in which children are victims. Those found guilty of such crimes are subject to 5 to 8 years in prison and fines.\textsuperscript{3643} The Penal Code likewise contains prohibitions against trafficking of minors for sexual purposes, which include 8 to 10 years in prison and fines.\textsuperscript{3644} Since 1999, the Government of Panama has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{3645}

The Ministry of Labor, through its Child Labor Unit, is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.\textsuperscript{3646} As of August 2004, the Child Labor Unit had seven full-time staff members, and received assistance from 10 to 15 additional inspectors for child labor raids.\textsuperscript{3647} However, the government acknowledges that lack of staff has prevented it from inspecting and enforcing some child labor provisions in rural areas.\textsuperscript{3648}

Children may file complaints about possible violations of their rights with the National Council for Children and Adolescents Rights, the Children’s Delegate in the Ombudsperson’s Office or the Ministry of Social Development (formerly the Ministry of Youth, Women, Children, and Family). The UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, however, has expressed concern that there is a lack of access to and coordination among these bodies.\textsuperscript{3649} The Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Government, and the Attorney General’s office are involved in combating trafficking, and the Technical Judicial Police has a special section for crimes involving commercial sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{3650} In March, the Attorney General’s office ordered the detention of officers in the National Police for offenses related to sex trafficking of children.\textsuperscript{3651}

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

During 2005, the Government of Panama reorganized the country’s existing Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection for Working Minors to encourage

\textsuperscript{3641} Government of Panama, Código Penal, as amended by Ley No. 16, (March 31, 2004), Articles 228-230.
\textsuperscript{3642} Ibid., Article 231D.
\textsuperscript{3643} Ibid., Article 231G.
\textsuperscript{3644} Ibid., Article 231A.
\textsuperscript{3645} ILO - IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3646} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Panama, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3647} U.S. Embassy- Panama City, reporting, August 24, 2004.
\textsuperscript{3648} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Panama, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{3650} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Panama, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{3651} U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.
greater public and private sector participation.\textsuperscript{3652} The committee continued to work to
develop a National Child Labor Action Plan, but at year’s end, the plan had not been completed.\textsuperscript{3653}

During the year, the government implemented a 12-year National Strategic Plan on
Children and Adolescents (2003-2015), which includes strategies to address child labor
and the sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{3654} The eradication of child labor is also being
considered in an anti-poverty system being developed by a government ministers’
working group.\textsuperscript{3655} In February 2005, a new anti-trafficking commission was established.
The commission has the authority to collect a tax to pay for services for victims of
commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, but at year’s end, the tax had not been
implemented.\textsuperscript{3656}

The government is participating in a USD 1 million ILO-IPEC program funded by
USDOL that aims to combat child labor in the rural and urban informal sectors.\textsuperscript{3657}
Panama is also part of a USDOL-funded USD 8.4 million regional ILO-IPEC project to
combat commercial sexual exploitation of children and another USDOL-funded USD 3
million regional ILO-IPEC project to combat exploitative child labor in agriculture.\textsuperscript{3658}
The government is also collaborating in a USD 3 million project funded by USDOL and
implemented by Creative Associates International to combat child labor through
education in Panama.\textsuperscript{3659} Through a Canadian-funded ILO-IPEC project that ended in
2005, the National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection for
Working Minors and the Ministry of Labor coordinated with ILO-IPEC to remove the
most vulnerable children from domestic work.\textsuperscript{3660}

The Ministry of Social Development operates centers that provide assistance to children
engaged in exploitative child labor. It also operates a foster family program and provides
support to shelters that are operated by the NGO Casa Esperanza.\textsuperscript{3661} The ministry also

\textsuperscript{3652} Government of Panama, Document on Child Labor in Panama, second response submitted per U.S.
Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (July 25, 2005) “Request for Information on Efforts by
Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor”, November 9, 2005, 5.

\textsuperscript{3655} ILO-IPEC., Country Program for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Panama, technical

\textsuperscript{3658} U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report.

\textsuperscript{3659} ILO-IPEC, Country Program for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Panama, project
document.

\textsuperscript{3660} ILO-IPEC, Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation
of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, Geneva, September 2005. See also
ILO-IPEC, Prevention and progressive elimination of child labour in agriculture in Central America,
Panama and the Dominican Republic (Phase II), September 2003.

\textsuperscript{3661} National Director for Childhood Dr. Mariel López de Lobo, letter to U.S. Department of State official,
August 26, 2004. See also Casa Esperanza, Propuesta para la Implementación del Programa de Acción
Directa Urbana para Contribuir a la Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil en los Distritos de Panamá y San
works to locate and assist children engaged in child labor in garbage dumps and other sectors, and provide them with services. The ministry worked with approximately 50 children per month during 2005 under the Safe Steps Program, which provides educational reinforcement, meals, and psychological services, among other benefits.\textsuperscript{3662}

During 2005, the government continued to implement its 10-year strategy for education (1997-2006), which, although not specifically focused on child labor, is intended to address issues that may serve as barriers to working children’s access to basic education, such as low quality and relevance of education.\textsuperscript{3663} The Ministry of Social Development carried out the Educational Promotion Program, which provides financial support so that poor families can send children to school.\textsuperscript{3664} Panama’s Ministry of Education works with Casa Esperanza to implement a program in the provinces of Panama City and Colón titled “In Search of a Better Tomorrow,” which encourages children to complete primary school.\textsuperscript{3665} UNICEF is implementing a “community schools” program in the province of Chiriquí to discourage parents from sending children to work on coffee plantations.\textsuperscript{3666} The World Bank is providing a loan of USD 35 million for a project that runs through 2007 to help the government improve the quality and accessibility of basic education and build capacity in the Ministry of Education.\textsuperscript{3667}

\textsuperscript{3662} Ambassador of Panama Frederico Humbert, \textit{written communication}.  
\textsuperscript{3663} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Country Program for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Panama, project document}, 7.  
\textsuperscript{3664} Ambassador of Panama Frederico Humbert, \textit{written communication}.  
\textsuperscript{3665} U.S. Embassy- Panama City, \textit{reporting}, August 24, 2004.  
\textsuperscript{3666} UNICEF, \textit{At a glance: Panama}, [online] [cited June 29, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/panama_25197.html.  
Papua New Guinea

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Papua New Guinea are unavailable. Children work as domestic servants, in subsistence agriculture, and in family-related businesses. It has been reported that children work in the commercial agriculture sector, including on tea and coffee farms. Children are also exploited in prostitution.

Education is not compulsory or free in Papua New Guinea. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 75 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 74 percent. 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.

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Ratified ILO Convention 138</th>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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3668 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.


3672 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports: Papua New Guinea, para. 59.


3675 See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2003: Papua New Guinea, Section 5.

attendance. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Papua New Guinea. As of 2001, 69 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade nine. In rural areas, the lack of access to schools reportedly contributes to low enrollment.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Employment Act sets the minimum age for employment at 18 years, but children ages 11 to 18 may work in family businesses with parental permission, medical clearance, and a work permit from the labor office. Any work by children between the ages of 11 and 16 must not interfere with school attendance.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Papua New Guinea. The Constitution prohibits forced labor. The Criminal Code prohibits procuring, luring, or abducting women or girls for sexual relations or for confinement in a brothel. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Department of Police are responsible for implementing and enforcing child labor laws; however, the U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement by those departments has been poor. Children perceived as gang members, street vendors, child sex workers and boys engaged in homosexual conduct are subjected to police violence. There is no compulsory military service in Papua New Guinea; the minimum age for voluntary military service is 16.

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3678 U. S. Embassy- Port Moresby, reporting, September 14, 2005.
3680 The section on abduction specifies that this applies to girls under the age of 18. See U. S. Embassy-Port Moresby, reporting.
3682 U. S. Embassy- Port Moresby, reporting.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Papua New Guinea has a “National Child Protection Service” to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.\textsuperscript{3685} UNICEF, with the support of the government, is also implementing a child protection program that includes advocacy for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, with a particular focus on commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, UNICEF is working to promote girls’ access to basic education through education reform activities and awareness-raising about the value of schooling.\textsuperscript{3686} The Government of Papua New Guinea is implementing education sector reforms aimed at increasing children’s access to education.\textsuperscript{3687} AusAID currently supports government reform efforts through basic education projects that aim to improve teacher training, build and renovate classrooms, provide equipment and textbooks, and promote teaching in local languages.\textsuperscript{3688}

\textsuperscript{3686} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports: Papua New Guinea}.
Paraguay

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 6.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Paraguay in 1999. Approximately 9.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 3.5 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (52.9 percent), followed by services (41.7 percent), manufacturing (4.0 percent), and other sectors (1.4 percent). Male children work principally in agriculture and unskilled manual labor. Female children work primarily in the unskilled manual labor, agricultural, and service and sales sectors, including as domestic servants in third-party homes. Under the practice of “criadazgo” many child domestic servants do not receive salaries and work in exchange for room, board, and financial support for schooling. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, 16.4 percent of the population in Paraguay were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Paraguay is a source country for women and children trafficked to Argentina, Spain, and Brazil for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Paraguayan and Brazilian girls are trafficked along the Brazil-Paraguay-Argentina border. Poor rural children are trafficked internally to urban areas for sexual exploitation and domestic labor. The commercial

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking)</td>
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3689 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


3691 Ibid., 30.


3693 Ibid., 43, 71-73, and 76.


sexual exploitation of children is a problem particularly in the cities of Asuncion and Ciudad del Este. There are reports of adolescents recruited into the armed forces. This practice has decreased in recent years due to government monitoring.

The General Education Law states that education, including pre-school, is to be free and compulsory until 9th grade. This includes children ages 5 to 14. However, in practice school fees are charged. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 110 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 89 percent. 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. In 1999, 87 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 70 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five. The enrollment rate for girls is slightly higher than that for boys. Only 59 percent of indigenous children between the ages of 6 and 14 are enrolled in school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The “List of Work Endangering Children,” the Children’s and Adolescents’ Code, the Labor Code, and the Penal Code contain provisions that regulate child labor. The Labor Code allows children older than 12 years of age to enter into work contracts, with authorization. Employing children less than 12 years of age is punishable by a fine of minimum salaries, with fines doubled in cases of reoccurrence. The minimum age

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3702 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats UIS.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rates in the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.

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


3707 Ibid., Article 389.
for employment in industrial work is 15 years, with exceptions made for children over 12 years of age working in family businesses if the work is not dangerous and in authorized professional schools.\footnote{3708} The Children’s and Adolescents’ Code prohibits those ages 14 to 18 years from working under conditions harmful to their well-being or at night.\footnote{3709} Children ages 14 to 16 years may not work more than 4 hours per day and 24 hours per week. Children ages 16 to 18 years may not work more than 6 hours per day and 36 hours per week; if the child is attending school the maximum daily work hours are reduced to 4.\footnote{3710} The Code also limits the workday of adolescent domestic workers to 6 hours; if the adolescent is attending school the maximum daily work hours are reduced to 4. Employers are required to facilitate the school attendance of adolescent domestic workers.\footnote{3711} The Labor Code requires that working minors have a birth certificate, an annual certificate of physical and mental health, and their guardian’s authorization to work. Minors are entitled to a minimum of 25 paid annual vacation days and may not work on Sundays or national holidays.\footnote{3712}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Paraguay. In March of 2005 the “List of Work Endangering Children” that was drafted by the National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Labor Protection for Adolescents (CONAETI-Py) was signed as a Presidential decree.\footnote{3713} This decree prohibits minors under the age of 18 from working in 26 broad classifications of work. These include work involving toxins, garbage collection, explosive substances, extreme temperatures, dangerous machinery, loud noise, the sale of tobacco and alcohol, crossing national borders, pornography, heavy loads, confined spaces, domestic service (with exceptions for those 16 and older), electricity, and work that is underground, underwater, at night, or at heights. Work on public streets involving certain risks such as sexual abuse is prohibited. The practice of “criadazgo” is also outlawed.\footnote{3714} The Labor Code establishes a fine of 50 minimum salaries for employing minors in dangerous or night-time industrial work.\footnote{3715} The Children’s and Adolescents’ Code prohibits the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.\footnote{3716} The Penal Code imposes

\footnote{3708} Ibid., Article 120.
\footnote{3710} \textit{Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, Título II, de la Protección a los Adolescentes Trabajadores}, Ley No. 1680, Chapter II, Article 58; available from http://www.senado.gov.py/ups/leyes/4901680.doc.
\footnote{3711} Ibid., Chapter II, Articles 64 and 65.
\footnote{3712} \textit{Qué Modifica, Amplia y Deroga Artículos d la Ley 213/93}, Articles 121 and 127.
\footnote{3714} Ibid.
\footnote{3715} \textit{Qué Modifica, Amplia y Deroga Artículos d la Ley 213/93}, Article 389.
\footnote{3716} \textit{Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia}, Chapter II, Article 31. For a review of relevant international agreements and national laws regarding the sexual exploitation of children in Paraguay see ILO-IPEC,
penalties of up to 5 years of incarceration for prostituting those under age 18. If the perpetrator acts for profit or if the victim is under 14 years, the penalty can increase. The Constitution prohibits slavery and trafficking in persons. Individuals are prohibited from forcing, deceiving, or coercing a person to leave the country by the Penal Code. The maximum jail sentence for trafficking is 10 years. The Law on Compulsory Military Service allows males less than 18 years to serve in the military under exceptional circumstances, where there is “justified reason.”

The National Secretariat for Childhood and Adolescence’s responsibilities include implementing programs relating to children and developing childhood and adolescence councils at the state and local level. Approximately 120 Municipal Councils for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CODENI) have been created to carry out activities to protect the rights of children, such as maintaining registries of working adolescents, mediating disputes, and referring cases to judicial authorities. The Director General for the Protection of Minors in the Ministry of Justice and Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws. According to the U.S. Department of State, the National Secretariat for Childhood and Adolescence has not been effective, the government generally does not enforce minimum age requirements for employment, and the borders are not sufficiently monitored.

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

CONAETI-Py has created a National Plan for the Eradication and Prevention of Child Labor (2003-2008) that serves to guide the country’s policy on child labor. The plan’s objectives include data collection, awareness raising, training of key actors, improving legal protections, implementing an inspection and monitoring system, developing public policy, and designing and implementing interventions. A National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Sexual Exploitation has been developed by the government and NGOs. Both plans are part of the government’s National Policy for

3719 Código Penal, Article 125.
3721 Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, Article 41.
3722 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Paraguay, Section 5. See also Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, Articles 48-50.
3723 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Paraguay, Section 6d.
3724 Ibid., Sections 5 and 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Asuncion, reporting, February 25, 2005.
An anti-trafficking plan and coordination mechanism have also been created.\textsuperscript{3727} The government is participating in a regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project targeting children involved in commercial sexual exploitation and domestic labor.\textsuperscript{3728} The Secretariat for Repatriations assists with repatriating trafficked individuals through the identification of NGO funding sources.\textsuperscript{3729} The public utility, Itaipu Binational, provided support to an NGO that operates a hotline and shelter for trafficking victims in the border region with Argentina and Brazil.\textsuperscript{3731}

The Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Institute of Well-Being, support projects that provide at-risk children with social services.\textsuperscript{3732} UNICEF provides some funding for the Secretary of Social Action’s program to provide services to children working in the streets through 13 open centers.\textsuperscript{3733}

The Ministry of Education and Culture has an educational plan for the years 2003 to 2015 based on the UNESCO Education for All program.\textsuperscript{3734} The Ministry also implements an innovative, community-based bilingual education program in rural and urban schools and has made efforts to improve school management and pedagogical training.\textsuperscript{3735} The Ministry of Education provides funds for a school feeding program that serves approximately 250,000 children.\textsuperscript{3736} The Ministry requires that all schools gather information regarding the working status of children.\textsuperscript{3737} The IDB supports a government program to achieve universal preschool and improve the quality of early education, in

\textsuperscript{3728} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\textsuperscript{3729} Other countries participating in this project include Chile, Colombia and Peru. The project was funded in 2004. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Prevention and Elimination of Child Domestic Labour (CDL) and of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru}, project document, RLA/00/P53/USA, Geneva, September 30, 2004.
\textsuperscript{3730} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report}.
\textsuperscript{3734} Ministry of Education and Culture, \textit{Plan Educacional Ñandutí}.
\textsuperscript{3736} U.S. Department of State, \textit{reporting}, September 8, 2004.
\textsuperscript{3737} U.S. Department of State, \textit{reporting}, August 25, 2005.
particular targeting children at social and educational risk.\textsuperscript{3738} The Government of Spain’s Development Agency is supporting a program to reform curriculum, provide educational services to adolescents who do not have a primary school education, and address the educational needs of street children.\textsuperscript{3739} Paraguay is receiving a USD 24 million loan from the World Bank to improve the management and efficiency of its education system, and to support achievement and equity in secondary education.\textsuperscript{3740}


\textsuperscript{3739} U.S. Department of State, \textit{reporting}, September 8, 2004.

Peru

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 16.5 percent of children ages 6 to 14 were counted as working in Peru in 1994. Approximately 18.7 percent of all boys 6 to 14 were working compared to 14.4 percent of girls in the same age group. Children are employed in the agricultural sector, mining and brickmaking. In urban areas, children work as domestics and often sell goods and services in the streets and in markets. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 18.1 percent of the population in Peru were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Many children, particularly girls, move from rural to urban areas to work as domestic servants in third-party homes. Boys and girls are also exploited in prostitution. Demand for child prostitutes is most prevalent along commercial routes and in tourist locations, such as beaches, markets, cinemas, theaters, and restaurants. Children are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service in Peru. There is little information available on the incidence of external trafficking of children. However, Peruvian children may be among the victims trafficked internationally for commercial sexual exploitation to the United States, Europe and Japan.

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<td>Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation)</td>
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3741 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”
3747 ECPAT International, Peru, Child Prostitution.
3749 ECPAT International, Peru, Trafficking.
The General Education Law establishes free and compulsory public education through secondary school. Despite the legal guarantee for free education, some primary school fees continue to be charged. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 118 percent and the net primary enrollment was 100 percent. 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. In 1994, 93.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 84 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five. Girls attend school at a lower rate than boys, and school attendance is lower in rural than in urban areas. Indigenous children and those from rural areas lack access to the education system. Therefore, the average total number of years of schooling and student performance are also sharply lower in rural areas than in urban areas. The Child and Adolescent Code does, however, provide for special arrangements and school timetables so that working children and adolescents can attend school regularly.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

According to the legislation modifying Article 51 of the Child and Adolescent Code, the minimum age for employment is 15 years in non-industrial agricultural work, 16 years for work in the industrial, commercial, and surface mining sectors; and 17 years for work in the industrial fishing sector. Children ages 12 to 14 may perform certain jobs, subject to restrictions, only if they obtain legal permission from the Ministry of Labor.

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3751 El Presidente de la República, Ley General de Educación, 28044, Lima, July 17, 2003, articles 4 and 12. The General Education Law was passed on July 17, 2003 and includes articles on bilingual, intercultural, and vocational education, as well as on regular and alternative basic education for working children and adolescents. See El Presidente de la República, Ley General de Educación, articles 20, 36 and 37.


3753 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tabelleView.aspx?Reportld=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.

3754 SIMPOC, MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.


3757 Ibid.


and can certify that they are attending school.3761 Children aged 12 to 14 years are prohibited from working more than 4 hours a day, or over 24 hours a week, and adolescents between 15 and 17 years may not work more than 6 hours a day, or over 36 hours a week.3762 In January 2005, the Ministry of Labor created the Office of Labor Protection for Minors to oversee the Ministry's practice of issuing permits to children under 18 years of age to work legally.3763 Work that might harm a child’s physical or mental health and development, including underground work or work that involves heavy lifting, night work, or work that might serve as an obstacle to continued school attendance, is prohibited for children under 18 years of age.3764 Working children must be paid at the same rate as adult workers in similar jobs.3765 Regulations require that underage children working in domestic service must have access to education.3766

Various statutes prohibit the worst forms of child labor in Peru. The Child and Adolescent Code prohibits forced and slave labor, economically exploitative labor, prostitution, and trafficking.3767 In 2004, Peru’s Congress enacted legislation that increased punishments against clients and others who benefit economically from the prostitution of minors.3768 Updated statutes prohibit trafficking in persons and provide penalties for those who move a person, either within the country or to an area outside the country, for the purposes of sexual exploitation (including prostitution, sexual slavery, and pornography) from 5 to 10 years’ imprisonment.3769 If the trafficking victim is under 18 years of age, the punishment is 10 to 15 years’ imprisonment.3770 Military service is voluntary and prohibited for children under the age of 18. The Law on Military Service prohibits forced recruitment.3771 Since 1999, the Government of Peru has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.3772

3761 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, section 6d. See also Ley que Modifica el Artículo 51. Working adolescents are not required to register with the Ministry of Labor if they are performing unpaid family work; however, the head of the household for which they work must register them in the municipal labor records. See also Government of Peru, Comisión Andina de los Juristas, Red de Información Judicial Andina, Ley que Aprueba el Nuevo Código de los Niños y Adolescentes, Ley no. 27337; available from http://www.caip.org.pe/rij/bases/legisla/peru/ley1.html.
3762 Ley que Aprueba el Nuevo Código de los Niños y Adolescentes, Ley no. 27337.
3764 Ley que Aprueba el Nuevo Código de los Niños y Adolescentes, Ley no. 27337.
3766 Ley que Aprueba el Nuevo Código de los Niños y Adolescentes, Ley no. 27337.
3768 Ibid.
3769 Ibid.
3770 Ibid.
3772 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

The Ministry of the Interior and the National Police are the entities responsible for addressing domestic trafficking, while the Foreign Ministry and Immigration authorities work on international trafficking issues.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports on Human Rights Practices}, section 5.} The U.S. Department of State reports that the National Police undertook various raids in 2005, but few perpetrators have been prosecuted. In addition, the government lacks a statistical system to track trafficking cases at the national level.\footnote{Ibid.}

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

The Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion heads the National Committee to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labor, an organization composed of representatives from various ministries, NGOs, labor unions, and employers’ organizations\footnote{U.S. Embassy-Lima, \textit{reporting}, August 25, 2004. See also Inter-American Development Bank, \textit{FONCODES III}, Artículo 70. See also Ministry of Women and Social Development, \textit{Defensoría del Niño y del Adolescente}, [online] [cited July 1, 2005]; available from http://www.mimdes.gob.pe/dgmma/dna/.} that aims to address child labor issues and fulfill Peru’s international commitments to fight child labor.\footnote{Ibid.} In October 2005, the Committee launched its National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor. The Plan proposes the following actions: raise awareness; develop a judicial framework to combat the commercial exploitation of children and protect the adolescent worker; generate credible statistics; develop social policy on children’s rights; and strengthen institutional capacities.\footnote{Ibid.} The Ministry of
Women and Social Development (MIMDES) has a National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents 2002 – 2010. The plan focuses on providing quality, intercultural basic education, eliminating the worst forms of child labor for children ages 6 to 11 years, and improving working conditions for adolescents at or above the legal working age as part of its strategic objectives.

The Ministries of Labor and Employment Promotion; Health; Energy and Mines; and Education operate a system that will allow the government to monitor and verify progress in the elimination of child labor in small-scale mining for a 10-year period (2002-2012).

The Government of Peru supports and contributes to a USD 5.5 million regional USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC program to eliminate exploitative child labor in the domestic service and commercial sex sectors. The government participated in a USD 1.6 million regional ILO-IPEC project to eliminate child labor in small-scale mining in the Andean region, which ended in February 2005 and continued to participate in a USD 1.5 million 4-year project to improve access to and quality of basic education for children engaged in mining in Peru.

With technical assistance from the ILO, MIMDES is implementing a 10-year plan to eliminate child sexual exploitation called Network Now Against Child Sexual Exploitation. The plan includes coordinating with various NGOs to combat commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Iquitos, a popular tourist spot where child prostitution occurs. MIMDES supports an urban program called Street Educators, which provides education and services to children in the streets and markets. MIMDES also supports a Working Group on Children at Risk of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, with assistance from UNICEF and Save the Children. In addition, MIMDES is raising awareness on legislation regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of minors through radio broadcasts and other means.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Tourism has initiated anti-trafficking campaigns. The government supported NGOs...
that provided services to sexually exploited and trafficked minors. The Ministry of the Interior is working with its counterparts in the Chilean Government to develop a joint policy on the prevention and protection of children and adolescents in the border regions between the two countries. The Government of Peru, with support from the U.S. Government, receives specialized training in trafficking in persons, including providing aid to victims, collecting credible statistical data on trafficking cases, and aiding government officials outside of the capital in recognizing cases.

The National Institute of Family Well-Being has a program that provides a variety of services to working youth, including school support, school reinsertion, reintegration into the family, and vocational training.

The Ministry of Education implements a basic education program that aims to improve the quality of education throughout the country by strengthening teachers’ skills and providing them with free educational materials, especially in rural areas. The Ministry also operates a tutoring program for children formerly excluded from the public system, including working children. In addition, the Ministry has established night classes and lengthened matriculation periods for youth employed as domestic servants in third-party homes. Finally, the Ministry oversees Proyecto Materiales Educativos (Teaching Materials Project), which strengthens national capacity to develop innovative teaching materials.

The Government of Peru, in collaboration with other public and private institutions, has a National Plan for Education for All that is being executed from 2004-2015. The Plan aims to improve rural girls’ access to a quality bilingual education with a gender focus. USAID, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, is expanding a girls’ education initiative to provide technical assistance, develop models of educational programs, and promote educational opportunities for girls in rural areas.

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3793 Centers offered self-esteem workshops, medical attention and job training. Ibid.
3795 U. S. Department of State, reporting, January 27, 2005.
3797 This project includes public schools in marginal urban, rural, border and emergency zones at the preschool, primary and secondary levels. See Ministry of Education, Programa de educación básica para todos, [online] [cited July 1, 2005]; available from http://www.minedu.gob.pe/secretaria_general/of_administracion/proyectos/educ_basic.htm.
decentralization, and strengthen local educational capacity. The Government’s National Nutrition Assistance Program provides nutritious school snacks to children and adolescents in areas with high malnutrition rates.

The IDB is providing a social development loan to the Government of Peru that includes an infrastructure component for kindergarten and primary schools in rural areas. The IDB is also providing a loan to the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion to develop training activities and facilitate work opportunities and labor market access to youth between the ages of 16 and 24 years. The IDB provided a new loan in May 2005 to the Ministry of Economy and Finance which aims to provide support to social sector reforms in education, labor and other areas. With financing from the World Bank, the Ministry implements a project to extend access to rural basic education, improve teacher quality and motivation in rural areas, and strengthen education management.

3804 Inter-American Development Bank, FONCODES III, 11.
3806 The project will be active through 2007. World Bank, Peru-Rural Education, project information document. Among other approaches, the project promotes non-formal education at the initial and pre-school levels, including family and community participation, and cost-effective, distance secondary education. In addition, the project supports the rehabilitation of classrooms, rural teacher professional development, and the distribution of multi-grade and bilingual instruction materials. See World Bank, Peru-Rural Education Project, [online] 2003 [cited October 17, 2005]; available from http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=73230&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=228424&Projectid=P055232.
Philippines

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 11 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in the Philippines in 2001. Approximately 13.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 8.4 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (65.3 percent), followed by services (29.4 percent), manufacturing (4.2 percent) and other sectors (1.1 percent).\textsuperscript{3807} Children also work on sugarcane plantations,\textsuperscript{3808} in pyrotechnics production, deep-sea fishing, mining, and quarrying.\textsuperscript{3809} Children living on the streets engage in informal labor activities such as scavenging or begging. Children are also engaged in domestic service\textsuperscript{3810} and involved in the commercial sex industry; children are used in the production of pornography and are exploited by sex tourists.\textsuperscript{3811} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 15.5 percent of the population in the Philippines were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{3812}

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Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments & \\
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Ratified Convention 138 & 6/4/1998 \textsuperscript{U} \\
Ratified Convention 182 & 11/28/2000 \textsuperscript{U} \\
ILO-IPEC Member & \textsuperscript{U} \\
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National Child Labor Action Plan & \textsuperscript{U} \\
Sector Action Plans (Hazardous labor, Trafficking and Child Soldiering) & \textsuperscript{U} \\
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\textsuperscript{3807} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates}, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


Children are reportedly trafficked internally for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.3813 Children are also known to be involved in the trafficking of drugs within the country.3814 There are no reports of child soldiers in the government armed forces, but children under the age of 18 are recruited into terrorist organizations including the Abu Sayyaf Group and the New People’s Army.3815

The Philippine Constitution mandates compulsory elementary education for children aged 6 to 11 years old, and elementary and secondary education is free3816, although families must cover related costs such as identification cards and books.3817 However, many poor families are unable to finance such costs, denying them equal access to education.3818 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 94 percent.3819 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. In 2001, 87.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.3820 As of 2001, 76 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.3821

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code of 1993, Republic Act No. 7658 of 1993, and Republic Act No. 9231 of 2003 prohibit the employment of children under the age of 15, except when working directly with a parent and when the work does not endanger the child’s life, safety, health or morals, or interfere with schooling. The laws require that any child under age 15 employed under these guidelines receive a special permit from the Department of Labor.

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3820 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

but do not define any absolute minimum ages for these children. The Labor Code also permits a child to work as an apprentice at age 14. Republic Act No. 9231, the Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Strong Protection for the Working Child, codifies the provisions of ILO Convention 182 into domestic law. The act defines the worst forms of child labor as the four ILO Convention 182 categories, including criteria for what is considered hazardous under the fourth category. In addition to setting the minimum age for work, the act limits the number of working hours for children, requires formal administration of working children’s income, initiates trust funds for working children, and guarantees their access to education and training. Furthermore, the act establishes fines and prison terms for persons violating any of its provisions. In August 2004, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9231 took effect. Since 1999, the Government of the Philippines has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying hazardous forms of work prohibited to minors under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

There are additional statutes under which the worst forms of child labor can be prosecuted. The Labor Code gives the Secretary of Labor and Employment the authority to limit working hours for children ages 15 to 18 years, and prohibits hazardous work for children less than 18 years of age. The Department of Labor and Employment’s Order No. 4 of 1999 prohibits the handling of dangerous machinery or heavy loads; work that entails exposure to extremes of cold, heat, noise, or pressure; work that exposes children to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; and work that is hazardous by its nature. Policy Instruction No. 23 of 1977 prohibits night work for children under the age of 16 years from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and forbids children ages 16 to 18 years from


\[3824\] Republic Act No. 9231, Section 3. According to ILO Convention 182, the worst forms of child labor comprise, “(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.” See ILO, C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, in ILOLEX, [database online] 2002 [cited January 23, 2006]; available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp2.htm.


\[3827\] ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

\[3828\] *Philippines Labour Code*, Article 139.

\[3829\] Republic of the Philippines, Department of Labor and Employment, *Hazardous Work and Activities to Persons Below 18 Years of Age*, Department Order No. 4, (1999), Section 3.
working after 10 p.m.\textsuperscript{3830} The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into military service is 18, or 17 for training purposes.\textsuperscript{3831}

Republic Act No. 9208, enacted in May 2003, criminalizes trafficking for the purposes of exploitation, including trafficking for adoption, sex tourism, prostitution, pornography, the recruitment of children into armed conflict, or under the guise of arranged marriage.\textsuperscript{3832} The act also applies to the trafficking of children and establishes higher penalties of life imprisonment and a fine of two million to five million pesos (USD 36,036 to 90,090) for trafficking violations involving children.\textsuperscript{3833} Those who use the services of trafficked persons are also subject to penalties of 15 years of imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 to 1 million pesos (USD 9,009 to USD 18,018).\textsuperscript{3834} The act also sets out additional penalties for government employees breaking the law, and mandates immediate deportation of foreign offenders following the completion of their prison sentence.\textsuperscript{3835} Slavery and forced labor are prohibited under Articles 272 and 274 of the Revised Penal Code,\textsuperscript{3836} and the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act protects children under 18 years from all forms of abuse, cruelty, and exploitation and prohibits child prostitution and child trafficking.\textsuperscript{3837} The Revised Penal code also prohibits engaging in, profiting from, or soliciting prostitution from children.\textsuperscript{3838} The Constitution defends the rights of children against exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development.\textsuperscript{3839}

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is responsible for enforcing child labor laws through the labor standards enforcement offices. The government has also begun institutionalizing a computer database on children identified as working that includes their needs and identifies appropriate assistance.\textsuperscript{3840} However, the U.S. Department of State reports that child labor enforcement is weak due to a lack of resources, inadequate judicial infrastructure, and low conviction rates. In addition, child labor laws are not enforced in the informal sector.\textsuperscript{3841} In 2005, DOLE rescued 151

\textsuperscript{3830} Republic of the Philippines, \textit{Policy Instruction No. 23}, (May 30, 1977), Section 1 a, b.
\textsuperscript{3832} \textit{Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003}, Republic Act 9208, Section 4; available from Coalition Against Trafficking in Women - Asia Pacific (CATW-AP) at http://www.catw-ap.org/.
\textsuperscript{3833} The act also provides for confiscation of any proceeds deriving from trafficking crimes. See Ibid. Sections 6, 10, 14. For currency conversion, see FXConverter, [online] [cited June 23, 2005]; available from http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm.
\textsuperscript{3834} \textit{Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act}, Section 5, 10. For currency conversion see, FXConverter.
\textsuperscript{3835} \textit{Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act}, Section 6, 10. See also U.S. Embassy-Manila, \textit{reporting}, March 1, 2005.
\textsuperscript{3838} \textit{Revised Penal Code}, Articles 202, 341.
\textsuperscript{3839} \textit{Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines}, Article XV, Section 3(2).
\textsuperscript{3841} Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy-Manila, \textit{reporting}, August 23, 2004.
minors working in exploitative occupations. The National Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration, and the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group are tasked with counter-trafficking activities, along with an inter-agency group on trafficking headed by the Department of Justice.

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

The Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000-2025, also known as “Child 21,” and the National Program Against Child Labor (NPACL) Framework serve as the primary government policy instruments for the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs designed to prevent and eliminate child labor in the Philippines. Additionally, the National Plan of Action for Decent Work 2005-2007 prioritizes eliminating the worst forms of child labor. The Medium Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010 also includes measures for reducing the incidence of child labor, especially in hazardous occupations. In the plan, the Philippine government pledges to strengthen mechanisms to monitor the implementation of child protection laws, develop social technologies to respond to child trafficking and pornography, and implement an enhanced program for children in armed conflict.

The Government of the Philippines is participating in a USD 10.2 million USDOL-funded Timebound Program implemented by ILO-IPEC and World Vision to eliminate child labor in specified worst forms. The program targets children involved in commercial sexual exploitation, mining and quarrying, pyrotechnics, deep-sea fishing, domestic service, and work on commercial sugar cane farms. UNICEF also works actively with the government to promote children’s rights, protect children from trafficking, and support educational improvements.

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3842 U.S. Embassy-Manila official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.  
3844 U.S. Embassy-Manila official, email communication to USDOL official, August 14, 2006.  
Additional government projects contributing to the goals of the Timebound Program include a 2-year project to combat child labor in tobacco production in Region I (Ilocos Region). USDOL is also funding three projects in support of the Timebound Program, including, an ILO-IPEC inter-regional project to remove and prevent children from becoming involved in armed conflict in the Mindanao region, a global project that aims to substantially reduce the engagement of children ages 5 to 17 in the worst forms of child labor, and a global project aimed at contributing to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor by raising awareness about the hazards of child labor and the benefits of education. The Government of the Philippines has also committed systematically to monitor the situation of child labor on a nationwide basis. The National Statistics Office gathers information on child labor by including children 5 years and above in its quarterly Labor Force Survey when measuring the economically active population in the Philippines.

Several governmental agencies in the Philippines have ongoing programs to address the needs of children vulnerable to exploitative child labor. DOLE continues to implement the Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM—“Rescue the Child Workers”) Program to monitor suspected cases of child labor and intervene on behalf of children in affirmed cases. In 2005, SBM conducted 63 rescue operations, where 151 children were

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3855 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Philippines, Section 6d.

3856 Department of Labor and Employment: Bureau of Women and Young Workers, Historical Milestones of the NPACL, [online] June 2002 [cited June 30, 2005]; available from
withdrawn from hazardous and exploitative working conditions.\textsuperscript{3857} In addition, DOLE has a number of social welfare programs targeting working children, including the Working Youth Center and the Bureau of Women and Young Workers’ Family Welfare Program.\textsuperscript{3858} The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is the lead government agency that provides support for victims of trafficking;\textsuperscript{3859} children in armed conflict; and children who have been exploited, abused, or rescued from living on the streets.\textsuperscript{3860}

The government has also implemented a number of education programs that benefit children at risk of child labor, including establishing new elementary schools, school feeding programs, and quality improvement projects.\textsuperscript{3861} The Medium Term Philippine Development Plan includes strategies and action plans to enhance basic education and increase access to primary education through school construction, double shift classes, and distance learning centers in conflict areas.\textsuperscript{3862} The draft Education for All National Plan of Action includes child laborers as beneficiaries of education services.\textsuperscript{3863} The Department of Education (DepEd) is implementing functional education and literacy programs that provide working children with basic education and skills training. DepEd’s Bureau of Non-formal Education (NFE) collaborates with donors and local government bodies to provide programs under the NFE Accreditation and Equivalency System,\textsuperscript{3864} and has also developed learning modules for parents of working children for use in areas with a high incidence of child labor.\textsuperscript{3865} In support of the Timebound Program, DepEd recently issued Bulletin No.4 Series 2003 instructing education officials at the national, regional, and local levels to intervene to reduce or eliminate child labor.\textsuperscript{3866}
International financial institutions and development agencies continue to assist the Philippine government in its efforts to provide children and youth in financial need with educational opportunities. USAID launched a 5-year program to increase access to quality education in marginalized areas, focusing on community based learning, reintegrating out-of-school youth into the economy, improving teaching capacity, and reforming education policy. The World Bank is providing support for an elementary school education project that builds government capacity as well as improves access to, quality of, and completion rates for schools in 26 poor provinces. ADB and AusAID are also assisting in the delivery of quality primary and secondary education services, as well as improving access to basic education in Mindanao.

Romania

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 1.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Romania in 2000. Approximately 1.4 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 0.9 percent of all girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (97.1 percent), followed by services (2.3 percent), and other sectors (0.6 percent). It is common for children in rural areas to work on family farms or help with household chores. Children were involved in activities such as washing cars, selling merchandise on the streets, loading and unloading merchandise, and collecting waste products. According to a 2004 report, between 60,000 to 70,000 children, more than 1 percent of all of Romania’s children, were involved in activities identified as the worst forms of child labor, including begging, drug dealing, stealing, prostitution, or were victims of child trafficking. Street children, children in urban areas, and Roma children are the most vulnerable to labor and sexual exploitation. It is difficult to determine accurately how many children live on the streets nationwide, and estimates range from 1,500 to 5,000 children. The lower estimate is cited in the U.S. Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Romania, Washington, D.C., February 28, 2005, Section 6d; available from http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41703.htm. The higher estimate is cited in the Save the Children Romania, Salvati Copiii Annual Report 2004, 15; available from http://www.salvaticopiii.ro/romania_en/despre_noi/raport_anual/Annual_Report_2004.pdf. See also Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity, and Family, Statistics on Child Labor in Romania. See also U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, reporting, August 31, 2005. See also U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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3870 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

3871 National Institute of Statistics, Survey on Children’s Activity, 4.
is estimated that about 30 percent of sex workers in Bucharest, the capital city, are under 18 years of age. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, less than 2.0 percent of the population in Romania were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Romania is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficked women and girls. Victims from Moldova, Ukraine, and other parts of the former Soviet Union are trafficked through Romania to Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Italy, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Portugal, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and South Korea for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Boys have also been trafficked. Children were trafficked within Romania for purposes of begging or agricultural work. The National Authority for Child Protection reported that in 2005, it received 773 notifications of assistance rendered to victims of trafficking. Of that number, 317 children were repatriated, primarily from Western Europe.

The Constitution provides for free and compulsory education for 10 years, beginning at age 7. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 99 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 89 percent. 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. In 2000, 87.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. School participation is significantly lower among

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3879 U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.


3882 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.
ethnic Roma children and street children than other children. According to a 2002 study on street children in Bucharest, 62.7 percent of those interviewed had dropped out of school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years. Article 155 of the General Norms of Labor Protection also specifies that children under the age of 16 cannot be used for loading, unloading, and handling operations. However, young persons aged 15 can be employed with the consent of their parents or legal guardian on the condition that the work performed is in accordance with their health and abilities and does not interfere with their education. Young persons ages 16 and over are permitted to work, but may not be placed in hazardous workplaces and may not be made to work overtime, at night, or for more than 6 hours per day or 30 hours per week. Young people under 18 years of age must be given a lunch break of at least 30 minutes, if the length of the working day exceeds 4 ½ hours.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Romania. The Law on Child Rights Protection entered into force in January 2005 and addresses the prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including trafficking in children. The Constitution and the Labor Code prohibit forced labor. The Constitution prohibits the exploitation and employment of children in activities that might be physically or morally unhealthy or put their lives or normal development at risk. The minimum age for compulsory military conscription is 20 years. Minimum age for voluntary conscription is 18 years. The Law on the Preparation of the Population for Defense allows pre-military training for children from the age of 15 on a voluntary basis, and students enrolled in military education institutions are considered to be part of the armed forces. In June 2005, the Romanian government adopted changes to the

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3884 One-hundred and fifty children ages 4 to 17 were interviewed. See Alexandrescu, *Romania: Working Street Children*, 25-29.


3887 See Ibid., Articles 109, 21, 25, 30.


Labor Code that criminalize child economic exploitation and impose penalties of 1 to 3 years of imprisonment. The methodology for repatriation of unaccompanied Romanian children and ensuring their special protection at the local level was approved by government decision number 1443/2004. Since 1999, the Government of Romania has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

Enforcement of labor laws that protect children falls under the mandate of the Labor Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity, and Family (MLSSF). Violations of child labor laws are punishable by imprisonment for periods of 2 months to 3 years and by fines of RON 50,000 to 100,000 (USD 1,680 to 3,360). Forcing an individual to work against his or her will is punishable with 6 months to 3 years of imprisonment. In 2005, the Labor Inspectorate carried out inspections on 74,109 employers. Out of the 4,405 identified working children ages 15 to 18, 135 had no legal employment documents. Seventeen children under the age of 15 were found working with no legal employment forms.

Article 329 of the Criminal Code prohibits individuals from using children for the purposes of prostitution. The punishment for such offenses is imprisonment for a period of 3 to 10 years. Law No. 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings protects children under the age of 19 years from being trafficked and applies more severe punishments when the child is under 15 years of age. Trafficking of children ages 15 through 18 years carries a prison term of 3 to 12 years; for 2 or more victims, in cases where a victim suffers serious bodily harm, or if the victim is below the
age of 15, penalties increase to 5 to 15 years. If a minor was trafficked through the use of coercion, an additional 2 years of prison time can be added.\textsuperscript{3901} Law No. 196/2003 stipulates imprisonment for the involvement of children in pornography.\textsuperscript{3902} The government convicted 146 persons of trafficking in 2005, and is working to address corruption among law enforcement and border officials.\textsuperscript{3903} In June 2004, the government passed legislation that established a children’s court and two courts became operational in two cities by the end of 2004.\textsuperscript{3904} In 2005, a new law was passed that allows for youth leaving orphanages to receive 2 additional years of financial assistance and life skills training, thereby decreasing their vulnerability to being exploited.\textsuperscript{3905}

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

The Government of Romania, through the National Steering Committee of the MLSSF, is implementing the National Action Program to Eliminate Child Labor\textsuperscript{3906} The government has also approved the National Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking (2004-2007). In addition to the action plans on child labor and child trafficking, there are national action plans to address abused and neglected children and the sexual exploitation of children. The Commission on Child Rights has recommended merging all four into a comprehensive National Plan of Action on Children.\textsuperscript{3907} The National Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Plan Concept (2002-2012) covers vulnerable groups such as street children, institutionalized children, and child victims of trafficking.\textsuperscript{3908}

The Joint Inclusion Memorandum of Romania, signed with the European Union, addresses the needs of vulnerable groups, including children involved in the worst forms


\textsuperscript{3903} U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006. See also U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons - 2005*.

\textsuperscript{3904} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Romania*, Section 5.

\textsuperscript{3905} Children are required to leave State-run institutions at the age of 18, and are frequently unprepared to support themselves, lack identity papers, job skills or employment opportunities, and do not have an alternate place to leave. In such cases, youth may be homeless and are particularly vulnerable to engaging in prostitution or criminal activities. Ibid. See also Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations of the Committee 2003*, Para. 38 (e).

\textsuperscript{3906} ILO-IPEC, *Child Trafficking Project, progress report March 2005*, 3.


of child labor and child trafficking. Bilateral agreements emphasizing the need for common action to address child trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children have been signed between the Government of Romania and a number of countries. Memoranda of agreement on the protection of unaccompanied minors have been signed with France, Spain, and the Italian Turin Province.

The National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption (NACPA), through local directorates of social assistance and children’s protection, provides assistance and rehabilitation services to child trafficking victims. The NACPA finances National Interest Programs (NIP) implemented by nongovernmental organizations. The government established the National Agency for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Monitoring of the Assistance Provided to the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (ANAT) on December 8, 2005. The government opened 12 shelters for trafficking victims. In 2005, approximately 3,500 children and families received services.

The government is working with IOM, UNICEF, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the National Office for Refugees, and other NGOs to combat trafficking and to carry out trafficking prevention activities and victim assistance. With support from IOM, the government participates in a Counter Trafficking Steering Committee and continues to broadcast anti-trafficking messages on government-sponsored television to raise awareness of the problem. Romania continues to participate in an ILO-IPEC regional project funded by USDOL to combat child trafficking in the Balkans region. A portion of the Social Development Fund Project is specifically aimed at funding community-based social services in poor, rural areas for disadvantaged children, such as orphans and abandoned children, and for shelters for street children. This USD 20 million project is funded by the World Bank and is slated to end in August 2006.

3909 U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
3910 Bilateral agreements have been signed between Romania and the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. European Network Against Child Trafficking, A Report on Child Trafficking, 60.
3911 Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
3913 U.S. Embassy- Bucharest, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
3914 Ibid.
3915 UNICEF, UNOHCHR, and OSCE-ODIHR, Trafficking in Human Beings in Southeastern Europe: 2003 Update, 44-46.
3917 ILO-IPEC, Combating Trafficking in Children for Labor and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans and Ukraine, project document, RER/03/P50/USA, September 2003.
The government operates a supplementary nutrition program to provide milk and bread for all children attending primary school, and provides school supplies to primary school children from low-income families. The World Bank continues to support the Rural Education Project, which aims to improve teaching and learning in rural schools; improve school-community partnerships through a grants program; strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Research to monitor, evaluate, and analyze policy; and strengthen the project’s management capacity.
Russia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Russia are unavailable. Children work in agriculture, construction, informal retail services, selling goods on the street, washing cars, repairing automobiles, making deliveries, collecting trash, and begging. Male children are reportedly more likely to leave school at a young age and find work. Begging in Moscow is reportedly most prevalent among children with parents who are migrants from the Central Asia republics. Children as young as 12 years old are involved in selling stolen items and drugs as well as in commercial sexual exploitation. The prevalence of harmful child labor is closely tied to child neglect, school dropout, and alcohol and drug use. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2002, less than 2 percent of the population were living on less than USD 1 a day.

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3922 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions” 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.


3924 Volkova, interview, March 21, 2005.

3925 Ibid.

3926 ILO-IPEC, Analysis of the Situation of Working Street Children in Moscow, 36. See also Volkova, interview, March 21, 2005. See also Arefyev, "Russia's Neglected Children."

3927 S.V. Vetelis, Deputy Chief of the Department of Psychological and Pedagogical Support of Children and Youth of the Ministry of Education and Science, Government of the Russian Federation, interview to Svetlana N. Shcheglova, April 4, 2005. A study of homeless children conducted in January and February 2002 reported that many children beg, steal, work as loaders and porters at construction sites, clean and pump petrol at gas stations, engage in prostitution, clean or remove trash or snow, and sell drugs to earn money. See Arefyev, "Russia's Neglected Children."

The number of street children has reportedly increased in recent years. Street children are estimated to number more than 100,000, with a potential 3 million additional children at risk of living on the streets. Without educational opportunities or family support, youth often form or join gangs or groups, participate in illegal activities, and are at risk for exploitative child labor.

Children are trafficked from Russia to Western Europe, the CIS, the Middle East, and Asia, and from rural to urban areas within the country for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and labor. There were reports of kidnapped or purchased children being trafficked for sexual exploitation, child pornography, or removal and sale of body parts. There are confirmed cases of sex trafficking of children and child sex tourism in Russia, a major producer and distributor of child pornography over the Internet. Male children are trafficked internally and externally for the purposes of forced labor in the construction industry. There are reports that rebel forces in Chechnya recruit and use child soldiers. These forces are also reported to use children to plant landmines and other explosives.

Although no law makes education compulsory, the Constitution holds parents responsible for ensuring their children receive a basic education. Federal law stipulates free education for all children up to grade 11, but the Law on Education allows a child to

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3934 Ibid.


terminate school at the age of 14 with parental and governmental approval.\footnote{3937 U. S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Russia}, Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, \textit{reporting}, October 22, 2002.} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 118 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 90 percent.\footnote{3938 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, \url{http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51} (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 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 \textit{“Data Sources and Definitions”} section of this report.} 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 Russia.\footnote{3939 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the \textit{“Data Sources and Definitions”} section for information about sources used.}

Most families pay additional fees for books and school supplies.\footnote{3940 U.S. Embassy- Moscow, \textit{reporting}, October 22, 2002.} The added expenses of uniforms, textbooks, and school services are cited by parents as reasons many children are not enrolled in school.\footnote{3941 V.I. Zolotukhina, O.Y. Lebedev, A.N. Mayorov, and Y.Y. Chepurnykh, \textit{On Honoring and Protecting Children's Rights at Educational Institutions of the Russian Federation}, Intellekt-Tsentr, Moscow, 2003.} Due to their lack of permanent residence, many Roma children and homeless children face difficulties obtaining personal identification documents. Without these, there are limitations on their use of public health, social security, and education services.\footnote{3942 UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, \textit{Concluding Observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Russian Federation}, E/C.12/1/Add.94, United Nations, Geneva, December 2003, para. 12; available from \url{http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/5192a0b3c292a7ecc1256e12003abf2d?opendocument}.} Children of migrants and asylum seekers are frequently denied access to education and governmental services by country and regional authorities.\footnote{3943 U. S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Russia}, Sections 2d, 5.} Poor regions struggle to maintain basic education requirements.

Vocational education graduates often lack basic skills that would enable them to enter and compete in the workforce.\footnote{3944 World Bank, \textit{Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan in the Amount of US$100 Million to the Russian Federation for an E-Learning Support Project}, 27757-RU, Washington, D.C., January 20, 2004, 5, 8; available from \url{http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2004/02/12/000012009_20040212103556/Rend ered/PDF/276500RU.pdf}.} Employers are required to provide annual medical

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years,\footnote{3945 \textit{Labor Code}, (February 1, 2002), Article 63; available from \url{http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/60535/65252/E01RUS01.htm#chap11}.} although children may work at ages 14 and 15 with parental approval, as long as such work does not threaten their health and welfare.\footnote{3946 U. S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Russia}, Section 6d.}
A June 2003 survey of 10,000 working children by the FIDA Foundation showed that one-third of these children work 50 hours or more per week. The employment of children under 18 years old in overtime and night work is prohibited. The Labor Code guarantees 31 calendar days of paid annual leave to working children under 18 years old. The employment of children under 18 years old in unhealthy and/or dangerous conditions, underground work, as well as in jobs that may injure their health and moral development (gambling; work in night cabarets and clubs; and the production, transportation and sale of spirits, tobacco, narcotics and toxic materials) is prohibited.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Russia. The Constitution prohibits forced labor. The Criminal Code prohibits the use of a known minor’s forced labor and imposes prison sentences of between 3 and 10 years for violations. The minimum age for military conscription is 18 years. In December 2003, the government passed comprehensive amendments to the Criminal Code that prohibit human trafficking, forced labor, the distribution of pornography, the recruitment of prostitutes, and the organization of a prostitution business. The Criminal Code punishes depraved acts (including sex and the making of pornography) with a child who is known to be under the age of 16 with penalties of up to 3 years of imprisonment. Soliciting a minor for prostitution is prohibited, punishable by up to 4 years of imprisonment. Attracting a known minor to prostitution is punishable with a sentence of between 3 and 8 years incarceration. Operating a brothel with known minors under the age of 16 is punishable with a sentence of up to 6 years of imprisonment. If the child is under the age of 14, the sentence is 3 to 10 years. The making and circulation across borders of pornography with known minors is punishable by up to 6 years of imprisonment or between 3 and 8 years of imprisonment if the child is under the age of 14. Trafficking of a known minor is punishable by a sentence of between 3 and 10 years of imprisonment. If an organized group of traffickers is involved, the sentence is extended to between 8 and 15 years.

According to the U.S. Department of State, there

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3947 Labor Code, Articles 265 and 266. See also Shakina, interview, March 11 and 14, 2005.
3948 Labor Code, Article 268.
3949 Ibid., Article 267.
3950 Ibid., Article 265.
3957 Ibid., Article 240.
3958 Ibid., Article 141.
3959 Ibid., Article 242.1.
3960 Ibid., Article 127.1.
have been reports of corrupt government officials facilitating human trafficking.\textsuperscript{3961} New witness protection legislation became effective in January 2005.\textsuperscript{3962} 

In 2005 the Ministry of the Interior registered 66 criminal cases of human trafficking, 22 cases of forced labor, 257 cases of recruitment of prostitutes, 2,114 cases of illegal distribution of pornography, 60 cases of the production and sale of materials containing pornographic pictures of children, and 2,196 individuals involved in crimes related to human trafficking.\textsuperscript{3963}

Since 1999, the Government of Russia has submitted to the ILO a list of an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{3964}

The Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Federal Labor Inspectorate are responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws,\textsuperscript{3965} but according to the U.S. Department of State, they fail to do so effectively. The ministry reported that 12,000 child labor violations were registered in 2001, the most recent year for which information is available.\textsuperscript{3966} Violations of medical examination, overtime, and annual leave laws for children are common occurrences.\textsuperscript{3967} The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the General Procurator’s Office are also involved with combating the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{3968}

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

The Ministry of Health and Social Development continues to work with UNICEF to establish a number of regional child rights ombudsmen, who have the authority to request enforcement actions from government agencies.\textsuperscript{3969} The government has established a commission headed by the Minister of Health and Social Development to focus on child...
labor and education issues. The government has conducted various awareness-raising activities on the problem of trafficking, including hosting two regional anti-trafficking conferences. In the absence of a formal anti-trafficking coordination body, a legislative working group has been established at the Duma, and NGOs and international organizations report good working relations with the government on trafficking issues.

The government is participating in ILO-IPEC projects funded by a private donor and the Government of Finland in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region that provide social, psychological, and educational services to children at risk of being trafficked.

The government’s Children of Russia Program (2003-2006) and its subprogram, Prevention of Child Neglect and Offenses by Minors, aim to prevent child neglect, homelessness, and substance abuse by minors. The programs provide rehabilitation and support services through approximately 3,500 specialized institutions serving children and families throughout the Russian Federation. The government has dedicated 1,563,400,000 rubles (USD 54,171,864) from the federal budget to the program.

The Government of Russia’s Education for All Plan seeks to improve the quality and accessibility of primary education in order to create better standards of living and increase the global competitiveness of Russia’s population. The World Bank loaned Russia USD 50 million to implement an Education Reform Project that began in 2001 and will end in 2006. This project seeks to promote optimal resource allocation for education; modernize the structure of the education system; and improve the general quality and standards of education. The World Bank also loaned Russia USD 100 million to implement an e-Learning Support Project that began in 2004 and will end in 2008. This project will build capacity to produce learning materials, support teacher

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3970 U.S. Embassy- Moscow, reporting, October 22, 2002. See also Shakina, interview, March 11 and 14, 2005.
training on information and communication technologies, and establish a network of school resource centers.3976

Rwanda

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 27.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Rwanda in 2000. Approximately 29.9 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared with 24.8 percent of girls in the same age group. Children are found working in several sectors that the Government of Rwanda has identified as worst forms of child labor, including domestic work for third-party households; agricultural work on tea, rice, and sugar cane plantations; brick making and quarry work; rock crushing; and prostitution. Children also work in small businesses and in the informal economy. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 51.7 percent of the population in Rwanda was living on less than USD 1 a day.

There are an estimated 6,000 street children in Rwanda, primarily in the capital of Kigali, and in provincial capitals. Street children work guarding cars and as porters, garbage collectors, and vendors, selling small items such as cigarettes and candy. Children who live on the streets, particularly girls, are at high risk of sexual abuse.

Estimates on the number of orphans in Rwanda vary. In 2002, UNAIDS, UNICEF and USAID estimated that more than 600,000 children were orphans in Rwanda. The

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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3977 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


3981 Of this number (613,000), approximately 43 percent, or 264,000, have been orphaned by AIDS. See Children on the Brink 2002: A Joint Report on Orphan Estimates and Program Strategies, UNAIDS, UNICEF, and USAID, July, 2002, 22.

3982 Of this number (613,000), approximately 43 percent, or 264,000, have been orphaned by AIDS. See Children on the Brink 2002: A Joint Report on Orphan Estimates and Program Strategies, UNAIDS, UNICEF, and USAID, July, 2002, 22.
Government of Rwanda defines orphans as children who have lost one or both of their parents and estimates that there are 1,151,877 orphans, of which 182,625 have no parents. It is estimated that as many as 13 percent of all households are headed by children, particularly by girls. Children who head households in Rwanda care for their siblings, engage in informal work activities, primarily in subsistence agriculture, for survival, and most of them do not have adequate access to health or education services. Girls who head households are particularly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, such as the exchange of sex for food, protection, school fees and other services.

Rwanda has been a source country for the trafficking of children to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for forced labor and soldiering for the last decade. In 2005, a panel of UN experts reported that the Rwandan government Defense Forces were recruiting Congolese children living in refugee camps in Rwanda and training them to be soldiers in late 2004-early 2005. The Government of Rwanda denied all of the charges in the report, and has publicly denounced the practice of recruiting child soldiers. It has also been reported that armed groups from the DRC (suspected of being part of the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Goma) recruited children from Rwandan refugee camps in 2005. Allegations that the Rwandan government was involved in the recruitment of child soldiers by the DRC-based armed groups were met with a government investigation into the incidents. The Rwandan government has stated that it was not the government’s policy to recruit child soldiers.

The Constitution guarantees children in Rwanda free, compulsory primary education from the ages of 7 to 12 years. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 122

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3984 Thirteen percent represents 227,500 families. Human Rights Watch, Lasting Wounds, 47. Estimates of the number of child-headed households vary. The U.S. Department of State estimates that there are at least 65,000 child-headed households in Rwanda. See U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda, Section 5. In 2001, the International Rescue Committee estimated that there were 45,000 child-headed households in Rwanda, and that 90% were headed by girls. See Jill Donahue John Williamson, and Lynne Cripe, A Participatory Review of the Reunification, Reintegration, and Youth Development Program of the International Rescue Committee in Rwanda, USAID, July, 2001, 2. The 2002 census estimated that there were 15,052 child-headed households and UNICEF estimates there are 106,000 such households. See U.S. Embassy- Kigali, email communication, August 11, 2006.


3989 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports 2006: Rwanda, Section 2d. and Section 5.

3990 Ibid.

percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 87 percent.\textsuperscript{3992} 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. In 2000, 55.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{3993} As of 2001, 47 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\textsuperscript{3994}

Although primary school fees were officially waived in 2004, most families are still required to pay fees to cover the costs of school operations. For orphaned children, school fees were typically waived. Many schools lack basic supplies and the capacity to accommodate all primary school-age children.\textsuperscript{3995} Over half of primary school teachers lack basic qualifications.\textsuperscript{3996} Private schools are inaccessible or too costly for the majority of the population.\textsuperscript{3997}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code establishes the minimum age of employment at 16 years.\textsuperscript{3998} However, the Minister of Labor can make exceptions for children aged 14 to 16, depending on the circumstances, and allow children to work with parental permission. There is a gap between the minimum legal age that children are allowed to work (16 years) and the age at which children’s schooling is no longer compulsory (12 years). Children under the age of 16 years are allowed to work with their parents’ or guardians’ permission, but are prohibited from working between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. or performing any work deemed hazardous or difficult, as determined by the Minister of Labor, and must have at least 12 hours of rest between work engagements.\textsuperscript{3999} The minimum age for apprenticeships is 14 years, provided that the child has finished primary school.\textsuperscript{4000}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Rwanda. Forced labor is prohibited by Article 4 of the Labor Code.\textsuperscript{4001} The Criminal Code prohibits prostitution and compelling another person to become engaged in prostitution. These crimes are punishable by imprisonment for up to 5 years and a fine. Penalties are

\textsuperscript{3992} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{3993} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


\textsuperscript{3995} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda*, Section 5.

\textsuperscript{3996} Human Rights Watch, *Lasting Wounds*, Lasting Wounds, pg. 50. 50.

\textsuperscript{3997} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda*, Section 5.


\textsuperscript{4000} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda*, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{4001} *Labour Code*, Article 4.
doubled if the crime is committed against a minor under the age of 18 years.4002 There are also provisions for child rape and forced marriage in Rwandan law.4003 Trafficking is not specifically prohibited by law. However, laws against slavery, forced prostitution, kidnapping, and child labor can be used to prosecute traffickers.4004 Law No. 27/2001, Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence, sets the minimum age for military service at 18.4005 According to the U.S. Department of State, the Government of Rwanda is making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.4006

According to the U.S. Department of State, the Government of Rwanda made an effort to prevent and reduce the occurrence of child labor, however, the Ministry of Public Service and Labor and the Ministry of Local Government do not have sufficient resources to effectively enforce or prosecute the child labor laws.4007 The Ministry of Labor maintains one office that is responsible for children’s issues, but it is significantly under-funded.4008

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

In January 2005, the Ministry of Labor convened the first meeting of the Child Labor Forum, which seeks to address the child labor problems that are facing Rwanda, including child prostitution.4009 UNICEF is funding several projects targeting children who are working in sectors identified as worst forms of child labor.4010 The Ministry of Public Service, Skills Development, and Labor recently conducted an education campaign on child labor, including radio and television programs.4011 As part of a package of judicial reforms, “child issues courts” were created in late 2004 to deal with child labor violations and other abuses against children, but they are not yet functional.4012 Rwanda is one of four countries participating in a USDOL-funded Child Labor Education Initiative project, implemented by World Vision, to provide access to

4005 The law was passed in April 2001, and entered into force in 2002. The law, however, does not apply to military service in the Local Defense Forces. See Lasting Wounds, 16.
4007 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda, Section 6d.
4010 These projects target children working in domestic service, on sugar cane plantations, in brickyards and quarries, and being exploited in prostitution. ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: an Inter-Regional Program, technical progress report, INT/03/P52/USA, Geneva, March 2005.
4011 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda, Section 6d.
quality basic education for HIV/AIDS-affected children involved in or at risk of becoming engaged in exploitive child labor.  

Rwanda has a National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children, which includes strategies to address child labor. The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion has drafted a 5-year Action Plan of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and also works with NGOs to provide working children, including children exploited in prostitution, with housing, medical services, and vocational education. The government currently works with NGOs to assist child-headed households and sensitize local officials to their needs. Local authorities have also sent children found on the streets to foster homes or government-run facilities. In each of the 12 provinces, the government supports safe houses for street children, where they can receive shelter and basic services. UNICEF also works with the government to support efforts to eliminate exploitative child labor and assist orphans and other children in need of special protection.

The Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, through a special division on “ex-child soldiers,” continued to implement a program to demobilize child soldiers. Many child soldiers returning from the DRC participated in the program. The second phase of the demobilization of Rwandan children was completed in 2005. The government operates a demobilization center for child soldiers returning from the DRC that provides counseling, medical screening, family mediation, clothing, and schooling. A total of approximately 600 former child soldiers have received care and services at the center. Rwanda is one of seven countries participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC program to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict and support the

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4015 This plan is currently being prepared for cabinet approval. See ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict, March 2005.
4020 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Rwanda, Section 5. See also ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: an Inter-Regional Program, country annex, INT/03/P52/USA, Geneva, 2005.
4021 The second phase, which lasted from 2002 to 2005, was expected to demobilize 2,500 children from Rwandan armed groups that were operating in the DRC. As of December 2004, only 560 children had been demobilized. See ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict, country annex.
rehabilitation of former child soldiers. In an effort to curb trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, the government includes training on sex crimes and crimes against children in the police training curriculum. The government also monitors immigration patterns and border areas accessible by road. In partnership with a local NGO, the government supports healthcare services and vocational training for children involved in prostitution. In late 2004-early 2005, the government ran campaigns to raise public awareness about child sexual exploitation.

The Government of Rwanda provides assistance for orphans and other indigent children to attend secondary school through two funds. The Ministry of Education also offers “catch up” classes for children who have dropped out of school to work in the labor market, and has recently assumed responsibility for vocational training activities. The World Bank is implementing a 6-year, USD 35 million program that began in 2000 to build the capacity of the Ministry of Education. The program’s objectives are to increase access to primary schools, including school construction, improve teacher training and curriculum development, provide more textbooks, and strengthen the administration of and community involvement in the educational system. UNICEF, in cooperation with other donors, is supporting the establishment of the government’s National Education Statistical Information System, and has established a national Education for All committee. The World Food Program, in collaboration with the

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4023 ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: an Inter-Regional Program, project document, INT/03/P52/USA, Geneva, September 30, 2003.
4024 ILO-IPEC, Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict, country annex.
4027 One fund is administered by the Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs, and provides only partial educational assistance for secondary school, and the other, The Fund for Assistance of Genocide Survivors, is a quasi-governmental agency that supports genocide survivors by providing for their basic needs, including the full amount of their school fees. Reports indicate that these funds do not sufficiently meet the needs of the target population. In some cases, budget shortfalls have led to delayed school fee payments, causing children to drop out of school. See Lasting Wounds, 51-52.
4028 This accelerated learning project was designed to enable working children to reach an academic level equal to that of their peers. U.S. Embassy- Kigali, reporting, August 23, 2004. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record: Rwanda, CRC/C/SR.954, CRC/C/SR.954, prepared by Government of Rwanda, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, June 3, 2004, para 40; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/5e472357037a0f37c1256ead0031a9ed?Opendocument.
4031 This committee has taken up the issue of girls’ education. UNICEF, At a glance: Rwanda, the big picture.
Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, is implementing school feeding programs to encourage school attendance in place of child labor.\textsuperscript{4032}

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Saint Kitts and Nevis are unavailable. However, there are reports that in rural areas children often assist with livestock farming and vegetable production, and some children provide care for family members at the expense of their education. Girls often work as domestic servants or child care providers outside of their homes. In the past it has been reported that children may be involved in pornography, prostitution, and the distribution of drugs, according to the U.S. Department of State.

Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16 years. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 100 percent. 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 Kitts and Nevis. As of 1999, 87 percent of children who started primary school were likely

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**Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments**

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<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 138</td>
<td>06/03/2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 182</td>
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<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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4033 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.


4035 Ibid.


4039 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.
to reach grade 5. Additionally, UNICEF reports that Saint Kitts and Nevis was recognized for having a well-developed pre-school program along with only fourteen other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2005, Saint Kitts and Nevis also ranked 49 out of 177 countries on the United Nations Human Development Report based on its literacy rate and school enrollment ratios.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The 2002 Employment of Children (Restriction) Act and the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act set the minimum age for employment at 16 years of age. Both acts define a “child” as a person under 16 years of age. The law provides that persons found guilty of breaking child labor laws will be held liable to a fine of approximately USD 600.

In 2005, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis ratified ILO Convention 138, Minimum Age Convention.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Saint Kitts and Nevis. The 2002 Employment of Children (Restriction) Act and the Constitution prohibit slavery, servitude and forced labor. Although a comprehensive anti-trafficking law does not exist in Saint Kitts and Nevis, trafficking can be prosecuted under various provisions of the Penal Code. Additionally, prostitution is illegal in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Procurement of persons by threats, fraud, or administering drugs for prostitution is also illegal. Kidnapping or abduction of a female under the age of 16 for sexual purposes is considered a misdemeanor offense and punishable by up

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4044 Ibid.
4045 US Embassy-Regional Labor Attache, email communication to USDOL official, September 22, 2005.
4049 Constitution of Saint Kitts and Nevis.
Engaging in sexual relations with a girl under 14 years is considered a felony, and offenders over 16 years can be sentenced to imprisonment for life. Engaging in sexual relations with girls between 14 and 15 years of age is considered a misdemeanor offense, punishable by a prison term of not more than 2 years with or without hard labor. The statute of limitations on these offenses expires one year after the incident. In 2004, the most recent period for which information is available, officials brought charges in 22 cases of alleged sexual activity with minors such as statutory rape and 5 cases of incest.

The Department of Labor of Saint Kitts and Nevis is responsible for enforcing child labor laws. The Ministry has a “child labor inspector” responsible for monitoring the implementation of ILO Convention 182. The government reports that the Probation and Child Welfare Unit in the Ministry of Social Development has an active monitoring system with truancy officers. The government also has a Child Welfare Board consisting of members from the private and public sectors established in support of the 1994 Probation and Child Welfare Board Act. The Board is responsible for monitoring the rights of children, as well as providing care and protection for children. To further protect children, the government established a 10 pm curfew for unaccompanied children under 16 years of age. Vigorous action will reportedly be taken to prosecute adults responsible for these children, or adults who encourage children to partake in late night activities that would violate the curfew.

The minimum age for enrollment in the Saint Kitts and Nevis security forces is 18.

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4052 Ibid., Section 6.
4053 Ibid., Section 3.
4054 Ibid., Section 4.
4055 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Saint Kitts and Nevis, Section 5, Section 5.
4059 Ibid.
4063 Ibid.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has pledged to place high importance on access to affordable and quality education, teacher training, and regional cooperation to ensure the safe and secure transportation and flow of people as part of the Third Border Initiative Program.\footnote{Adam Ereli, \textit{Joint Statement by the United States of America, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic on the Third Border Initiative}, Washington, D.C., January 13 2004; available from http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2004/28136.htm.} The objective of the initiative is to focus funding and assistance on specific programs designed to enhance cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean States in areas such as education and security, and to combat trafficking in persons and drugs.\footnote{Ibid.}

In support of these commitments, the Department of Social and Community Development has implemented a number of education programs that benefit children to assist with community-based training and personal development activities.\footnote{Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, \textit{2005 Budget Address by St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas}, February 22, 2005; available from <http://www.stkittsnevis.net/news.html>.} Such activities include summer camps designed to provide assistance to an estimated 600 children in Saint Kitts and Nevis; after-school programs targeting 30 children between 6-12 years of age and 20 teenagers at all community centers; and school-to-work transition workshops targeting individuals who did not complete school in order to help them enter the workforce.\footnote{Ibid.} The government’s comprehensive social development program provides books, uniforms, meals, and pays examination fees for school children.\footnote{Ibid., 2.} In 2005, the government also increased the allocation of funds towards post-secondary education to strengthen the Non-Formal Youth Skills Program and Advanced Vocational Education Center to assist children who do not perform well in school.\footnote{Ibid., 18.}

The Department of Gender Affairs assisted the public with unemployment, technical training, childcare, and the Viola Project, an initiative designed to encourage young mothers to complete their education, which had 17 participants in 2004.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Saint Kitts and Nevis, Section 5}.}

In 2002, the Ministry of Education acquired funding from the World Bank to make secondary schools more accessible to its citizens through the construction of new schools, improvement of the curriculum and quality of teaching, provision of books and other education materials, fellowships, and other programs targeting disadvantaged youth. This program, expected to end in 2008, will encourage greater parental involvement.\footnote{Project Appraisal Document (OECS) Education Development Program, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., May 15, 2002; available from http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2003/11/11/000012009__20031111091449/Rend ered/PDF/241590EBoard.pdf.} In 2005, the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis reported that the government will...
upgrade and modernize its education system by continuing to implement the Basic Education Project and the Secondary Education Development Project to include the construction of a new secondary school, and modernizing the management, content and delivery of secondary education.\footnote{4072 Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, 2005 \textit{Budget Address}.}
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. Children work in urban food stalls and as street traders during non-school and festival days. Children have also become involved in commercial sexual exploitation in order to pay for basic needs, such as school fees and food.

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.

Education in Saint Lucia is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15 years. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99 percent. 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

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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.


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.


4079 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/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.
As of 2000, 97 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

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 employment. It also establishes 18 years as the minimum age for work in industrial settings. The Education Act of 1999 also sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years during the school year. Hazardous work is not defined in a single law, but is covered through a combination of legislation and regulations. The penalties for violation of child labor laws do not exceed USD 200, or 3 months of imprisonment. The Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, or forced labor, except for labor required by law, court order, military service, or public emergency. 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. 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. Information on trafficking in persons is unavailable for Saint Lucia and there are currently no laws that specifically address trafficking in persons.

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.

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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.
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.
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.
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.
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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{4094}

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. This program, expected to end in 2008, will encourage greater parental involvement in the education of their children.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{4096}

\textsuperscript{4093} Ibid, U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, unclassified telegram no. 1792.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are unavailable.4097 However, some children work on family-owned banana farms, mainly during harvest time, or in family-owned cottage industries.4098 Children are also reportedly involved in commercial sexual exploitation, including boys and street children.4099

Education at government primary schools is free. Although education at these schools is free, other costs of school attendance must be borne by parents, such as the cost of textbooks, food, and transportation. These costs present an obstacle to poor families and contribute to children’s non-attendance.4100 Whether or not education is compulsory is unclear. In 2004, the Ministry of Education reported that there were no regulations for compulsory education.4101 However, the 1992 Education Act provides for compulsory primary education.4102 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 107 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 90 percent.4103 Gross and net enrollment ratios are 4097 This statistic is not available from the date 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.
4102 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Initial Reports of States Parties.
based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. As of 2001, 85 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\textsuperscript{4104} Government school-feeding and textbook loan programs substantially contribute to improving the participation rate of children at the primary level.\textsuperscript{4105} However, there is a decrease in enrollment into secondary schools as a result of a mandatory entrance exam.\textsuperscript{4106}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children’s Act prohibits the employment of persons under 14 years of age in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.\textsuperscript{4107} Section 8 of the Act does however permit children under 14 to help their parents or guardians with light agricultural or horticultural work on family land, but only during hours when they are not in school.\textsuperscript{4108} Children often leave school at the age of 15 and many begin to work as apprentices at that age.\textsuperscript{4109} Any person who employs a child in an industrial undertaking is liable to a USD 100 fine for their first offense, and a USD 250 fine for each subsequent offense.\textsuperscript{4110} Use of children for night work is also prohibited.\textsuperscript{4111}

The Labor Inspectorate at the Department of Labor receives and investigates child labor complaints and conducts annual workplace inspections.\textsuperscript{4112} According to the U.S. Department of State, employers are believed to generally respect the law in practice.\textsuperscript{4113}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by the Constitution, and it is not known to occur.\textsuperscript{4114} Furthermore, the minimum age for enrollment in the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines security force is 18 or 19.\textsuperscript{4115} There are no laws that specifically address trafficking in persons, but there are various

\textsuperscript{4105} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties*, para. 350.
\textsuperscript{4106} Ibid., para. 318-322.
\textsuperscript{4107} Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *Written correspondence*.
\textsuperscript{4108} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{4109} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*.
provisions that could be applied to trafficking in the country’s Penal Code.\footnote{U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, reporting, March 8 2005. See also Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, *Criminal Code of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*; available from \url{http://209.190.246.239/protectionproject/statutesPDF/St.Vincent&GrenF.pdf}.} Causing or encouraging prostitution of girls under the age of 15 is prohibited by the Penal Code and is punishable with imprisonment for up to 7 years.\footnote{Ibid., Article 130.} It is also illegal to have intercourse with a girl under the age of 15 years.\footnote{Sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 years of age is punishable with imprisonment for life. Sexual intercourse with a girl above the age of 13 but below the age of 15 is punishable with imprisonment for up to 5 years. See Ibid., Articles 124 and 125.} Kidnapping and abduction with the intent to take the person out of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are offenses punishable with up to 14 years of imprisonment.\footnote{Ibid., Article 201.}

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

As of 2005, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has implemented a number of efforts to prevent children from poor economic backgrounds from engaging in child labor. The ministry co-sponsors the Children Against Poverty (CAP) Vocation Program, which provides training for children from nine schools in various skills. The ministry also provides financial assistance for the purchase of school uniforms and examination fees; accessible schools and libraries; counseling support mechanisms; and a special reading and parenting program.\footnote{Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *Written correspondence*.}

The Ministry of Education is also participating in the implementation of the OECS Education Strategy, through which the OECS territories aim to improve their education systems. The government is also collaborating with UNICEF, UNESCO, and other organizations to improve the level of educational services.\footnote{UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of States Parties*. para 311.}

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is implementing the OECS Education Development Project funded by the World Bank to support the construction and rehabilitation of schools, train teachers and administrators to design and carry out school development plans, and strengthen key elements of the education system’s management at the Ministry of Education level. The project also funds literacy training and peer mentoring programs, and trains guidance counselors and special education counselors.
specialists.\textsuperscript{4122} The Caribbean Development Bank is also funding a Basic Education II project to improve the management of the school system.\textsuperscript{4123}


Samoa

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Samoa are unavailable. Children work in rural areas selling agricultural products at roadside stands and in the capital city vending goods and food on the streets. Some children are reportedly forced to work for their village or its chief (“matai”), primarily on village farms. However, current law does not pertain to service to the matai, and therefore such labor is not perceived as a violation.

Although by law education in Samoa is compulsory through age 14, the U.S. Department of State reports that the government has been unable to enforce compliance and children whose families cannot afford to pay school fees do not attend. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 105 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 98 percent. 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 Samoa. In 2000, 94 percent of first graders reached grade 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 138</td>
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4124 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.
4127 Ibid. “Matai” A head of state or unicameral legislature elected by universal suffrage and in practice composed primarily of the heads of extended families.
4129 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definition of gross primary enrollment rate in the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.
4130 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of the report for information about sources used.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor and Employment Act of 1972 sets the minimum age of employment at 15 except in “safe and light” work suited to the child’s capacities. A child under the age of 15 is not permitted to work with dangerous machinery under conditions that are likely to harm physical or moral health or on a vessel that is not under the personal charge of his or her parent or guardian.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Samoa. The Constitution prohibits forced or bonded labor, however, work or service that is required by Samoan custom or fulfills a “normal civic obligation” is not prohibited. The Penal Code makes prostitution and the procurement of women and girls illegal in Samoa. The kidnapping of an individual with the intent to transport the individual out of the country or hold the individual for service is a crime punishable by up to 10 years of imprisonment. In addition, it is against the law to abduct any child under the age of 16 years, and to detain or take away any woman or girl with intent to cause her to have sexual intercourse with any other person.

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for responding to complaints about illegal child labor. Situations requiring enforcement of law are referred to the Attorney General.

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

The Government of Samoa has been implementing its Second Economic Strategy, entitled “Strengthening the Partnership.” Included in the program are policies and strategies crafted by the Department of Education to improve the education system in the ten year timeframe between 1995 and 2005. The main goals have been to provide education based on equity, quality, relevancy, and efficiency.

4133 Ibid.
4135 Ibid.
4136 Receiving income from the prostitution of another person or soliciting for a prostitute regardless of whether compensation is received, is illegal under the Samoan Penal Code. See Government of Samoa, Crimes Ordinance, (January 1, 1961); available from http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Samoa_legislation/1961/Crimes.html.
4137 Ibid.
4138 The crime is punishable by up to seven years of imprisonment. See Ibid.
4140 No cases were prosecuted during 2004. Ibid.
The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, in connection with the ILO, has also secured funding from the UNDP to establish a National Training Authority that will set standards to meet labor market demands and develop a policy framework for an education system that is responsive to market needs. The program is scheduled to run through 2007.\(^\text{4142}\) Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) recently sponsored a USD 5.53 million bilateral program in Samoa to supply education materials to primary education.\(^\text{4143}\)

Other resources to improve education have come by way of loans. The ADB has agreed to loan Samoa USD 5 million for the education sector.\(^\text{4144}\) The loan is intended to improve access to schools for outer island residents, make the education system more efficient, and provide better quality education.\(^\text{4145}\)


\(^\text{4145}\) Ibid.
São Tomé and Principe

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 15.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in São Tomé and Principe in 2000. Approximately 17.2 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 13.5 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work in subsistence agriculture, on plantations, and in informal commerce, sometimes from an early age. A small number of children perform domestic work for more than 4 hours a day. Children also work in auto mechanic shops and as street vendors.

Education is universal and compulsory through the sixth grade and tuition-free to the age of 15. However, in practice, conditions do not permit mandatory schooling for all children through sixth grade. Schools providing education up to sixth grade are not accessible to children in remote areas, as they exist only in district capitals. Therefore, many very young children work in the absence of access to education beyond

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4146 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


4152 Ibid.
fourth grade.\textsuperscript{4153} Owing to financial constraints, the shortage of classrooms, and the deterioration in the infrastructure in place, a triple-shift system is used in primary education, involving three successive sessions of three classes in three-hour periods in the same classroom (instead of the required five hours).\textsuperscript{4154} Average class time is severely curtailed with students effectively having only 2 to 3 hours of class time per day.\textsuperscript{4155} The World Bank reports that government ministries coordinate poorly on education issues,\textsuperscript{4156} and a lack of domestic funding for the school system leaves the system highly dependent on foreign assistance.\textsuperscript{4157}

In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 126 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 97 percent.\textsuperscript{4158} 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. In 2000, 68.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{4159} As of 2000, 61 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{4160}

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for work in São Tomé and Principe is 18, and employers in the formal wage sector generally respect the legally mandated minimum employment age.\textsuperscript{4161} The law prohibits minors from working more than 7 hours a day and 35 hours per week and allows fines to be imposed on those who employ underage workers.\textsuperscript{4162} However, the government has not prosecuted any cases of child labor law violations.\textsuperscript{4163}

\textsuperscript{4154} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Initial Reports of State Parties: Sao Tome and Principe*, 15.
\textsuperscript{4156} Ibid., 19.
\textsuperscript{4157} Government tax revenue in 2003 constituted approximately 20.5 percent of GDP (or 41 percent of total revenues and grants), non-tax revenues constitute 49 percent of GDP (9 percent of total revenues and grants), and grants, from foreign donors, constitute 49 percent of revenues. Ibid., 37.
\textsuperscript{4158} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 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.
\textsuperscript{4159} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.
\textsuperscript{4161} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: São Tomé and Principe*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{4162} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{4163} Ibid.
The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in São Tomé and Principe. Laws prohibit forced or compulsory labor, including by children. The Penal Code of 1929 prohibits the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but there have been few prosecutions.

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

The Government of São Tomé and Principe is engaged in efforts to support basic education. Buying books and uniforms for school is the responsibility of the family, but the Government of São Tomé and Principe provides assistance to those who cannot afford them. The Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fishing and Rural Development, Ministry of Labor and Solidarity, and Ministry of Youth and Sports all support non-formal education programs. The World Food Programme (WFP) assists the government by supplying meals to primary school students. UNICEF’s school garden program provides an alternative learning environment for the students, as well as vegetables to supplement the food supplied by the WFP.

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4164 Ibid., Section 6c.
Senegal

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 32.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in Senegal in 2000. Approximately 39.2 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 25.9 percent of girls in the same age group.4170 Children are exploited in activities that the Government of Senegal has identified as the worst forms of child labor. Among them are begging, forced labor, prostitution, drug trafficking and illegal activities, recycling of waste and garbage, and slaughtering of animals.4171 Children can be found working on rural family farms and in animal husbandry, fishing, rock quarrying, and gold and salt mining.4172 Children also work in domestic service, transportation, construction, manufacturing, and automobile repair shops, restaurants, and hotels.4173 Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, 22.3 percent of the population in Senegal were living on less than USD 1 a day.4174

Senegal is a source, transit, and destination country for child trafficking.4175 Boys are trafficked within and to Senegal from The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Guinea to

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4170 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


participate in exploitative begging for Koranic teachers, considered by the Government of Senegal to be a worst form of child labor. Official statistics put the total number of these boys, known as *talibés*, at over 100,000. They are vulnerable to sexual and other exploitation. Some Koranic teachers bring children from rural areas to Senegal’s major cities, holding them under conditions of involuntary servitude. *Talibés* have revealed to NGOs and shelters that they are often beaten and shackled if they do not bring their Koranic teachers a minimum amount of money at the end of each day. In fact, in 2005, two Koranic teachers were convicted and sentenced to prison for such abuse.

There are reports of young girls being trafficked from rural to urban areas for forced domestic service. Senegalese girls are also trafficked both internally and to other countries for exploitative labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Child prostitution occurs on beaches and in bars, hotels, and other tourist areas.

Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution adopted in January 2001 guarantee access to education for all children. Education is compulsory and free up to the age of 16. However, due to limited resources and low demand for secular education in areas where Islamic education is more prevalent, the law is not fully enforced. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 80 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 69 percent. Gross and net enrolment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2000, 41.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.
Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Senegal. As of 2001, 80 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

The Ministry of Labor has indicated that the public school system is unable to cope with the number of children that must enroll each year. As a result, many school-aged children seek to obtain education and training through more informal means. A large number apprentice themselves to a shop, where they receive no wages. One government official estimated there are 100,000 children apprenticed in Dakar. The ANSD reports that as of 2001, 32.5 percent of children aged 10-14 had begun their professional lives.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution protects children from economic exploitation and from involvement in hazardous work. The minimum age for employment, including apprenticeships, is 15 years. With permission from the Minister of Labor, children 12 years and older may perform light work within a family setting, provided that it does not jeopardize their health, morals, or schooling. Children are prohibited from working at night, and cannot work more than 8 hours a day. Activities considered to be worst forms of child labor are prohibited by law, and children under 18 years are prohibited from engaging in hazardous work. The government has identified “extremely hard labor,” including carrying heavy loads, gold mining, and work underwater; and “very dangerous work,” including work with toxic chemicals, as worst forms of child labor. The law also identifies businesses in which children under 18 years are forbidden from working. In addition, children under 16 are prohibited from working on fishing

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4185 This statistic is not available from the data sources used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section for information about sources used.


4188 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports– 2004: Senegal, Section 6d. See also U.S. Department of State official, electronic communication regarding Constitution of Senegal to USDOL official, August 18, 2003. See also Constitution.


4191 Arrêté Ministériel n° 3748 MFPTEO-DTSS, Art. 3.

4192 Arrêté Ministériel n° 3749 MFPTEO-DTSS, Art. 3.

4193 Arrêté Ministériel n° 3750 MFPTEO-DTSS.

4194 Arrêté Ministériel n° 3749 MFPTEO-DTSS, Art. 2.

vessels. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the military is 18 years, and 20 years for compulsory recruitment.

Senegal has a law prohibiting the worst forms of child labor and other statutes under which the worst forms can also be prosecuted. Prostitution is illegal for youths under the age of 21, as specified by Article 327 of the Penal Code. Procuring a minor for the purpose of prostitution is punishable by imprisonment for 2 to 5 years and a fine of 300,000 to 4,000,000 CFA francs (USD 556.27 to USD 7,416.95). The Labor Code prohibits forced and compulsory labor. In April 2005, the Senegalese National Assembly adopted a law against human trafficking, which also prohibits exploitative begging and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Since 1999, the Government of Senegal has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor and its Social Security Inspectors are responsible for investigating child labor cases and enforcing child labor laws. However, due to a lack of resources, inspectors do not initiate workplace visits and instead depend on violations to be reported. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Ministry of Labor monitors and enforces minimum age laws only in the formal sector, including in state-owned corporations, large private enterprises, and cooperatives.

There is a consensus among many NGOs, the media, and even some government officials that the government has the capacity to significantly reduce child labor, particularly begging. While the 2005 anti-trafficking law forbids exploitative begging, no one had been prosecuted under its provisions by the end of the year. However, according to the

4198 Arrêté Ministériel n° 3749 MFPEOP-DTSS, Article 3.
4202 U.S. Embassy- Dakar official, email communication, May 31, 2005. Prior to the passage of this law, in 2004, 72 child prostitutes were arrested, and 54 pimps were convicted and given prison sentences of up to ten years. See U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Senegal*.
4203 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
4204 U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Senegal*, Section 6d. Labor and Social Security inspectors can require a medical exam to ensure that work does not exceed a child’s capabilities. See *Code du Travail*, Articles L. 141, L. 146. See also Arrêté Ministériel n° 3748 MFPEOP-DTSS, Art. 14. See also Arrêté Ministériel n° 3749 MFPEOP-DTSS, Art. 6. See also Arrêté Ministériel n° 3750 MFPEOP-DTSS, Art. 27.
Department of State, the government’s program to modernize Koranic schools offers promise in regard to addressing this issue.\footnote{Ibid.}

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

The Government of Senegal is participating in a USD 2 million, USDOL-funded, ILO-IPEC Timebound Program focused on addressing exploitative child labor in agriculture, fishing, begging, and domestic service.\footnote{The 3-year program was funded in 2003. See International Child Labor Program U.S. Department of Labor, "Support for the Implementation of the Senegal Time-Bound Program, project summary."} The government also participates in an ILO-IPEC project, funded by France, to combat child labor in Francophone Africa.\footnote{The countries participating in this project include Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. See ILO-IPEC official, email communication, November 8, 2005.} The Family Ministry, in cooperation with the Government of Italy and UNICEF, has a program to withdraw children from the worst forms of child labor, including begging, domestic work, and sexual exploitation.\footnote{The 4-year program was launched in 2002. See ILO-IPEC, *Senegal Time-Bound, project document*, 24.}

The Family Ministry has also been active in promoting birth registration through awareness campaigns and registration drives. Parents often fail to register their child’s birth and the result is that their child has no right to education or health care. Many such children find themselves forced to work in the informal sector.\footnote{U.S. Embassy – Dakar Official, email correspondence to USDOL Official, August 11, 2006.}


help support 48 Koranic schools whose teachers do not force their students into exploitative begging. The Government of Senegal also has established a program to provide education and social services to 11,000 at-risk children.

The Government of Senegal’s Family Ministry operates the “Ginddi Center” in Dakar to receive and care for street children, including trafficking victims. Pursuant to Senegal’s 2004 anti-trafficking accord with Mali, trafficked Malian children are kept at the Ginddi Center prior to repatriation. Children from The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea also receive assistance. The Center operates a 24-hour toll-free child protection hotline.

In March 2005, the Interior Ministry’s new Special Commissariat began to combat sex tourism and child prostitution in Senegal’s urban centers. The commissariat was not operational at year’s end, however. The government has also established regional committees and an Inter-Ministerial committee to coordinate efforts to combat child labor. The Inter-Ministerial committee has drafted a national action plan for combating child labor, which must now be approved by the government.

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4217 At the Ginddi Center children receive educational, medical, nutritional and other assistance. See U.S. Embassy- Dakar official, email communication, May 31, 2005.
4220 Ibid.
Seychelles

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Seychelles are unavailable.4224

Education is compulsory up to the age of 16, and free through secondary school up until age 18.4225 Students must pay for uniforms, but not for books or tuition.4226 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 114 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 100 percent.4227 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 Seychelles.4228 As of 2002, 99 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.4229

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4224 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.


4227 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://www.uis.unesco.org/profiles/EN/EDU/countryProfile_en.aspx?code=6900 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed August 2006). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definition of gross primary enrollment rate in the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.

4228 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.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Article 31 of the Constitution protects children under age 15 from economic exploitation but allows children to be employed part-time in light work that is not harmful to their health, morals, or education. The Employment Act prohibits any child under age 15 from working. It is illegal to employ children between the ages of 15 and 16 in certain forms of hazardous work, and the Minister of Employment and Social Affairs has the ability to limit categories of employment in which children of this age can participate. The Employment Act also considers children ages 16 to 18 as adults in the labor market, with no special protections for this age group. The Employment of Young Persons and Children Act of 1981, however, prohibits the employment of persons under 18 in hotels, restaurants, and shops. Violations of the minimum employment age are punishable by a fine of SCR 6,000 (USD 1,090).

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Seychelles. The Constitution provides for freedom from slavery, servitude, or forced or obligatory labor. The Penal Code also prohibits procuring any woman or girl for purposes of prostitution or inducing her to leave the country to enter a brothel. There is no conscription, and the minimum age for voluntary military service is 18. Exceptions to this rule require written permission from a parent or guardian.

The Ministry of Employment and Social Services enforces child labor laws and investigates claims of child labor abuses.

In 2004, there were no reported cases of child labor requiring investigation by the Ministry of Employment and Social Services, no known cases of forced or bonded labor by children, and no reports of trafficking in person to, from, or within the country.

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

4230 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports: Initial Reports: Seychelles, para. 482. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Seychelles, Section 5.
4231 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports: Initial Reports: Seychelles, para. 483.
4232 Ibid., para. 483.
4233 Ibid., para. 484.
4235 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Seychelles, Section 6d.
4239 Ibid.
4240 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Seychelles, Section 6c.
4241 Ibid.
The Government of Seychelles has also developed a National Plan of Action for Children 2005-2009, which sets out specific goals and actions related to the continued enforcement of all child protection laws as well as the development and well-being of children in Seychelles.\textsuperscript{4242}

\textsuperscript{4242} U.S. Embassy Victoria, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
Sierra Leone

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 69.1 percent of children aged 5 to 14 years in Sierra Leone were counted as working in 2000. Approximately 69.6 percent of all boys were working compared to 68.5 percent of girls in the same age group. Children in Sierra Leone assist family businesses and work as vendors and on family subsistence farms. Street children are employed by adults to sell, steal and beg. Children also mine alluvial diamond fields. Child prostitution is an ongoing problem. Children continue to be trafficked from rural areas to the capital city of Freetown and to diamond mining areas for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The law mandates primary school attendance for children aged 6 to 12 and the government promotes a policy of free primary education. In 2000, the gross primary enrollment rate in Sierra Leone was 79 percent. Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. As of 2000, 42.7 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. Despite government policy on free education, schools charge

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<tr>
<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratified Convention 138</td>
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<td>Ratified Convention 182</td>
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<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
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<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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4243 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


4245 Ibid. Section 6d.

4246 Ibid. Section 5.


formal and informal fees that many families cannot afford to pay.\textsuperscript{4250} Among the factors that reduce children’s access to school are school fees and associated costs, serious overcrowding in existing schools, a shortage of trained and qualified teachers, and shortages of materials.\textsuperscript{4251}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The official minimum age for employment in Sierra Leone is 18. However, children between the ages of 12 and 18 may perform work in certain non-hazardous occupations, provided that they have parental consent.\textsuperscript{4252}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Sierra Leone. The use of forced and bonded labor, including children, is prohibited by the Constitution.\textsuperscript{4253} The “Prevention of Cruelty to Children” section of the Laws of Sierra Leone prohibits commercial sexual exploitation of children and defines a child as a person under the age of 16. For any person over the age of 16, procuring a woman or girl for prostitution is punishable by up to 2 years in prison, and soliciting of prostitution is punishable by fine.\textsuperscript{4254} The Anti-Human Trafficking Act, enacted in August 2005, defines human trafficking as an offense and criminalizes all forms of human trafficking.\textsuperscript{4255} The Sierra Leone Forces Act of 1961 prohibits any person under the age of 17 and a half from enlisting in the armed forces.\textsuperscript{4256}

The Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Industrial Relations is charged with administering existing labor laws and preventing the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{4257} The Ministry of Mineral Resources enforces prohibitions against the use of child labor in mining activities.\textsuperscript{4258} The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs advocates for the rights and welfare of children. According to the U.S. Department of State, the government lacks the resources to enforce existing labor laws or provide children with a basic education.\textsuperscript{4259}

\textsuperscript{4250} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports-2004: Sierra Leone*, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{4253} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Sierra Leone*, Section 6c.
\textsuperscript{4259} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports-2004: Sierra Leone*, Sections 5 and 6d.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In the area of trafficking, the government convened a legislative working group and approved comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation.4260 The Sierra Leone Police host biweekly meetings of the Trafficking in Persons Action Committee and are working to coordinate anti-trafficking measures throughout the country.4261

The government finalized a poverty reduction strategy in 2005, in collaboration with the IMF and the World Bank that emphasizes expanding access to basic education, improving teacher education, improving the learning environment, and improving capacity in the education sector.4262

USAID is implementing a scholarship program that will award 3,000 scholarships to primary school girls. The program, which is part of the African Education Initiative announced by President George Bush in 2002, focuses on improving girls’ retention and completion of primary education.4263 The World Bank is implementing a program to assist schools to achieve a basic operational level and build the capacity of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to plan and manage the delivery of education services.4264 UNICEF is engaged in projects to renovate schools, distribute teaching materials and equipment, retrain teachers, and promote girls’ education.4265 The U.S. Department of State awarded UNICEF a grant in 2005 to conduct a nationwide public awareness campaign against human trafficking that targets children.4266 USDOL awarded the International Rescue Committee a USD 6 million grant in September 2005 to implement a Child Labor Education Initiative project in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and is working in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone.4267

4260 UNICEF, Sierra Leone Signs Anti-Trafficking Act.
4261 Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report: Sierra Leone, 193.
4262 International Monetary Fund, Sierra Leone: Poverty Reduction Strategy, para 331.
4267 The IRC project aims to improve quality and access to basic and vocational education for children who are working or are at risk of working in the worst forms of child labor. Notice of Award: Cooperative Agreement, U.S. Department of Labor/International Rescue Committee, Washington, D.C., September 28, 2005, 1-2.
Solomon Islands

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Solomon Islands are unavailable.\textsuperscript{4268} Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a problem in the Solomon Islands.\textsuperscript{4269}

Education in the Solomon Islands is not compulsory,\textsuperscript{4270} and school fees are high relative to family incomes.\textsuperscript{4271} Some children are reportedly denied access to education due to early entrance into work.\textsuperscript{4272} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 107 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 72 percent.\textsuperscript{4273} 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 the Solomon Islands.\textsuperscript{4274}

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Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments \\
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Ratified Convention 138 \\
Ratified Convention 182 \\
ILO-IPEC Member \\
National Plan for Children (Youth Policy) U \\
National Child Labor Action Plan \\
Sector Action Plan \\
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\textsuperscript{4268} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section in the front of the report 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 section titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


\textsuperscript{4270} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Solomon Islands, 89.

\textsuperscript{4271} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2003: Solomon Islands, Section 5. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Solomon Islands, 90.

\textsuperscript{4272} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Solomon Islands, CRC/C/15/Add.208, Geneva, July 2, 2003, 14; available from http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/ccf51b3b3aa93c91c1256db90024ca4e?Opendocument.

\textsuperscript{4273} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/ TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.

\textsuperscript{4274} 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.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 12. Children may participate in light agricultural or domestic labor if they are employed by, or in the company of their parents. Children under the age of 15 are prohibited from working in industry or on ships, except on approved training ships, and children under the age of 18 may not work in underground mines. The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in the Solomon Islands. The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor. The procurement of girls under 18 years of age for the purposes of prostitution is prohibited under the Penal Code (“Offences Against Morality”). The Penal Code provides sanctions for the abduction of children. There are no armed forces in the Solomon Islands, however the minimum age for recruitment into the border police force is 18.

The Labor Division of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry is tasked with enforcing child labor laws, and the Commissioner of Labor is designated to implement and enforce child labor laws. According to the U.S. Department of State, the government devotes almost no resources to child labor cases. In the Ministry of Health, there are six social welfare officers. They have received limited training from international welfare groups, but no child labor investigations were conducted during 2005. There is no information on any fines, penalties or convictions relating to child labor.

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

The Government of the Solomon Islands has a National Youth Policy to address the welfare needs of youth ages 14 to 29. In order to promote access to primary education, the government has abolished school fees. The government’s efforts to

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4275 Section 84 of the Labor Act, as cited in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention: Solomon Islands, 111.
4276 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Solomon Islands, Section 6d.
4279 Section 229 of the Penal Code as cited in Ibid., 55.
4281 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2003: Solomon Islands, Section 6d.
4282 U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, reporting, September 14, 2005.
improve teacher training facilities and to provide more materials for schools have been hampered by its limited budget. \(^{4284}\)

Through the UN Development Assistance Framework 2003-2007, UN agencies are working with the government to improve access, quality, and delivery of basic services, including basic education. \(^{4285}\) The country’s National Education Master Plan 1999-2010 includes provisions to improve the quality, scope, and relevance of education. \(^{4286}\) The Ministry of Education has developed training programs and services for primary and secondary school teachers and education administrators. \(^{4287}\)

Foreign assistance has helped strengthen the education system in the Solomon Islands, accounting for approximately 40 percent of the country’s education costs, about USD 3 million. \(^{4288}\) With assistance from the Regional Assistance Mission for the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), all of the country’s schools were operating by the end of 2004, the most recent date for which information is available. \(^{4289}\)

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\(^{4284}\) U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, reporting. September 14, 2005.


\(^{4287}\) UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Solomon Islands, 90.

\(^{4288}\) U.S. Embassy- Port Moresby, reporting. September 14, 2005.

\(^{4289}\) US Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Solomon Islands, Section 5.
Somalia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Somalia are unavailable. Somalia’s workforce is composed predominantly of farmers and nomadic herders, and, in 2004, working children were often found engaged in herding, agricultural work, and household labor. A 2002 World Bank study found urban-rural differences in the forms of employment relationship among working children; self-employment and casual labor were more often observed in urban areas, while in rural areas unpaid farm labor was the primary employment form.

Children are reportedly trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation by armed Somali militias; their destinations are believed to include the Middle East and Europe. Children are also reportedly trafficked to South Africa for sexual exploitation. There is a reported increase in the number of children sent to live with relatives and friends in western countries. Some of these children may work or collect welfare in their host countries and send remittances to family members in Somalia. Boys as young as 14 years of age have taken part in militia combat.

A new Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was formed in October 2004. However, until June 2005, the TFG was located entirely in Nairobi, Kenya and since that time, the establishment of the TFG within Somalia was in its early stages. The Somali

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4290 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.


4295 Ibid.

TFG does not provide for free or compulsory education. Results from the UNICEF Primary Schools’ Survey (1998-1999) indicate that 62 percent of primary schools in Somalia required families to pay fees.\textsuperscript{4297} In a separate 1998 study, Development Solutions for Africa (DSA) estimated that school fees – by DSA estimates, approximately USD 15.60 per year for each child – were not sufficient to provide a “reasonable primary education.”\textsuperscript{4298} Somali schools at all levels are reported to be staffed with poorly trained teachers and lack textbooks and running water, as well as other items like laboratory equipment.\textsuperscript{4299}

Gross and net enrollment, and primary school attendance statistics are not available for Somalia.\textsuperscript{4300} Private Koranic and Madrassa schools in Somalia are inexpensive and provide basic education; according to some accounts, they require adherence to conservative Islamic practices that are outside the local custom and culture.\textsuperscript{4301}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

A new Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was formed in October 2004. The establishment of TFG institutions in Somalia is not yet complete, and the TFG has no means of enforcing labor laws.

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

Somalia has no national education policies or programs on child labor or education. In many cases, local community education committees (CEC) have organized to take on the task of running Somali schools. These committees are often made up of parents; teachers; members of women’s, youth, and religious groups; NGO’s; and business people.\textsuperscript{4302} UNICEF has provided support and training to CEC members as part of its program to promote school enrollment and improve the quality of education and school facilities in Somalia.\textsuperscript{4303} A 2005 European Commission grant provides 2 years of support for the continuation of UNICEF’s education efforts in Somalia, which include training.

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\textsuperscript{4297} UNESCO, *Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Somalia*, pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 52/84, 2000; available from http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/somalia/rapport_2.html.

\textsuperscript{4298} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{4299} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Somalia*, Section 5.

\textsuperscript{4300} These statistics are 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.

\textsuperscript{4301} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Somalia*, Section 5.


for teachers and local education authorities, school building repairs, and the creation of community learning centers that provide primary education to disadvantaged Somali populations. An international effort to improve education in Somalia is coordinated by the Education Sectoral Committee of the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB), which is made up of UN agencies, donors, and international NGOs. The SACB endeavors to assist in the “reconstruction and overall development of the education sector in Somalia at all levels” and facilitate children’s access to high-quality education.

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4304 Ibid.
South Africa

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in South Africa are unavailable. Working children are most often found on farms and in the informal economy. More children in rural areas than urban areas are engaged in some type of work. Children work in commercial agriculture and on subsistence farms planting and harvesting vegetables, picking and packing fruit, and cutting flowers. Children perform domestic tasks in their own households and work as paid domestic servants in the homes of third parties. Many work as unpaid domestic servants, especially on rural farms. In urban areas, children work as street hawkers, especially around taxi stands and near public transportation, and as car guards. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 10.7 percent of the population in South Africa were living on less than USD 1 a day.

There are reports that child prostitution is increasing. South Africa is a country of origin, transit, and destination for children trafficked for the purposes of commercial

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4307 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.

4308 U.S. Consulate- Johannesburg, reporting, June 21, 2000, para 2.


4311 Ibid.


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<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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sexual exploitation and forced labor. Girls are reportedly trafficked internally and from other countries, including Swaziland, Mozambique, China, and Thailand, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There are also reports that boys are trafficked to South Africa for forced agricultural work from neighboring countries, including Lesotho. Trafficking of children from rural areas to urban areas for the purpose of domestic service is also a problem.

The Constitution guarantees every child the right to basic education. The South African Schools Act of 1996 makes school compulsory for children ages 7 to 15 years and prohibits public schools from refusing admission to any child on the grounds of learning ability or race. Public schools may not refuse admission to students who are unable to pay school fees. Primary education is not free, but the poorest households may claim an exemption from school fees in their district.

Despite constitutional guarantees, significant barriers to education exist. Costs such as school fees, transportation, and school uniforms continue to prevent some children from attending school. HIV/AIDS orphans and children heading households face obstacles such as stigmatization, absence of adult support, and the need to work to provide meals for themselves and their siblings. Many schools also continue to face significant infrastructure and other problems that have a negative impact on the quality of education.

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4322 Ibid., Chapter 2, Section 5(3)(a).


In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 106 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 89 percent.\textsuperscript{4327} 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 South Africa. As of 2002, 84 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{4328}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act establishes the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{4329} The Employment Act allows for the Minister of Labor to set additional prohibitions or conditions on the employment of children age 15 years and over, who are no longer subject to compulsory schooling under any law.\textsuperscript{4330} The maximum penalty for illegally employing a child, according to the Employment Act, is 3 years of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{4331} The Constitution provides for the right of every child, defined as a person less than 18 years of age, to be protected from labor practices which are exploitative. It also prohibits children from performing work or providing services that are age-inappropriate or that jeopardize their well being or development.\textsuperscript{4332} In July 2004, the South African Department of Labor (SADOL) passed regulations concerning the employment of children in the film, entertainment, sports, and advertising industries. Employers wishing to hire children must first apply for a license, set permissible hours, and provide schooling, transportation, and chaperone services.\textsuperscript{4333}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in South Africa. The Employment Act and the Constitution prohibit all forms of forced labor.\textsuperscript{4334} The Defense Act of 2002 sets 18 years as the minimum age for voluntary, military service, military training, and conscription, even in times of national emergency.\textsuperscript{4335} The Sexual Offences Act establishes sexual exploitation of children as a criminal offense. Children can be arrested for prostitution under the Sexual Offences Act, despite being victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Such cases, however, are generally referred by the Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions to children’s courts, which make determinations regarding children’s need for care.\textsuperscript{4336} The Child Care Act, as

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{4327} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Rations, Primary; accessed October 2005). For a detailed explanation of gross primary enrollment rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate in “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.
\item \textsuperscript{4330} Ibid., Sections 44(1), 44(2).
\item \textsuperscript{4331} Ibid., Sections 43(1)(a)(b), 43(3), 44(2), 93.
\item \textsuperscript{4332} \textit{Constitution of the Republic of South Africa}, Chapter 2, Sections 28(3), 28(1)(e) and (f).
\item \textsuperscript{4333} U.S. Consulate- Johannesburg, \textit{reporting}, September 3, 2004, para 4.
\item \textsuperscript{4334} \textit{Basic Conditions of Employment Act}, 43(1)(a)(b), 43(3), 93.
\item \textsuperscript{4335} Ibid., Chapter 2, Section 28(1)(i), 28(3).
\item \textsuperscript{4336} Government of South Africa, \textit{The National Child Labour Action Programme for South Africa, Draft 4.10}, Pretoria, October 2003, 21; available from
\end{itemize}
amended, sets a penalty of up to 10 years of imprisonment and/or a fine for any person who participates in or is involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Children’s Bill, approved by the National Assembly in 2005, specifically prohibits the trafficking of children. Since 1999, the Government of South Africa has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The SADOL is tasked with enforcement of child labor laws. There are approximately 1,000 labor inspectors nationwide, but none focus exclusively on monitoring child labor. According to the U.S. Department of State, SADOL effectively enforces child labor laws in the formal non-agricultural sector but less so in other sectors. The Child Protection Unit (CPU) and the Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offenses Unit (FCS) within the South African Police Service also are involved in child protection issues. The CPU offers services to child victims in a sensitive way, and investigates and raises awareness of crimes against children. There are 28 CPUs and 14 FCSs located across the country.

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

The government is implementing the National Program of Action for Children (NPA). The Office on the Status of Children coordinates the plan and also coordinates all policies concerning child welfare and child related programs. The South African Social Security Agency provides social grants to children aged 13 years and under to assist them with meeting basic necessities and staying out of the workforce.
The SADOL chairs the Child Labor Intersectoral Group (CLIG), a national stakeholder group that coordinates child labor activities conducted by the government, unions, and NGOs, and raises awareness about child labor and the enforcement of child labor laws. The SADOL also is slated to coordinate implementation of the Child Labor Action Plan (CLAP) which aims to eliminate exploitative child labor. The CLAP is currently in draft form.

In collaboration with the government, ILO/IPEC is implementing a USD 5 million USDOL-funded regional child labor project in Southern Africa, which includes South Africa. Efforts in South Africa are focused on supporting the Government of South Africa’s Child Labor Action Plan through awareness-raising, enhancing capacity for policy implementation and monitoring, and direct action programs. The American Institutes for Research is also implementing a USD 9 million regional Child Labor Education Initiative project funded by USDOL in Southern Africa, and is working in collaboration with the Government of South Africa to improve quality and access to basic and vocational education for South African children who are working in, or are at risk of working in, the worst forms of child labor.

In the past year, the government continued to provide training to the police and judiciary on anti-trafficking in persons activities. Government-owned radio and TV stations supported activities by the International Organization for Migration to raise public awareness of the trafficking issue.

UNICEF also supports activities aimed at improving access to primary education, increasing support for early childhood development, and protecting children’s rights. The government continues to allocate more resources to the most deprived schools in its provinces and to disadvantaged black African children. The Department of Education is implementing an action plan to improve access to free and quality basic education for all.

4347 U.S. Consulate- Johannesburg, reporting, September 1, 2005, para 2d.
the most disadvantaged learners. The government also provides up to 4.6 million students with school meals.

4354 Government of South Africa- Department of Education, Plan of Action: Improving access to free and quality basic education for all, Foreword.

Sri Lanka

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Sri Lanka are not available.\textsuperscript{4356} According to the Government of Sri Lanka’s 1999 Child Labor Survey in Sri Lanka, the majority of working children are in the agricultural sector.\textsuperscript{4357} Children also work in the informal sector and in family enterprises, in small restaurants, stores, repair shops, and hotels; in small-scale manufacturing and crafts; as street peddlers;\textsuperscript{4358} and as domestic servants.\textsuperscript{4359} Some children from rural areas are reportedly victimized in debt bondage as domestic servants in urban households.\textsuperscript{4360} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 7.6 percent of the population in Sri Lanka were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{4361}

The government estimates that more than 2,000 children are engaged in prostitution. Some local groups estimate the number of child prostitutes as closer to 6,000, however. The majority of children engaged in prostitution are exploited by local citizens, though

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ILO-IPEC Member & & U \\
National Plan for Children & & U \\
National Child Labor Action Plan & & U \\
Sector Action Plans (Trafficking, War-Affected Children) & & U \\
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\textsuperscript{4356} 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.


\textsuperscript{4360} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Sri Lanka}, Section 6c and 6d.

\textsuperscript{4361} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.
there are reports of sex tourism as well. Children are reportedly trafficked internally and to the Middle East, Singapore, Hong Kong, and South Korea for sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitative labor. Some internally-trafficked children, mostly boys, are lured from the conflict-ridden northern and eastern provinces to southern beach and mountain resorts to work in the sex industry, sometimes at their parents’ request.

The use of children in armed conflict remains a pressing concern. Reports indicate that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continue to heavily recruit thousands of children as soldiers, often forcibly. The LTTE recruit and abduct children as young as 13 to serve in combat and in various battlefield support functions. There are no indications that the government is using child soldiers. Many of those recruited by the LTTE are girls. Reports indicate that at the beginning of 2005 there were over 5,000 children in the ranks of the LTTE, and more were abducted from religious gatherings in the east during the year.

The Indian Ocean tsunami that hit Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004 killed over 31,000 people in Sri Lanka and displaced over 519,000. Thousands of children were orphaned or separated from their families, increasing their vulnerability to trafficking and other worst forms of child labor. There were reports of traffickers exploiting the post-

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4362 See Ibid., Section 5. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, Sri Lanka; accessed June 28, 2005; available from http://www.ecpat.net.
4370 ILO-IPEC, Emergency response to child labour in selected Tsunami affected areas in Sri Lanka, project document, Geneva, February 25, 2005, 5, 6, 36. As of March 2005 it was estimated that 1,100


Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Sri Lanka.\footnote{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.} Sri Lanka’s education facilities were negatively affected by the tsunami and ongoing armed conflict, and many children remained out of school, particularly in the northeast.\footnote{During 2004, thousands of war-affected children were re-enrolled in school or accelerated learning programs, and hundreds of war-damaged schools in the northeast were repaired, but many children still lacked access to educational facilities, and there remained a need for trained teachers and social workers. See UNICEF Press Center, \textit{Stalled peace negotiations in Sri Lanka harm children}, press release, Colombo, September 9, 2004; available from http://www.unicef.org/media/media_23433.html.} After the tsunami, an estimated 72,000 children were left
without access to schools,\textsuperscript{4379} and the Ministry of Education (MOE) delayed the start of
the 2005 school year.\textsuperscript{4380}

\textbf{Child Labor Laws and Enforcement}

Under the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act of 1956, the
minimum age for employment in most occupations in Sri Lanka is 14 years.\textsuperscript{4381} Under
the Act, children may be employed in family-run agricultural enterprises or as part of
technical training activities, but not during school hours; for more than 2 hours on a
school day or Sunday; between the hours 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; or in any activities that
jeopardize health or education. The Act limits the work hours of young people age 16
years and below to 9 per day, and the work hours of young people ages 17 to 18 years to
10 per day.\textsuperscript{4382} The Act prohibits young people under 18 from working in industrial
facilities after 11 p.m., except in certain training or apprenticeship situations.\textsuperscript{4383}
Amendments to the Act in 2003 increased penalties for child labor violations to Rs.
10,000 (approximately USD 98) and 12 months of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{4384} The Factories
Ordinance requires medical certification of children under 16 years prior to employment,
and prohibits children below 18 years from engaging in hazardous employment.\textsuperscript{4385}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Sri Lanka.
Forced labor by persons of any age is prohibited under the Abolition of Slavery
Ordinance of 1844, and Article 360 of the Penal Code prohibits buying, selling or
bartering any person for money or any other consideration.\textsuperscript{4386} The Penal Code also
contains provisions prohibiting sexual violations against children, defined as a person
under 18 years, particularly with regard to child pornography, child prostitution, and the

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{4379} Steve Nettleton, "UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman visits tsunami-affected areas in Sri
\textsuperscript{4380} ILO-IPEC, Tsunami affected areas in Sri Lanka, project document, 6.
\textsuperscript{4381} Government of Sri Lanka, Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act, No. 47 of 1956
and No. 43 of 1964, (November 7, 1956), Part III, Articles 13 and 34 (1). Some sector-specific laws also
specify 14 years as the minimum age for employment. See Government of Sri Lanka, Shop and Office
Employees Act No. 19 of 1954, Article 10 (1). The minimum age for employment at sea is 15 years. See
\textsuperscript{4382} Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act Nos. 47 of 1956 and 43 of 1964, (November
\textsuperscript{4383} Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act of 1956, Articles 2(1), 3(4-6), and 34.
\textsuperscript{4384} Government of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Employment and Labour, Performance Report - 2003,
conversion, see FXConverter, [online] [cited December 16, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.
\textsuperscript{4385} U.S. Embassy- Colombo, reporting, August 18, 2003.
\textsuperscript{4386} Government of Sri Lanka, Report of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Efforts by GSP
Beneficiary Countries to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour, submitted in response to U.S.
Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (July 25, 2005) "Request for Information on Efforts by
Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Colombo, August 19, 2005, 1.
\end{footnotesize}
Trafficking of children.\textsuperscript{4387} Trafficking for sexual exploitation is punishable by imprisonment of 2 to 20 years and fines of USD 100 to 500; trafficking for labor exploitation is punishable by 5 months’ to 5 years of imprisonment and fines of USD 500 to 2,000.\textsuperscript{4388} The Sri Lankan parliament passed a law in 2005 to prevent and combat trafficking in women and children for prostitution, but the law will not take effect until implementing regulations are written.\textsuperscript{4389} The minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces is 18 years.\textsuperscript{4390} Following the tsunami, the government passed a new law to protect children affected by the disaster.\textsuperscript{4391}

In 2004, the National Labor Advisory Council chaired by the Minister of Labor formally adopted a list of occupations considered to be the worst forms of child labor in Sri Lanka, but no progress was made in 2005 to codify the list in laws and regulations.\textsuperscript{4392} Since 1999, the Government of Sri Lanka has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.\textsuperscript{4393}

The Women and Children’s Affairs Division (WCAF) of the Department of Labor is the focal point in the Sri Lankan government for child labor issues.\textsuperscript{4394} The Department of Labor and the Department of Probation and Child Care Services enforce child labor laws, often in collaboration with the police.\textsuperscript{4395} In the first half of the year, the Department of Labor received 63 complaints of child labor violations, of which 20 were prosecuted.\textsuperscript{4396} Most child labor offenses are prosecuted by the police, under the Penal Code.\textsuperscript{4397} The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) is the primary oversight agency for the protection of children, and its anti-trafficking unit coordinates governmental anti-

\textsuperscript{4387} Government of Sri Lanka, \textit{Penal Code (Amendment), 1995}, Act No. 22, Articles 286A (1) and (2), 360A, and 360B. See also Government of Sri Lanka, \textit{Penal Code (Amendment), 1998}, Act no. 29, Articles 288A (1) and (2), and 360A (1) and (2).
\textsuperscript{4389} Ibid., September 8, 2005.
\textsuperscript{4390} Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Global Report 2004}.
\textsuperscript{4392} The number of occupations included in the list is unclear; varying sources state that the list contains 25, 49, or 50 occupations. ILO Committee of Experts, \textit{Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), Sri Lanka (ratification: 2001)}, [online] 2004 [cited December 16, 2005]; available from \texttt{http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/app/\ldots/index.cfm?lang=EN}. See also U.S. Embassy- Colombo, \textit{reporting}, August 23, 2004, August 23, 2004. The list will have legal effect under the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, but the Act does not contain a general prohibition on children under age 18 engaging in hazardous work, and lacks enabling provisions to make regulations to prohibit hazardous labor. U.S. Embassy- Colombo, \textit{reporting}, September 8, 2005. In the meantime, a legal review has been conducted and a Cabinet Paper prepared to enable the Minister of Labor to amend existing regulations. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{TICSA Phase II, technical progress report, technical progress report, 3.}
\textsuperscript{4393} ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
\textsuperscript{4394} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Tsunami affected areas in Sri Lanka, project document, 11.}
\textsuperscript{4395} Government of Sri Lanka, \textit{Report of Sri Lanka on Efforts to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour, 6.}
\textsuperscript{4396} U.S. Embassy- Colombo, \textit{reporting}, September 8, 2005.
trafficking activities.\textsuperscript{4398} The NCPA’s Cyber Watch unit monitors the internet for advertisements soliciting children for child pornography and pedophilia in Sri Lanka.\textsuperscript{4399}

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

In 2005 the government integrated its Policy and Plan of Action to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor into the National Plan of Action for Children 2004-2008. The Ministry of Labor Relations has committed a budget to implement the child labor components of the plan, which include strengthening child labor laws and enforcement; improving the availability of child labor data; increasing vocational training programs for out-of-school youth; sensitizing the public to child labor issues; and reducing domestic child labor by 30 percent each year.\textsuperscript{4400} However, progress toward these goals is unclear due to the impact of the tsunami. The NCPA conducts public awareness-raising activities through the media, and provides training on child protection issues, including child labor, for government and social welfare officials, medical professionals, and the police. The Department of Labor trains labor inspectors, probation officers and police officers on child labor issues.\textsuperscript{4401}

The government continues to participate in several ILO-IPEC projects to combat child labor in Sri Lanka. These include a project funded by USDOL to combat child trafficking in Asia;\textsuperscript{4402} a project funded by the U.S., Norwegian and Australian governments to provide vocational training for former child soldiers; and a project funded by the Netherlands government to combat child domestic labor.\textsuperscript{4403} In addition, with USDOL funding, the ILO-IPEC and the Sri Lankan government initiated a USD 562,000 project after the tsunami that will continue through 2008. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of government, media, and international organizations to integrate child labor issues into post-tsunami reconstruction policies; monitor the child labor situation in the post-tsunami environment; and provide educational and psychosocial services to tsunami-affected families in Galle and Trincomalee.\textsuperscript{4404}

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{4404} Ibid., 15, 36.
\end{thebibliography}
In July 2003, the government and the LTTE agreed to a Joint Plan for Children Affected by War to end child recruitment and to demobilize and rehabilitate ex-child soldiers. However, there are reports that the Action Plan is stalled due to continued child recruitment and lack of cooperation by the LTTE, particularly after the tsunami. The government is implementing a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking of children for sexual and labor exploitation, under the purview of the NPCA. The NPCA and other government agencies, with support from ILO-IPEC and UNICEF, have various mechanisms in place to care for child trafficking victims. These include rehabilitation camps and other shelters that provide medical care, counseling services, and supplementary food rations. The government has also increased funding for its anti-Human Smuggling and Investigation Bureau to combat trafficking. The government assists Sri Lankan trafficking victims abroad through its diplomatic missions, and assists foreign victims in Sri Lanka through its Foreign Employment Bureau.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the government took strong measures immediately following the tsunami to address the increased risk of child trafficking. Among these measures was a large-scale awareness-raising campaign on the increased dangers of trafficking, supported by USAID and the American Center for International Labor. USAID’s other post-tsunami efforts include supporting the government to leverage funds from private sector sources, and providing direct assistance to vulnerable youth and children, including a project to construct 85 playgrounds in tsunami-affected communities. USAID has provided over USD 134 million in funding for tsunami relief and reconstruction projects. The Asia Foundation is supporting the government’s effort to provide protection and psycho-social services for children.

The Government of Sri Lanka has demonstrated commitment to education, providing free school books and uniforms to all children in primary and secondary schools, and school feeding programs in over 3,000 schools in disadvantaged areas. The MOE initiated a program to improve education for the children of plantation workers, who are considered especially vulnerable to child labor. The program has strengthened formal schools in plantation areas; recruited teachers to work on plantations; provided special education

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4408 USAID, Indian Ocean - Earthquakes and Tsunamis, Fact Sheet #38, FY2005.
4411 USAID, Indian Ocean - Earthquakes and Tsunamis, Fact Sheet #38, FY2005.
classes to children with learning disabilities; and provided vocational training to dropouts. With support from the World Bank, the Ministry of Education is implementing a program to increase school attendance. The World Bank is funding a second phase of the General Education Project to improve the quality, access, and management of schools, as well as a project to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness and coverage of education.

In the post-disaster environment, CHF International, Oxfam and other NGOs are assisting the government in repairing schools. UNICEF is providing school furniture, supplies, and materials for school uniforms, and has helped to clean and repair hundreds of schools. In collaboration with the government, UNICEF has developed a post-tsunami 3-year plan which focuses on returning children to school; providing essential school supplies and psychosocial services; and improving quality of education.

4412 U.S. Embassy- Colombo, reporting, September 8, 2005. See also ILO-IPEC, Tsunami affected areas in Sri Lanka, project document, 2.
Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under 15 in Suriname are unavailable. According to an ILO survey, children work in agriculture, fishing, timber production, mining, domestic service, construction, the furniture industry, and as street vendors. Young Maroon children work in the agricultural and transportation sectors. The ILO found that while hours of work vary substantially, 41 percent of those surveyed worked more than 5 hours per day. Children also worked without adult supervision in some cases. The commercial sexual exploitation of girls and boys exists in Suriname. There were reports of girls being trafficked to Suriname from Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana for this purpose. Some of these victims were then trafficked to Europe for sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking for the purposes of

4416 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.

4417 As part of the survey, 142 key informants, 169 working children between the ages of 4 and 17, and 52 parents or guardians were interviewed. Marten Schalkwijk and Wim van den Berg, Suriname The Situation of Children in Mining, Agriculture, and other Worst Forms of Child Labour: A Rapid Assessment, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Port of Spain, November 2002, 1,30, 46, and 52; available from http://www.ilo.org/carib/tt/system_links/link6tst.html.


4419 Marten Schalkwijk and Wim van den Berg, Suriname The Situation of Children in Mining, Agriculture, and other Worst Forms of Child Labour, 49.


domestic servitude and sexual exploitation also exists, and the sexual exploitation of Maroon girls in the interior of the country is a concern.

The Constitution of Suriname mandates free and compulsory primary education. Under the Compulsory School Attendance Act, the government is required to provide all children the opportunity to attend school between the ages of 7 and 12. Despite this guarantee, most public schools impose school fees, or access is limited due to a lack of teachers, building facilities and transportation. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 126 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 97 percent. Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students officially registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Suriname. Problems within the education system include an inefficient allocation of resources, low teacher quality, outdated curricula, a shortage of instructional materials, poor school facilities, and limited evaluation and monitoring of school performance. In addition, classes are taught in Dutch, which is a second language for many students.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Act sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. Under Article 18 of the Labor Act, children who have reached age 12 may work only if it is necessary for training; does not have high physical or mental demands; and is not dangerous. Article 20 of the Labor Act prohibits children from performing night work or work that is

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4422 Some children are promised work in cities but are tricked into commercial sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. Other children are trafficked to mining camps in the country’s remote interior for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Ibid.
4424 Right to Education, Constitutional Guarantees: Suriname, [database online] [cited October 5, 2005]; available from http://www.right-to-education.org/content/consguarant/suriname.html.
4427 Ibid.
4428 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 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.
4429 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.
4431 There are 26 languages actively spoken in Suriname and the current curriculum does not take this fact into account. Ibid., 3.
4432 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2005: Suriname, section 6d. There is a gap between the last compulsory year of schooling (age 12) and the minimum age for employment (age 14). See U.S. Embassy- Paramaribo, reporting, June 8, 2004.
dangerous to their health, life, or morals.\textsuperscript{4434} Children below the age of 15 are prohibited from working on fishing boats. Violations of child labor laws are punishable by fines and up to 12 months in prison.\textsuperscript{4435} Parents who permit their children to work, in violation of child labor laws, may be prosecuted.\textsuperscript{4436}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Suriname. The Constitution prohibits forced labor.\textsuperscript{4437} Prostitution is illegal,\textsuperscript{4438} and procuring a minor for the purpose of sex is prohibited and punishable with up to three years in prison.\textsuperscript{4439} Under the 1987 Constitution (amended in 1992), military service is compulsory for all people between the ages of 18 and 35 years. However, according to the Surinamese Government, this requirement has been repealed and military service is no longer compulsory.\textsuperscript{4440} There are statutes that prohibit “white slavery,” migrant smuggling, and pimping that pertain only to women and children.\textsuperscript{4441} The Government’s Anti-trafficking Commission, comprised of representatives from the ministries of Justice and Police, Labor, Defense, and Foreign Affairs, is responsible for combating the issue of trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{4442} A special police anti-trafficking unit has worked with officials in neighboring Curacao and Guyana to successfully arrest and convict child traffickers.\textsuperscript{4443}

The Ministry of Labor’s Department of Labor Inspections enforces and implements child labor laws.\textsuperscript{4444} However, according to the U.S. Department of State, staff shortages and lack of funding have resulted in inadequate child labor investigations, which rarely take place outside of urban areas.\textsuperscript{4445} The Labor Inspection office does not enforce the laws in the informal sector.\textsuperscript{4446}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{4434} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{4435} U.S. Embassy- Paramaribo, \textit{reporting}, September 8, 2003.
\item \textsuperscript{4436} U.S. Embassy- Paramaribo, \textit{reporting}, June 8, 2004.
\item \textsuperscript{4437} \textit{Constitution of Suriname 1987, with 1992 reforms}, Article 15; available from http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/Constitutions/Suriname/english.html.
\item \textsuperscript{4439} Article 305 as cited in ILO-IPEC Official, email communication, May 3, 2004 to USDOL Official, May 3, 2004.
\item \textsuperscript{4442} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports-2005: Suriname}, section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{4443} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report-2005: Suriname}.
\item \textsuperscript{4444} U.S. Embassy- Paramaribo, \textit{reporting}, June 8, 2004.
\item \textsuperscript{4445} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{4446} Ibid.
\end{itemize}
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Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2002, the Government of Suriname developed an Action Plan for children (2002-2006) which addresses childhood policies and the worst forms of child labor. In 2004, the Anti-trafficking Commission issued a National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons. Through May 2005, the government coordinated with ILO-IPEC on the second phase of a regional child labor project in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The project, funded by the Government of Canada, raised awareness about the worst forms of child labor, guided the work of the national child labor committee, conducted a review of relevant child labor legislation to identify gaps that permit the exploitation of children, and helped the government to identify hazardous occupations consistent with ILO Convention 182. ILO-IPEC also works with the government to address exploitative domestic labor, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and child labor in agriculture.

The Justice Department has been reviewing national legislation on child abuse and exploitation to ensure its conformity with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The Bureau for Child Development, an office within the Foundation for Human Development, provides training to the Department of Justice, the police, and health workers to sensitize them to child rights and child abuse issues. This activity is now a standard component of police cadet training. Various unions subsidized by the Ministry of Labor conduct education campaigns on the worst forms of child labor targeting school teachers, students, caregivers and public and private sector officials.

With support from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Government of Suriname, including officials from the Ministry of Justice and Police, received training on preventing and prosecuting trafficking in persons. The Ministry also launched a one-year pilot project to establish a centralized Trafficking in Persons Unit as part of

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4447 The government established a steering committee composed of representatives from relevant agencies to coordinate and implement the plan. See Department of Labour, Technological Development, and Environment, Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour, October 11, 2002. See also ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Child Labour in Suriname, 2002; available from http://www.ilo.org/caribbean/infosources/child_labo/fact_sheets/SurFS.pdf. See also ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Project Overview, [online] [cited October 5, 2005]; available from http://www.ilo.org/caribbean/childlabour/printing-versions/project-overview-print.htm.


4449 The project was implemented in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Bahamas, Suriname, Belize, and Guyana. ILO Caribbean Office, Identification, Elimination and Prevention of the worst Forms of Child Labour in the Anglophone-and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean, [online] [cited October 3, 2005]; available from http://www.ilo.org/caribbean/projects/index.htm. See also ILO-IPEC Official.


4452 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2005: Suriname, section 6d.

the Suriname Police Corps. The Public Prosecutor’s Office operates a “Special Victims Unit” and telephone hotline to assist victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The Police conducted raids in Paramaribo in areas of high incidence of child labor, including streets, nightclubs, brothels and casinos. At the end of 2004, a government official was arrested for trafficking female victims into Suriname for commercial sexual exploitation.

The Ministry of Education and Community Development is implementing an IDB-financed project to improve the quality and internal efficiency of the education sector. Project activities include the expansion of compulsory education from six to ten years; the design of new curricula; teacher training reform and the development and provision of didactic materials; the rehabilitation of school infrastructure; and improved capacity of the Ministry of Education.

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4454 The project involves the identification of trafficking in persons victims and the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. The project also includes greater scrutiny of aliens soliciting access at ports of entry and visa applicants through improved interview techniques. Ibid.


4456 Ibid.


4458 The Inter-American Development Bank, Basic Education Improvement Project.
Swaziland

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 9.6 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Swaziland in 2000. In this age group, the percentage of all boys working was approximately the same compared to girls. Children work in agriculture (particularly in the eastern region), and as domestic workers and herders. Children are also found working on the streets as traders, hawkers, bus and taxi conductors, load bearers, and car washers. There are reports that girls from Swaziland and Mozambique are increasingly found working in child prostitution in Swaziland.

Education is not free, universal, or compulsory in Swaziland. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 98 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 75 percent. 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. In 2002, 74.3 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2002, 77 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.

The government pays teacher salaries, while students are required to pay fees for books.

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4459 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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, please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.


transportation, uniforms, boarding, and building upkeep. School fees can range from USD 40 to USD 160 per year per pupil. These fees make it difficult for poor children, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS, to attend school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The minimum age of employment is set at 15 years for industrial work, although children may work in the commercial sector beginning at age 13. The minimum age for light work varies between 13 and 15 years of age depending on the sector. Children under 15 are also allowed to work in family industrial firms or in technical schools under supervision of a teacher or other authorized person. The Employment Act prohibits children and young persons under 18 years from working in mines, quarries or underground, in premises that sell alcohol for consumption on site, or in any sector that is dangerous to their safety, health or moral development. The Employment Act also prohibits children from working during school hours, between the hours of 6 pm and 7 am, and for more than 4 hours continuously. Children are limited to 6 hours of work per day and 33 hours per week. Since 1999, the Government of Swaziland has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138. The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws, but its effectiveness is limited by shortages of personnel, according to the U.S. Department of State.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Swaziland. The Penal Code prohibits the procurement of a girl unless she is a “common prostitute”

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4473 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

or “of known immoral character” for purposes of prostitution. Forced and bonded labor, including by children, is also prohibited. Children are protected by law against child pornography and sexual exploitation. There is no law prohibiting trafficking in persons.

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

The Government of Swaziland’s Children’s Unit collaborates with law enforcement on child protection issues, has developed guidelines for management of child abuse cases, and has established professional networks through cooperation with the government’s legal branch and NGOs. The government is participating in two USDOL-supported regional child labor projects in Southern Africa that include Swaziland. ILO-IPEC is implementing a USD 5 million project, which is focused on piloting small action programs aimed at children who are working or at risk of working in exploitative labor; conducting research on the nature and incidence of child labor; and building the capacity of governments in the region to address child labor issues. American Institutes for Research is implementing a USD 9 million Child Labor Education Initiative project that aims to combat exploitative child labor through education.

The government continues to fund a program to keep children already attending school in class when they become at risk of dropping out for financial reasons. In 2004, an additional USD 3 million was allotted to the program to allow children who dropped out of school due to AIDS in the family to re-enroll. The government allocated USD 7.6 million to the education of orphans and vulnerable children for 2004, the most recent time period for which such information is available, while UN agencies are providing additional assistance through targeted programs. It is reported that 70,000 children

4476 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Swaziland, Section 6c.
4477 Ibid., Section 6f.
4480 The AIR project aims to improve quality and access to basic and vocational education for children who are working or at-risk of working in the worst forms of child labor. See Government of the Central African Republic, Decision No. 190, Ministry of Education, Bangui, September 4, 2004, 1,2.
under the age of 15 have lost parents to HIV/AIDS.\textsuperscript{4483} UNICEF estimates that the number of AIDS orphans in Swaziland is projected to rise to around 150,000 by 2010.\textsuperscript{4484} At least 44 new community schools and 198 Neighborhood Care Points that provide nutritional, medical, and counseling needs for orphans and vulnerable populations opened in 2004.\textsuperscript{4485} In 2004, the Swaziland Schools Head-teachers Association changed its policy to guarantee that girls who become pregnant will no longer be expelled from school.\textsuperscript{4486}

The government collaborates with UNICEF on the “Shoulder to Cry On” volunteer program. The program receives financial and technical assistance from UNICEF. The Deputy Prime Minister’s office trains community volunteers through the Women’s Resource Center. The volunteers assist orphans and vulnerable children with their nutritional, medical, educational, and psychological needs.\textsuperscript{4487} The government also receives assistance from UNICEF on a pilot program aimed at collecting data on orphans and vulnerable children. Information from the data collection will be used to identify which children will receive government assistance for school expenses.\textsuperscript{4488} UNICEF is also implementing the “Education for All Community Grants” initiative, which assists the most vulnerable children in reenrolling in school.\textsuperscript{4489}

Save the Children Swaziland implements a program to promote inclusive education for disabled children, provides technical advice on school feeding programs, and carries out awareness-raising sessions on HIV/AIDS for children.\textsuperscript{4490} The UN-supported local

\textsuperscript{4483} Ibid.


branch of the Global Campaign for Education was established in Swaziland in 2004. The goal of the group is to ensure that Swazi children are provided with free and quality education. 

4491 Integrated Regional Information Network, "Swaziland: Campaign to Help Aids-Hit Education System."
Tanzania

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 35.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years in Tanzania were counted as working in 2000-2001. Approximately 36.2 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 34.5 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural (77.4 percent) and services (22.4 percent) sectors, with the remainder in manufacturing (0.1 percent) and other sectors (0.1 percent).4492 As of 2001, the National Bureau of Statistics survey found that a majority of working children were unpaid family workers who engaged in agricultural and non-agricultural work on family farms. An estimated 49.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years engage in housekeeping activities.4493 In 2004, UNICEF estimated that there were 2 million child orphans in Tanzania, primarily due to HIV/AIDS.4494 A 2005 study by the Eastern and Southern African Universities Programme estimated the orphan population at 2.5 million.4495 Such children are vulnerable to involvement in exploitative child labor.4496

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<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<td>Ratified Convention 182 (09/12/2001)</td>
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<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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4492 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS and World Bank surveys, Child Economics Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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. See also National Bureau of Statistics, Child Labor in Tanzania, Country Report: 2000/2001 Integrated Labour Force and Child Labour Survey, no date, 10, 30, 31.
Children work on commercial tea, coffee, sugar cane, sisal, cloves, and tobacco farms, and in the production of wheat, corn, green algae, pyrethrum and rubber. Children also work in underground mines and near mines in bars and restaurants. Children known as “snake boys” crawl through narrow tunnels in unregulated gemstone mines to help position mining equipment and explosives. In the informal sector, children are engaged in scavenging, fishing, fish processing, and quarrying. Other children work as street vendors, cart pushers, and in garages. Children also work as paid domestic servants in third-party homes, where many reportedly face sexual abuse. Girls as young as 7 years, and some boys, are reportedly exploited in prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. According to a 2001 ILO study, children have been exploited in the production of pornographic films; however, no cases

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4497 While children begin working on tea farms at the age of 6 years, accompanying their mothers and siblings, most of the children working on tea farms are over the age of 10 years. M. J. Gonza and P. Moshi, Tanzania Children Working in Commercial Agriculture-Tea: A Rapid Assessment, ILO-IPEC, Geneva, January 2002.
4502 U.S. Embassy- Dar es Salaam, reporting, October 23, 2002. Pyrethrum is a type of chrysanthemum that can be used as an ornament or as a source of insecticides.
4505 ILO, Baseline study and attitude survey on child labour and its worst forms, Dar es Salaam, June 2003, 9, 10, 28, 33.
have been reported for several years. Children from Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda also have been exploited in prostitution in Tanzania.

Children are reportedly trafficked internally in Tanzania to work in mines, on farms, in the informal sector, and in domestic service. Children are also trafficked, often under false pretenses, from rural to urban areas for exploitation in the commercial sex sector. Such children are often lured with false promises of work as house girls, barmaids, and in hair salons and hotels. Tanzania is reported to be a country of origin, transit and destination for women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Tanzanian girls are reportedly trafficked to South Africa, Oman, the United Kingdom, and possibly to other European or Middle Eastern countries for domestic service.

Education in Tanzania is compulsory for 7 years, until children reach the age of 15 years. In 2004, the gross primary enrollment rate was 97 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 82 percent. 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. In 2000, 57 percent of children aged 5-14 years were attending school. As of 2003, 88 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Primary school fees have been eliminated in Tanzania since 2002, but there has been a lack of resources for additional teachers, classrooms, and books. This has led to primary schools becoming overwhelmed by the massive increase in children seeking to take advantage of free primary education. Moreover, families must pay for books, uniforms, and for enrollment fees for children beyond form 2 (the equivalent of the second year of high school). There are also reports of children not attending school because of poorly paid teachers demanding money from them in order to be enrolled.

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Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

In Zanzibar, the law prohibits employment of children under the age of 18 years depending on the nature of the work. The Employment Act of 2005 categorizes child labor practices as (a) ordinary practices for child labor, and (b) worst forms of child labor. The penalties for category (a) offenses are a fine of 400,000 shillings (USD 350.57) or imprisonment of up to 6 months. For category (b) offenses, a fine of not less than 3 million shillings (USD 2,629.27) or imprisonment of up to 2 years. In mainland Tanzania, the Employment Ordinance prohibits employment of children under the “apparent” age of 15 years. The ordinance specifically prohibits children under the “apparent” age of 15 years and young people under the age of 18 years from employment in any work that could be injurious to health, dangerous or otherwise unsuitable. It also prohibits children under the age of 15 years from working near machinery or in subsurface mines. However, children over the age of 10 years are permitted to do light work, such as some agricultural activities and domestic service, in rural areas.

Under the Employment Ordinance, employers are obliged to maintain registers listing the age of workers, the conditions and nature of employment, and commencement and termination dates. The Employment Ordinance states that any employer found to be in violation of child labor laws is subject to three months of imprisonment or a fine of up to 2,000 shillings (USD 1.85), or both. However, in 2004 the mainland government passed the Employment and Labor Relations Act No. 6 of 2004 and the Labor Institutions Act No.7 of 2004, both of which provide for the protection of children from exploitation in the workplace and prohibit forced or compulsory labor. The Employment and Labor Relations Act also includes a specific prohibition of forced labor by children.


4522 Right-To-Education.Org, At What Age? Are school-children employed, married and taken to court? The United Republic of Tanzania.


These labor laws prohibit the employment of children under the age of 14 years on the mainland except for light work that is not likely to be harmful to the child's health and development and that does not prejudice the child's attendance at school. Unlike the previous law, the new labor laws establish a criminal punishment for employers that use illegal child labor as well as forced labor. Violators can be fined an amount not to exceed 5 million shillings (USD 4,382.12), imprisonment for a term of one year, or both. The new laws also prohibit children under the age of 18 from being employed in a mine, factory, ship, or other worksite that the Minister of Labor deems to be hazardous. The 2004 Acts are not yet in effect, however, because implementing regulations are still in process.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Tanzania. In addition to the prohibitions in the Employment and Labor Relations Act and the Labor Institutions Act, the Constitution prohibits forced or compulsory labor. The Defense Forces Regulations prohibit the military recruitment of children under the age of 18. Tanzanian law prohibits the procuring of a child under the age of 18 for the purpose of sexual intercourse or indecent exhibition. The law further prohibits the procurement or attempted procurement of a person under the age of 18 years for the purpose of prohibited sexual intercourse either inside or outside the country. Tanzanian law also considers sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 18 years to be rape, which is punishable with life imprisonment. According to the U.S. Department of State, however, this law is not effectively enforced. The Sexual Offenses Special Provisions Act prohibits trafficking of persons and ascribes a penalty for this crime of 10 to 20 years of imprisonment or a fine of 100,000 to 300,000 Tanzanian Shillings (USD 88 to USD 263).

Several government agencies have jurisdiction over areas related to child labor, but primary responsibility for enforcing the country’s child labor laws rests with the Ministry of Labor, Youth Development, and Sports. According to the U.S. Department of State, enforcement of labor laws by the Ministry of Labor, Youth Development, and Sports is undermined by a low number of inspectors and the low salaries they receive, which leaves them vulnerable to corruption. The Government of Tanzania did recruit and train an additional 40 labor officers and labor inspectors in 2004, however, increasing the

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4532 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Tanzania, Section 5. See also FXConverter, Currency Conversion Results.
number of national labor inspectors to 145. The ministry’s Child Labor Unit works with other government ministries and networks with other stakeholders. It gathers, analyzes, and disseminates child labor related data, and is involved in training and sensitizing labor inspectors on child labor issues. At the community level, child labor committees have been established to identify children who are not attending school and take measures to prevent or withdraw these children from child labor.

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

The Government of Tanzania is working with ILO-IPEC to implement a USDOL-funded Timebound Program (TBP) to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the country by 2010, including child labor in commercial agriculture, domestic service, mining, fishing, and prostitution. According to the Department of State, during 2005, the Government of Tanzania has worked with nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations to sensitize employers and households about the issue of child labor, resulting in a reported decline in the hiring of girls from rural areas to work as domestic servants.

The Child Labor Unit is working with ILO-IPEC under the TBP to provide training for district child labor coordinators and district officials in the TBP’s 11 target districts, to increase their capacity to combat the worst forms of child labor. The Child Labor Unit also acts as the secretariat for the National Child Labor Elimination Steering Committee (NCLESC). The NCLESC is responsible for defining objectives and priorities for child labor interventions, approving and overseeing implementation of child labor action projects, and advising the government on various child labor issues.

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4536 A second phase of this project was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor in September 2005. The first phase, which is still ongoing, focuses on 11 target districts. The second phase broadens the scope of the project to target exploitative child labor in fishing and includes activities to combat child labor in Zanzibar. ILO-IPEC, Supporting the Time-Bound Program, vii and 27. ILO-IPEC, Support for the Time-Bound Programme on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Tanzania - Phase II, Geneva, September 30, 2005. See President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Address at the Special High-level Session on the Launch of the Time Bound Programme on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Republic of El Salvador, the Kingdom of Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania, June 12, 2001; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc89/a-mkap.htm.
part of the TBP, the Ministry of Education’s Complementary Basic Education in Tanzania (COBET) Program and its Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) are providing basic education and vocational training to children withdrawn or prevented from involvement in the worst forms of child labor in the TBP’s 11 target districts.\textsuperscript{4540} By the end of 2004, the Ministry of Labor, Youth Development, and Sports had begun to develop a community-based monitoring system to collect information and track trends in the incidence of child labor.\textsuperscript{4541}

In addition, the Government of Japan, through UNICEF, is supporting a basic education project targeting out-of-school children in Tanzania that will provide textbooks, reading materials on HIV/AIDS, and community workshops on HIV/AIDS with support from COBET.\textsuperscript{4542}

In March 2004, the Tanzanian Ministry of Education and Culture signed an MOU with the NGO Education Development Center (EDC) stipulating areas of collaboration, roles, and responsibilities in support of the education component of the Tanzania TBP. The EDC project sought to ensure that children who were involved in or at risk of entering the worst forms of child labor had access to basic, quality education, as a means of helping to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{4543} By the end of 2005, EDC was in the final stages of handing over the running of learning centers established by the project to the Ministry of Education and Culture.\textsuperscript{4544}

The Government of Tanzania’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) includes the elimination of child labor as an objective and the preparation of a child labor action plan in its workplan.\textsuperscript{4545} The strategy paper established the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan


\textsuperscript{4541} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Tanzania, Section 6d.


\textsuperscript{4543} Education Development Center, Status Report: Time Bound Programme on Eliminating Child Labour in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, July 2004. The EDC project is supporting the operation of 299 Mambo Elimu learning centers in Tanzania where approximately 2,531 children are currently receiving basic education through a radio-based distant learning curriculum. See Education Development Center, Technical Progress Report: Time Bound Programme on Eliminating Child Labour in Tanzania (1st March 2005 to 31 August 2005), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, September 1, 2005.

\textsuperscript{4544} U.S. Embassy- Dar es Salaam official, email communication, August 13, 2006. See also Education Development Center, Technical Progress Report: Time Bound Programme on Eliminating Child Labour in Tanzania (1st March 2005 to 31 August 2005), September 1, 2005.

(PMMP), which includes the percentage of children in the labor force as a poverty monitoring indicator. An Education Fund to support children from poor families is called for within the PMMP strategy paper. In February 2005, the PRSP II document—otherwise known as the National Strategies for Growth and Poverty Reduction—was finalized and approved by the Cabinet. The National Strategies for Growth and Poverty Reduction includes specific references to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor and the provision of skills training and educational alternatives for children and their families.

Tanzania’s Development Vision 2025 and its Poverty Eradication Strategy 2015 both identify education as a strategy for combating poverty. The country’s poverty eradication agenda includes ensuring all children the right to basic quality education.

The government’s Basic Education Master Plan aims to achieve universal access to basic education for children over the age of 7 years, and ensure that at least 80 percent of children complete primary education and are able to read and write by the age of 15 years. The government is implementing a 5-year Primary Education Development Plan (PEDP), begun in 2002, which aims to expand enrollment, improve the quality of teaching, and build capacity within the country’s educational system. Under the PEDP, the government has committed up to 25 percent of its overall recurrent expenditures on the education sector, 62 percent of which is allocated to primary education. The government has received a USD 150 million credit from the World Bank to support this program. The government abolished school fees to promote children’s enrollment in primary school under the PEDP.

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The Government of Tanzania receives funding from the World Bank and other donors under the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, which aims to provide all children with a primary school education by the year 2015.

Ibid., 2.2. See also U.S. Embassy- Dar es Salaam, reporting, October 23, 2002.
IRINNews, Tanzania: UNICEF calls for more efforts to educate girls.
World Bank, World Bank Announces First Group Of Countries For ‘Education for All’ Fast Track, press release, Washington, D.C., June 12, 2002; available from
Thailand

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Thailand are unavailable.\textsuperscript{4554} In rural areas, children work primarily in agriculture; and in urban areas, work in the service sector (small scale industry, gas stations, and restaurants), street vending, construction, manufacturing, and fishing sectors.\textsuperscript{4555} Children also work in domestic service.\textsuperscript{4556} Children are vulnerable to exploitation in the trafficking of drugs in Thailand,\textsuperscript{4557} and are exploited in prostitution and pornography.\textsuperscript{4558} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2.0 percent of the population in Thailand were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{4559}

Thailand is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in persons, including children, for both labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficking is exacerbated by sex tourism.\textsuperscript{4560} Domestic NGOs report that girls ages 12 to 18 are trafficked from

\begin{table}
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\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments} & \\
\hline\hline
Ratified Convention 138 & 5/11/2004 \\
\hline
Ratified Convention 182 & 8/16/2001 \\
\hline
ILO-IPEC Member & \\
\hline
National Plan for Children & \\
\hline
National Child Labor Action Plan & \\
\hline
Sector Action Plan (Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) & \\
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\textsuperscript{4554} 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.


\textsuperscript{4559} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.

Burma, China, and Laos for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked into Thailand for indentured agricultural, factory, commercial fisheries or household labor, and street begging. Internal trafficking of children, especially members of northern Thailand’s stateless ethnic tribes, also occurs.

The National Education Act of 1999 provides for a compulsory education period of 9 years, beginning at age 7, and free schooling for 12 years. In 2003, the gross primary enrollment rate was 97 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 85 percent. 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 Thailand.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Chapter Four of Thailand’s Labor Protection Act of 1998 sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years. Employers are required to notify labor inspectors if children under age 18 are hired. The law permits children ages 15 to 18 to work only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. with written permission from the Director-General of Labor or a person assigned by the Director-General. Children under age 18 may not be employed in hazardous work, which is defined by the Act to include any work involving metalwork, hazardous chemicals, poisonous materials, radiation, harmful temperatures or noise levels, exposure to toxic micro-organisms, the operation of heavy equipment, and work underground or underwater. The maximum penalty for violation of the child labor sections of the Labor Protection Act is one year of imprisonment and fines of 200,000 baht (USD 4,969). The Labor Protection Act does not apply to the agricultural and informal sectors (including domestic work). However, Section 22 of the Act allows for protection in these sectors as prescribed through separate ministerial regulations, and in late 2004 and early 2005 the Ministry of Labor issued regulations to increase protections for child workers in informal sector work.

4564 National Education Act, B.E. 2542, Sections 10, 17. See also U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Thailand, Section 5.
4566 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.
4568 Under Section 50, children are banned from work in places where alcohol is sold, in hotels, or in massage parlors. Ibid., Sections 22, 49-50, 148. For currency conversion see FXConverter, [online] May 27, 2005 [cited May 27, 2005]; available from http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm.
4570 These are the Ministerial Regulation on Labor Protection for Home Workers 2004 (effective September 8, 2004) and Ministerial Regulation on Labor Protection for Agriculture Workers 2004 (effective April 13,
The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Thailand. On March 30, 2004, the Child Protection Act 2003 came into force. The Act guarantees the rights of all children “in Thailand” or “of all nationalities” to be protected by the State against violence and unfair treatment. Violations, such as forcing children to become beggars, to work in dangerous conditions, or to perform obscene acts all carry penalties of 3 months of imprisonment or a fine of 30,000 baht (USD 731), or both. The Act also mandates the establishment of the National Child Protection Committee to provide guidance, oversight and issue regulations for matters of child protection. The 1997 Constitution proclaims that the State will protect labor, especially that of women and children. The minimum voluntary age for military recruitment is 18, while the age for compulsory recruitment is 20.

The 1996 Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act prohibits all forms of prostitution and provides specific penalties for cases involving children under the age of 18. Fines and terms of imprisonment under the law are based on the age of the child involved, with more severe terms established for prostitution involving children under the age of 16. For example, prostitution of children ages 16 to 18 is subject to jail terms of up to 15 years and maximum fines 300,000 baht (USD 7,453), while the range of penalties is nearly twice as much for those pimping and patronizing children ages 15 and under. The Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act also establishes that government officials who compel others to engage in commercial sexual exploitation face penalties of 15 to 20 years of imprisonment and/or fines ranging between 300,000 and 400,000 baht (USD 7,453 to 9,938).

The Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children Act of 1997 defines the list of trafficking-related activities that are sanctioned under the law and provides for basic protection for victims. The Penal Code Amendment Act of 1997 also establishes penalties for traffickers of children under the age of 18, regardless of the victim’s nationality. The Criminal Procedure Amendment Act of 1999 provides protection for child victims in the

4572 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, (1997), Section 86.
4575 Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, Sections 8-12. (For currency conversion see FXConverter, May 27, 2005.)
4577 Kingdom of Thailand, Penal Code Amendment Act (no. 14), (1997).
course of testifying in cases of sexual exploitation. Since 1999, the Government of the Thailand has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

Child labor laws are enforced by four government agencies: the Royal Thai Police, the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Labor. Both periodic and complaint-driven labor inspections are conducted, and inspecting officers have the right to remove child workers from businesses and place them in government custody before court decisions on the cases. In general, the labor inspection system tends to be more reactive than proactive, with inspectors usually responding to public complaints or newspaper reports, according to the U.S. Department of State. In addition, MOL inspections tend to focus efforts on larger factories in an effort to reach the largest portion of the workforce, with relatively fewer inspections of smaller workplaces where child labor may be more likely to occur. The U.S. Department of State also reports that a lack of resources is largely to blame for weak child labor law enforcement. The National Thai Working Group to Combat the Trafficking of Women and Children coordinates government ministries and agencies with overlapping anti-trafficking responsibilities. A new series of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) in 2003 between government agencies and domestic NGOs provided new guidelines for the treatment of trafficked persons. In line with these guidelines, police are being trained to treat such individuals as victims of trafficking rather than as illegal immigrant workers, and victims are to become the responsibility of the Public Welfare Department instead of being deported. However, the U.S. State Department reports that implementation of the MOUs continued to be erratic due to insufficient training of law enforcement officials and their unfamiliarity with the law. In 2004, the latest year for which such information is available, the government reported 307 trafficking-related arrests, 66 prosecutions and 12 convictions.

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

The Government of Thailand has a draft National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, and a draft National Plan for Children. The government maintains child labor assistance centers in every province, facilitates the

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4578 Royal Thai Embassy, facsimile communication to USDOL official, September 5, 2002.
4579 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
4582 U.S. Embassy- Bangkok, reporting, August 30, 2005.
4586 Both plans were scheduled to be passed by the government in 2005, but as of December they still had not been officially approved. See Royal-Thai Embassy Official, email communication to USDOL official, September 28 & 29, 2005.
participation of communities in preventing child labor activities by appointing “labor volunteers”, and disseminates information on child labor nationwide through outreach programs. The Department of Public Welfare and Department of Skills Development provide vocational training to improve children’s skills and prevent them from entering work prematurely. The 25th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), of which Thailand is a member, adopted the Resolution on the Prevention and Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The resolution commits members to taking comprehensive action to remove children from hazardous and sexually exploitative work, and to raise awareness of the dangers associated with such work. Thailand is also a part of an USDOL-funded global project which aims to substantially reduce the engagement of children ages 5 to 17 in the worst forms of child labor.

The Royal Thai Government has a National Policy and Plan of Action for the Prevention and Eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. In January 2005 it approved the action plan for implementing the policy. The government collaborates on trafficking in persons issues with governments of neighboring countries, NGOs, and international organizations to raise awareness, provide shelters and social services, and assist in the repatriation of victims. Thailand has bilateral anti-trafficking MOUs with Cambodia and with Laos. Thailand is also a signatory to a multilateral MOU pledging cooperation on trafficking. Other signatories to the “Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT)” include Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, and Vietnam. The members held their first meeting in March 2005 and are currently drafting their Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA). The Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW) and IOM cooperate in assisting trafficked

4587 U.S. Embassy- Bangkok, reporting, August 30, 2005.
4591 The policy was approved by the Royal Thai Government cabinet in July 2003 and covers the period 2003-2007. The action plan was approved with a proposed budget of USD 15.3 million. U.S. Embassy-Bangkok, reporting March 2, 2005.
individuals in Thailand and the DSDW works with its counterpart agencies in both Laos and Cambodia to repatriate their nationals. DSDW also operates six regional shelters for trafficked victims and provides child victims legal assistance, including counseling and rehabilitation services. The Royal Thai Police have an ongoing public awareness campaign on trafficking and a hotline for reporting suspected trafficking cases, while the government is providing training to police officers, prosecutors and judges on anti-trafficking laws. In response to the tsunami disaster, the government worked with IOM to implement a rapid response trafficking awareness project.

Thailand is included in an ILO-IPEC Sub-Regional Project funded by the United Kingdom and Japan through April 2008 to combat trafficking of women and children for exploitative labor in the Mekong sub-region and in two USDOL funded regional projects dealing with anti-trafficking awareness raising to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Thailand cooperates as part of a project between ASEAN and USAID on the elimination of trafficking in women and children in four Southeast Asian countries and China’s Yunnan Province.

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4598 Royal Thai Embassy, facsimile communication, September 5, 2002.

4599 Embassy--Bangkok, reporting March 2, 2005.


4604 The USD 6,400,000 “Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking” (ARCPPT) also includes Burma, Cambodia and Laos. Under this project, special anti-trafficking units have been established with national law enforcement agencies. Additionally it strengthens regional cooperation and legal policy frameworks. Royal Thai Embassy, Thailand’s Actions for the Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children, [online] January 24, 2003 [cited May 27, 2005]; available from http://www.thaiembdc.org/socials/actionwc.html. See also Australian Embassy Bangkok, USAID Program in Thailand Overview, [online] n.d. [cited May 31, 2005]; available from http://www.austembassy.or.th/agency/ausaid/overview_eng.php.
The Ministry of Education (MOE) is currently implementing its Strategic Action Plan. The action plan has the following missions: to strengthen access to education for all; to establish an efficient system of quality education; and to raise education standards and enhance Thailand’s competitiveness at the international level. The MOE is also supporting the Child Friendly Schools Project in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). The project provides a safe environment to encourage child participation, creativity and learning in order to improve the learning environment. In July 2005, the Cabinet approved a draft directive from the MOE which calls for the provision of free education to children of non-Thai citizens, refugees, and those children without nationality or household registration.

The MOE is providing financial assistance grants to children who were orphaned and/or affected by the tsunami in order to allow them to continue with their education. The criteria define an orphan as a child who lost one or both parents, and define four categories of affected children. The MOE will provide 25,000 Baht (USD 615) for orphans and 15,000 Baht (USD 369) for affected children.

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Togo

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 64.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in Togo in 2000. Approximately 65.8 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 63.3 percent of girls in the same age group. Children are found working in both urban and rural areas, particularly in family-based farming and small-scale trading. In rural areas, young children are sometimes placed in domestic work in exchange for a one-time fee of 15,000 to 20,000 CFA francs (USD 27 to 36) paid to their parents. Some children start work at age five. Typically these children do not attend school for at least two thirds of the year. In some cases children work in factories. Children are also involved in commercial sexual exploitation, working as prostitutes in bars, restaurants and hotels.

Togo is a country of origin, destination, and transit for children trafficked for the purposes of forced domestic labor, sexual exploitation and agricultural work. Four primary routes for child trafficking in Togo have been documented: (1) trafficking of Togolese girls for domestic and market labor in Gabon, Benin, Niger and Nigeria as well

4609 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


4611 Ibid., Section 6d. For currency conversion, see FX Converter, [online] [cited December 14, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.

4612 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Togo, Section 6d.


as for prostitution in Nigeria; (2) trafficking of girls within the country, particularly to the
capital city, Lomé, often for domestic or market labor; (3) trafficking of girls from Benin,
Nigeria and Ghana to Lomé; and (4) trafficking of boys for labor exploitation, usually in
agriculture, in Nigeria, Benin and Côte d’Ivoire.\footnote{4615} Trafficked boys sometimes work
with hazardous equipment, and some describe conditions similar to bonded labor. In a
study by Human Rights Watch, boys reportedly worked from 5 a.m. until late at night,
often using saws or machetes. Traffickers would pay for their journey to Nigeria and
order them to work off the debt. Many stated that taking time off work for sickness or
injury would lead to longer working hours or some form of physical punishment.\footnote{4616} Children are also trafficked as indentured servants in exploitative situations from Togo to
the Middle East and Europe.\footnote{4617} Parents sometimes sell children to traffickers in
exchange for bicycles, radios, or clothing.\footnote{4618} Togo also serves as a transit country for
children trafficked from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, and Nigeria.\footnote{4619} Education is compulsory until 15 years,\footnote{4620} and is guaranteed free by government statute.
Despite this guarantee, school fees ranging from 4,000 to 13,000 CFA francs (USD 7 to
24) are often required.\footnote{4621} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 121 percent,
and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent.\footnote{4622} 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. In 2000, 61.8 percent of children ages
5 to 14 years were attending school.\footnote{4623} As of 2001, 69 percent of children who started
primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\footnote{4624} Some of the shortcomings of the
education system include teacher shortages, lower educational quality in rural areas, high
repetition and dropout rates, and sexual harassment of female students by male
teachers.\footnote{4625}

\footnote{4615} Human Rights Watch, \textit{Borderline Slavery: Child Trafficking in Togo}, Vol. 15, No. 8 (A), New York,
April, 2003, 1-2; available from \url{http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/togo0403/}. See also U.S. Department of
\footnote{4616} Ibid., 2.
\footnote{4618} Ibid. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "West Africa: Impoverished Families Trade
Their Children", IRINnews.org, [online], 2005 [cited July 1, 2005]; available from
\url{http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=47680&SelectRegion=West_Africa}.
\footnote{4619} There are reports of Nigerian children being trafficked through Togo to Europe for prostitution. U.S.
\footnote{4620} Ibid. See also Government of Togo, \textit{Projet de Code de l’Enfant}, (November, 2001), Article 249.
\footnote{4621} Human Rights Watch, \textit{Borderline Slavery: Child Trafficking in Togo}, 1.
\footnote{4622} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, \url{http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51}
(Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
\footnote{4623} UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and and World Bank surveys, \textit{Child Economic
Activity and School Attendance Rates}, October 7, 2005.
\footnote{4624} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, \url{http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=55}
(School life expectancy, % of repeaters, survival rates; accessed December 2005).
\footnote{4625} M. Egnonto Koffi-Tessio, \textit{Human Resource Development for Poverty Reduction and Household Food
Security: Situation of Education and Training in Togo}, University of Lomé, Advanced School of
Agronomy, Lomé, 2000. See also World Bank, \textit{Togo Country Assistance Evaluation}, no. 21410,
Operations Evaluation Department, November 20, 2000, 5.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum employment age in any enterprise at 14 years, unless an exemption is granted by the Ministry of Labor. Children may not begin apprenticeships before completing the mandatory level of education, or before the age of 15. In 2000, the government revised portions of the Apprenticeship Code, resulting in guidelines governing the length of the workday, working conditions, and apprenticeship fees. For some industrial and technical jobs the minimum age is 18. The U.S. Department of State reported that the Ministry of Labor enforces the age requirement, but only in the urban, formal sector.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Togo. In 2001, the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Social Affairs, and Labor and UNICEF drafted a Child Code that would prohibit the employment of children in the worst forms of child labor, including the selling of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor or servitude. The worst forms of child labor are defined in the draft code to include all forms of slavery; forced and compulsory labor; forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts; use or recruitment of children for purposes of prostitution or pornography; use or recruitment of children for illicit activities including the trafficking of drugs; and any work which is harmful to the health, safety or morals of the child. As of the end of 2005, the code had not yet been adopted into law. Since 1999, the Government of Togo has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

In 2005 the government passed a law that punishes child traffickers and their accomplices. Under the law, traffickers could face a prison sentence of up to 10 years and fines of up to 10 million CFA francs (USD 18,000). Article 78 of the Penal Code prohibits the corruption, abduction or transfer of children against the will of a child’s guardian. Article 94 of the Penal Code prohibits the solicitation and procurement of minors for the purpose of prostitution. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Promotion of

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4627 An exception is made for children who have abandoned school or who were not able to attend school. These children may begin apprenticeships at 14 years. See Projet de Code de l’Enfant, Articles 259 and 260.
4628 Ibid. Articles 259-297.
4629 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Togo, Section 6d.
4630 Ibid. Articles 311, 312, 460.
4631 ILO-IPEC Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
4634 The project began in July 2001 and is scheduled for completion in June 2007. See Ibid.
Women, and Protection of Children is responsible for enforcing laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor, but lacks resources to implement its mandate.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Togo}, Section 6d.}

\textbf{Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor}

The Government of Togo is one of six countries participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative labor in West and Central Africa.\footnote{The regional child trafficking project covers Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Gabon, and Togo. See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Combating the trafficking in children for labour exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA/Phase II)}, technical progress report, Geneva, March 1, 2004.} The government is also participating in a USD 2 million USDOL-funded education initiative in Togo to promote education for victims of child trafficking and children at risk of being trafficked.\footnote{The four-year project began in 2002. See U.S. Department of Labor, \textit{Combating Child Trafficking in Togo through Education}, Project Document, Washington, DC, April 22, 2002.}

The government also funds a Social Center for Abandoned Children.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Togo}, Section 5.} Nine West African countries, Benin, Burkina, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Togo signed the Abidjan Multilateral Agreement on July 27, 2005. As part of the accord, the signatories committed to work together to identify trafficked children and provide protective services. The agreement also lays out requirements for each state party and provides general guidelines for child anti-trafficking activities. The government has a National Plan of Action on child abuse, child labor, and child trafficking that includes activities such as strengthening border controls, awareness-raising campaigns, and establishing community structures for prevention and reintegration of child trafficking victims.\footnote{ECPAT International, \textit{Togo}.} The government also established five regional committees for the purpose of coordinating with local and international organizations on trafficking-related issues.\footnote{UNICEF and various NGOs are assisting Togo to strengthen community capacity to combat child trafficking. U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report: Togo}. UNICEF, \textit{At a glance: Togo}, in UNICEF, [online] n.d. [cited July 1, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/togo.html.} UNICEF and various NGOs are assisting Togo to strengthen community capacity to combat child trafficking.\footnote{UNICEF, \textit{At a glance: Togo}, in UNICEF, [online] n.d. [cited July 1, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/togo.html.}
Tonga

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under 15 in Tonga are unavailable.\textsuperscript{4643} The U.S. Department of State reported that there was no child labor in the formal economy in 2004, the most recent time period for which such information is available.\textsuperscript{4644}

The Education Act of 1974 provides for free and compulsory education for children ages 6 to 14.\textsuperscript{4645} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and in 2001, the net primary enrollment rate was 100 percent.\textsuperscript{4646} 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 Tonga.\textsuperscript{4647} Although the quality of schooling in Tonga has been criticized, education is available through high school and the country has been recognized as having achieved universal primary education.\textsuperscript{4648} In addition, retention rates to secondary school are high.\textsuperscript{4649}

\begin{table}[h]
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\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
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National Plan for Children & \\
National Child Labor Action Plan & \\
Sector Action Plan & \\
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\textsuperscript{4642} The Government of Tonga is not a member of the ILO, and is thus unable to ratify ILO conventions.

\textsuperscript{4643} This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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 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.


\textsuperscript{4646} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats UIS.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?Report=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios. primary; Accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.

\textsuperscript{4647} 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.

\textsuperscript{4648} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports-2004: Tonga.}

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

There is no legislation in Tonga that establishes a minimum age for work.\textsuperscript{4650} The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Tonga. The Constitution prohibits forced or bonded labor.\textsuperscript{4651} There is no military conscription in Tonga.\textsuperscript{4652} Technically, prostitution is not illegal, but owning and/or operating a brothel, pimping, and soliciting in a public place are all prohibited activities under the Criminal Code.\textsuperscript{4653} Penalties for offenses range from imprisonment for 6 months to 2 years. Males convicted a second time of profiting from prostitution may be subject to whipping. The Criminal Code prohibits any person from procuring or attempting to procure any girl under the age of 21 for the purposes of trafficking for prostitution. The punishment for this offense is imprisonment for up to 5 years. The abduction of women and girls is also illegal under the Criminal Code, with penalties ranging from 5 to 7 years of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{4654}

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

The Government of Tonga has established goals to further improve the educational system through the Ministry of Education’s 1996 Strategic Plan. The plan calls for an increase by 2010 in the compulsory school age to 17 years, and for the establishment of universal access to quality education up to age 17.\textsuperscript{4655} It also calls for strengthening the Ministry of Education and enhancing training, expanding and developing vocational and distance education, and establishing formal pre-school programs.\textsuperscript{4656}

The Australia Government Agency for International Development (AusAID), the largest aid donor to Tonga, provides financial assistance to the Ha’apai Development Fund, which supports projects in the Ha’apai islands of Tonga. The fund is overseen by government and community representatives and has involved the construction of teacher housing.\textsuperscript{4657}

\textsuperscript{4650} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports-2004: Tonga}.
\textsuperscript{4651} Regarding forced labor, the Constitution states, “No person shall serve another against his will except he be undergoing punishment by law...” See \textit{Constitution of Tonga}, Part I, Clause 2; available from http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Tonga_legislation/Tonga_Constitution.html.
\textsuperscript{4654} Ibid., 126, 128-129.
\textsuperscript{4655} The plan calls for an increase in compulsory age to 17 years or “Form 6 level” and for universal access to quality education up age 17 years or Form 6. Form 6 is presumed to be the highest secondary education level that can be achieved in Tonga. UNESCO, \textit{Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports - Tonga}, prepared by Ministry of Education, pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 52/84, 2000; available from http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/tonga/contents.html.
\textsuperscript{4656} Ibid.
Tonga is part of the Pacific Regional Initiative for Delivery of Basic Education (PRIDE), which will harmonize basic education plans in the region and place qualified teachers in all primary schools in the Pacific. This program is funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) in cooperation with the University of the South Pacific and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. NZAID will also build a high school for 200 children in Niuas, the northernmost outer islands of Tonga.  

In addition, UNICEF works with government agencies and NGOs to address children’s health and youth development in the country.

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Trinidad and Tobago

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 3.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Trinidad and Tobago in 2000. Approximately 4.5 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 2.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The ILO indicated that in 2001 an estimated 1.2 percent of children aged 5 to 14 were engaged in paid work. Children are engaged in agriculture, scavenging, loading and stocking goods, gardening, car repair, car washing, construction, fishing, and begging. Children also work as handymen, shop assistants, cosmetologists’ assistants, domestic servants, and street vendors. These activities are usually reported as being part of family activities.

Primary education is free and compulsory between the ages of 6 and 12 years. However, in practice, children tend to attend school between the ages of 6 and 15 years. Enrollment rates for female and male students are relatively equal. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 100 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent. 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. In 2000, 97 percent of children 5 to 14 years were attending school. The rate of

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4660 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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 section of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”

4668 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*. 

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<tr>
<th>Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments</th>
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<td>Ratified Convention 182</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO-IPEC Associated Member</td>
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<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan</td>
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repetition in primary school was 8 percent of total enrollment in the same year.\textsuperscript{4669} As of 2000, 71 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade five.\textsuperscript{4670} The public school system does not adequately meet the needs of the school age population due to overcrowding, substandard physical facilities, and occasional violence in the classroom.\textsuperscript{4671}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Children’s Act establishes the minimum age for employment in family business at 12 years, and prohibits children under 14 years from work in factories, in public industries, or on ships.\textsuperscript{4672} According to the Children’s Act, children under the age of 18 may work only during daylight hours. Exceptions are made for children involved in family business and children ages 16 to 18 working at night in sugar factories.\textsuperscript{4673}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Trinidad and Tobago. There are no laws prohibiting trafficking,\textsuperscript{4674} but the Criminal Code prohibits procuring a minor under the age of 16 years for the purpose of prostitution.\textsuperscript{4675} The punishment for procurement is 15 years of imprisonment.\textsuperscript{4676} Trafficking may also be prosecuted under laws that address kidnapping, labor conditions, procurement of sex, prostitution, slavery, and indentured servitude.\textsuperscript{4677} The use of children under the age of 16 in pornography is also prohibited.\textsuperscript{4678} There is no compulsory military service in Trinidad & Tobago; the minimum age for voluntary military service is 16.\textsuperscript{4679}

The Ministry of Labor and Small and Micro-Enterprise Development and the Ministry of Social Development are currently responsible for enforcing child labor provisions. According to the U.S. Department of State, enforcement is weak because there is no comprehensive government policy on child labor and there are no established mechanisms for receiving, investigating, and addressing child labor complaints.\textsuperscript{4680}

\textsuperscript{4669} The repetition rate for males was slightly higher. See World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2004 [CD-ROM]*, Washington, D.C., 2004.
\textsuperscript{4671} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Trinidad and Tobago*, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{4672} Dunn, *The Situation of Children in the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, 17, 18. See also U.S. Embassy-Port of Spain, reporting, August 4, 2004.
\textsuperscript{4673} Dunn, *The Situation of Children in the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, 18. See also U.S. Embassy-Port of Spain, reporting, September 1, 2001.
\textsuperscript{4674} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Trinidad and Tobago*, Section 6f.
\textsuperscript{4676} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{4677} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Trinidad and Tobago*, Section 6f.
\textsuperscript{4678} U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, reporting, September 1, 2001.
\textsuperscript{4680} U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, email communication to USDOL official, May 24, 2005.
Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor recently launched a project to withdraw and rehabilitate child laborers in two landfill sites in Trinidad and Tobago.\textsuperscript{4681} An Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee for Children in Need of Special Protection, under the Ministry of Social Development, is creating a system to monitor children in need of assistance, including those at risk of exploitative child labor; analyzing data; developing policy; and promoting cooperation between government ministries, NGOs, and the private sector.\textsuperscript{4682} The National Plan for Children has been under review by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2005, following inquiries regarding delays and necessary improvements on the implementation of the Plan.\textsuperscript{4683} The UN Committee Expert serving as country Rapporteur has noted the creation of an inter-ministerial committee to ensure the implementation of the Plan in 2005. ILO-IPEC works with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to implement a regional project to combat the worst forms of children labor.\textsuperscript{4684}

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is piloting a School Support Services Program to offer counseling, homework assistance, and other support to high risk children. The MOE has also implemented a book loan/grant system for primary and secondary students.\textsuperscript{4685}

Existing government child and youth programs also include the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Program, and Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centers. Government programs focus mainly on providing at-risk youth with short-term care, remedial education, and vocational training.\textsuperscript{4686}

\textsuperscript{4681} U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, reporting. Also ILO, The Situation of Children in Landfill Sites and other Worst Forms of Child Labor: A Rapid Assessment, December 2002.
\textsuperscript{4682} U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, reporting, August 4, 2004.
\textsuperscript{4684} The projects were funded by the Canadian government in 2002 and 2003. See ILO-IPEC - Geneva official, email communication to USDOL official, May 12, 2004.
\textsuperscript{4685} U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, reporting, August 4, 2004.
\textsuperscript{4686} U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, email communication.
Tunisia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Tunisia are unavailable. Children work in agriculture in rural areas and as vendors in urban areas, mainly during school vacations. There are also reports of children working in the handicraft industry in apprenticeships and of families placing teenage girls as household domestics, although this practice has reportedly declined through enforcement of laws on minimum work age and compulsory school attendance. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2 percent of the population of Tunisia were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Education is compulsory and free between the ages of 6 and 16. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 111 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 97 percent. 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. Attendance in urban areas is higher than in rural areas (97.2 percent and 90.5 percent respectively).

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4687 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.


4692 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/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.

Tunisia. As of 2001, 96 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Code of 1966 sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, which coincides with the country’s compulsory education requirement. There are some exceptions to this age, however. Children may work as apprentices or through vocational training programs at age 14. Furthermore, children under 16 years of age may work in family-run businesses as long as the work does not interfere with school, pose a threat to the child’s health, exceed 2 hours per day, or exceed 7 hours per day when combined with time spent in school. In regard to nonagricultural jobs, the code also prohibits children under 14 from working at night, between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., and prohibits children 14 to 18 years of age from working between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. For agricultural work, the code states that children under 18 years must have fixed rest periods and cannot work between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The Labor Code establishes 18 years as the minimum age for hazardous work and authorizes the Ministry of Social Affairs to determine the jobs that fall in this category. Young workers in the non-agricultural sector under the age of 18 cannot be paid a salary below 85 percent of the salary paid to adults. Labor inspectors from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity are responsible for enforcing labor laws, including child labor laws.

Since 1999, the Government of Tunisia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Tunisia. Forced and bonded labor by children is prohibited by law, and there are no reports of such practices. In 1995, the Government of Tunisia passed the Child Protection Code, which protects children under 18 years from abuse and exploitation, including

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4694 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.
4697 Code du Travail, Article 53-2.
4698 Ibid., Article 54.
4699 Ibid., Articles 65, 66, 74.
4700 Ibid., Article 58. See also U.S. Embassy-Tunis, reporting, August 11, 2003.
4702 Code du Travail, Articles 170-171.
4703 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
participation in wars or armed conflicts, prostitution, and hazardous labor conditions. The government’s Child Protection Code is enforced by a corps of delegates in charge of child protection in the country’s 24 governorates. In addition, two ministries, the Ministry of Women’s, Family, Child and Elderly Affairs, and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Physical Education are responsible for enforcing children’s rights. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Government of Tunisia upheld the standards of ILO Convention 182 and enacted regulations on “the worst forms of child labor” and “hazardous” work. Inspectors from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity verified employers’ compliance with the minimum age law. There have been no reports of international or domestic trafficking of Tunisian children.

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

The Government of Tunisia’s policies aim to protect children through enforcement of relevant laws and to create jobs for adults so that children can attend school.

In 2004, the World Bank approved a USD 130 million loan for the second phase of an Education Quality Improvement Project designed to facilitate the Ministry of Education’s efforts to promote primary and secondary education. This project aims to boost school enrollment and completion rates for children ages 6 to 18 years, and to develop stronger links between secondary education and vocational training and higher education institutions. Along with other countries participating in the Third Arab Congress on Children’s Rights, Tunisia is implementing a 2004 - 2015 plan to promote quality education and healthy development for boys and girls and committed to share lessons among countries.

4708 Ibid., Section 6d.
4709 Ibid., Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy-Tunis, reporting, March 9, 2004.
4712 Ibid.
Turkey

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 4.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Turkey in 1999. Approximately 4.6 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 3.7 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (66.7 percent), followed by services (18 percent), manufacturing (13.4 percent), and other sectors (2 percent). Children are engaged in metal work, woodworking, textiles and leather goods production, domestic service, automobile repair, furniture making, hotel and catering work, and footwear production. Currently, the government has identified the worst forms of child labor as street work, work in hazardous industries or the urban informal economy, and seasonal agricultural labor. A rapid assessment on working street children in 2001 found that street children in the cities of Diyarbakir, Adana, and Istanbul pick through garbage at dumpsites, shine shoes, and sell various goods, among other activities. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2 percent of the population in Turkey were living on less than USD 1 a day.

4714 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Sources and Definitions.”


Girls are trafficked to Turkey from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{4720} Turkey is also used as a transit point for children trafficked to Western Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia, and Africa for sexual exploitation and forced labor.\textsuperscript{4721}

Under the Compulsory Basic Education Act, primary education is obligatory for a period of 8 years. A typical child’s basic education is concluded by age 13 or 14.\textsuperscript{4722} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 91 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 86 percent.\textsuperscript{4723} 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. In 1999, 88.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.\textsuperscript{4724}

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Labor Law establishes the minimum age for employment at 15 years. The law, however, allows children 14 years of age to perform light work that does not interfere with their education, and enables governors in provinces dependent on agriculture to determine the minimum age for work in that sector. Before beginning a heavy and dangerous job, children ages 15 to 18 years of age must undergo a physical examination, which is to be repeated every 6 months.\textsuperscript{4725} Children under 16 are permitted to work no more than 8 hours per day.\textsuperscript{4726} While attending school, children are prohibited from working more than 2 hours per day or 10 hours per week. The Apprenticeship and Vocational Training Act No. 3308 allows children ages 14 to 18 who have completed the mandatory 8 years of education to be employed as apprentices. Apprenticeship programs provide a wide range of occupational training at 346 training centers in 81 cities and in 113 occupations.\textsuperscript{4727} Ministry of National Education Training Centers are required by law to inspect these apprenticeship workplaces and ensure adequate working conditions.\textsuperscript{4728}

\footnote{4721}{U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons-2005*. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports-2004: Turkey*, Section 5.}
\footnote{4722}{Embassy of Turkey, *The Implemented Programs and Measures Taken Against Child Labor in Turkey*, Washington, D.C., November 9, 2001, 5. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports-2004: Turkey*, Section 5.}
\footnote{4724}{UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.}
\footnote{4725}{U.S. Embassy- Ankara, *reporting*, August 22, 2003.}
\footnote{4726}{U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports-2004: Turkey*, Section 6d.}
\footnote{4727}{Ibid.}
\footnote{4728}{Ibid.}
According to the Constitution, no person is required to perform work unsuitable for their age or capabilities.4729

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Turkey. The minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces is 19 years.4730 Criminal law prohibits prostitution under the age of 21 4731 and the sexual exploitation of children.4732 A new Penal Code, which became effective June 1, 2005, forbids the use of children in pornographic materials. This is punishable by imprisonment for 5 to 10 years.4733 The Penal Code also designates the trafficking of persons as a crime. Those convicted face 8 to 12 years in prison and, at the judge’s discretion, an additional 10,000 days of incarceration.4734 The Code calls for a fine not less than 1 billion Turkish Lira (USD 737).4735 Since 1999, the Government of Turkey submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.4736 The Ministry of Labor Social Security (MOLSS) also published a list of permitted occupations for children 15 to 18 years of age.4737 Children 15 to 18 years are not permitted to work in bars, coffee houses, dance halls, cabarets, casinos, or public baths, or to engage in industrial night work. The law prohibits underground and underwater work for women of any age and for boys under the age of 18.4738

The MOLSS Labor Inspection Board is responsible for enforcing child labor laws in Turkey.4739 According to the Board, the MOLSS has been unable to effectively prevent child labor for a variety of reasons, including traditional attitudes, socio-economic factors, and the predominantly informal nature of child labor in Turkey. According to the

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4729 Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, Article 50; available from http://www.hri.org/docs/turkey/.
4731 Interpol, Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offenses Against Children- Turkey, September 26, 2005; available from http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaTurkey.asp.
4734 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports-2004: Turkey, Section 5. See also Republic of Turkey, Turkey on Trafficking in Human Beings.
4736 U.S. Embassy- Ankara, reporting, August 26, 2004. See also ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
4739 Ministry of Labor and Social Security Labor Inspection Board, Report on the Implementation of Labor Inspection Policy, 5-6. See also Embassy of Turkey, The Implemented Programs and Measures Taken Against Child Labor.
U.S. Department of State, the work in which many children engage is not covered by labor laws, such as work in agricultural sites/workplaces with fewer than 50 workers, maritime and air transport, family businesses, small shops, and the informal economy, and therefore cannot be regulated by the inspectorate.\textsuperscript{4740} Therefore, the Board has focused on protecting working children by improving their working conditions.\textsuperscript{4741} Enforcement of labor laws is easier in medium and large-sized businesses.\textsuperscript{4742} Approximately 100 field inspectors have been trained to handle child labor issues.\textsuperscript{4743} The MOLSS’s Child Labor Unit (CLU) is active in combating the worst forms of child labor in Turkey. In 2005, the government increased the resources given to the CLU and staff levels increased from 3 to 12 persons.\textsuperscript{4744}

A Parliamentarian Commission on Child Labor Working on the Streets was formed to investigate instances of child labor and to propose intervention programs. The commission is composed of the Ministers of Justice, Interior, Health, Education, and the State Minister responsible for Family and Women Affairs. A parallel committee was formed within the Grand Turkish National Assembly.\textsuperscript{4745} The Interior Ministry’s Child Police are specifically responsible for protecting children, including protecting working children from employer abuses.\textsuperscript{4746} Under the Law on Social Services and Child Protection Institution, No. 2828, children who are subjected to the worst forms of child labor are placed under the protection of the state. Care and rehabilitation is provided for those children at 30 centers around the country.\textsuperscript{4747}

The Task Force on Human Trafficking coordinates government action on trafficking and includes members from the Ministries of Health, Interior, Justice, and Labor, as well as the Directorate General for Social Services and Child Protection, the Directorate General on the Status and Problems of Women, and academics from Marmara University. The Task Force is headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.\textsuperscript{4748}

In 2004, the government identified 239 persons who were trafficked. Between January 2004 and March 2005, 103 were voluntarily repatriated to their home countries. Between November 2004 and February 2005, 46 trafficked persons were provided shelter assistance in Istanbul.\textsuperscript{4749} In 2004, the government initiated prosecutions of 142

\textsuperscript{4741} Embassy of Turkey, \textit{The Implemented Programs and Measures Taken Against Child Labor}, 3-7. See also Embassy of Turkey, \textit{Policies, Programs, and Measures Against Child Labor in Turkey}, Washington, D.C., September 6, 2002, 10, 11, 14.
\textsuperscript{4742} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports-2004: Turkey}, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{4743} U.S. Embassy- Ankara, \textit{reporting}, September 1, 2005.
\textsuperscript{4744} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{4748} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports-2004: Turkey}, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{4749} The ages of trafficked persons are not known. See Republic of Turkey, \textit{Turkey on Trafficking in Human Beings}.
suspected traffickers.\textsuperscript{4750} According to the U.S. State Department, reports indicate that police corruption hampers efforts to fight trafficking and contributes to the problem.\textsuperscript{4751}

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

In working towards meeting EU accession conditions, priorities for the Government of Turkey include fulfilling obligations to eliminate child labor.\textsuperscript{4752} The Government of Turkey has developed a National Timebound Policy and Program Framework designed to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and the involvement of children below the age of 15 in all forms of work between 2004 and 2014.\textsuperscript{4753} A chapter on child labor is also included in the Eighth 5-Year Development Plan of Turkey (2000-2005). The child labor policy directives include eliminating the causes forcing children to work and the constraints that prevent children from attending school, and harmonizing national legislation with international conventions. This plan commits the government to respond to child labor issues by promoting policies to increase family income, provide social welfare, and reduce education costs for the poor.\textsuperscript{4754}

The Government of Turkey has committed to making a significant contribution (USD 6.2 million) to support the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC project, *Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey - Supporting the Timebound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Turkey, 2004-2006*. The program includes activities in 11 provinces based on the prevalence of child work in priority sectors of street work, informal economy, and seasonal agricultural labor.\textsuperscript{4755} The government is also participating in the USDOL-funded USD 6 million project *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey, 2004-2008*.\textsuperscript{4756} The project is focused on assisting children working under hazardous conditions in seasonal agriculture in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Elazig, Agri, and Ankara.\textsuperscript{4757} Various other regional child labor elimination programs are underway throughout the country, supported by the

\textsuperscript{4750} U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons-2005*.
\textsuperscript{4751} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports-2004: Turkey*, Section 5.
\textsuperscript{4752} Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Executive Summary of the Turkish National Program for the Adoption of the Acquis*, 2003.
\textsuperscript{4756} IMPAQ International, *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey, project document*, May 17, 2005, cover.
\textsuperscript{4757} IMPAQ International, *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Turkey, project revision*, September 19, 2005.
national or local level authorities. The government operates 28 centers to aid working street children. The Government of Turkey is taking steps to combat trafficking of persons. The Ministry of Health provides free medical treatment for children who have been trafficked. The government sponsors anti-trafficking training programs and a hotline. Anti-trafficking brochures were printed and distributed by law enforcement officers.

The World Bank provided a loan to support the second Basic Education Project. The Government of Turkey’s goals for its Basic Education Program are for all eligible children to enroll in and complete basic education, for pre-school enrollment of eligible children to reach 25 percent, to improve student performance, and for 40 percent of children in basic education to be utilizing information and communication technologies. It has improved education through a number of measures, including the construction of new classrooms, provision of education materials, and teacher training. The project will conclude in 2006. The World Bank also funds the Social Risk Mitigation Project. It finances the expansion of education and health grants for the poorest six percent of families to prevent dropouts among at-risk youth. On March 15, 2005, the World Bank approved a USD 96.1 million loan to fund a Secondary Education Project aimed at supporting the government’s goals to increase the compulsory education period from 8 to 12 years and increase the enrollment rates of basic education graduates in secondary education programs.

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Advocacy Campaign for Girls’ Education which aims to place every girl in school by the end of 2005. The program was launched in 10 provinces and will expand to an additional 40.\textsuperscript{4765}

Tuvalu

Incidences and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Tuvalu are unavailable. Children are reportedly involved in traditional subsistence farming and fishing.

Under Tuvalu’s Education for Life program, education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years and free until the age of 13. In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 102 percent. Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Tuvalu. Although Tuvalu has achieved almost universal primary education, secondary enrollment rates are much lower.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Tuvaluan law sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years, and a child must be 18 years old to sign a formal work contract. The law prohibits industrial labor or work on ships by children less than 15 years of age.

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratified Convention 138</th>
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<td>Ratified Convention 182</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO-IPEC Member</td>
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<td>National Plan for Children</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan</td>
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4766 The Government of Tuvalu is not a member of the ILO, and is thus unable to ratify ILO conventions.
4767 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of the report 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.
4771 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Tuvalu. The Constitution and the Penal Code prohibit forced labor.\footnote{Constitution of Tuvalu, Article 18, (1978); available from http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Tuvalu_legislation/Tuvalu_Constitution.html. See also Government of Tuvalu, Penal Code, (1978), Article 249 [cited August 15, 2002]; available from http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/Paclawmat/Tuvalu_legislation/Consolidation_1978/Tuvalu_Penal_Code.html.} The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of a girl less than 18 years of age for prostitution.\footnote{Penal Code, Articles 136, 138-139.} While the Penal Code does not specifically address trafficking in children, the kidnapping or abducting of children is prohibited.\footnote{Ibid., Articles 131-132, 241-242, 246-247.} There is no information available on the enforcement of labor laws.

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

Uganda

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The Ugandan Bureau of Statistics estimated that 33.9 percent of children in Uganda ages 5 to 14 years were working in 2000-01. Child work is common, especially in the informal sector. In urban areas, children sell small items on the streets, work in shops, beg for money, or are involved in the commercial sex industry. In rural areas, children work in agriculture, including the harvesting of tea. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, 8.9 percent of the population of Uganda were living on less than USD 1 a day.

According to the U.S. Department of State, trafficking in persons is a serious problem in Uganda, particularly the trafficking of children by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Upon being abducted by the LRA, children are forced to become soldiers, porters, or sex slaves. The war in Northern Uganda, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and population dislocations have left 2 million children under the age of 18 orphaned and thus, vulnerable to the worst forms child labor.

Children participate in the armed conflict in Uganda. Since the beginning of the 18-year war in Northern Uganda, it is estimated that the LRA has abducted an estimated 20,000 children. During the first half of 2005, 300 of these children were rescued and returned to rehabilitation centers by Uganda’s armed forces, the Uganda People’s Defense Force (UPDF). However, it is reported that children have enlisted in the UPDF by falsifying their age. The official age in which a person may enlist or be conscripted into the UPDF is 18 years of age. There is no evidence that the UPDF actively recruits underage soldiers; the UPDF contends that children serving in the security forces may be enrolled either through deception or oversight. In 2004, the

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments

| Ratified Convention 138 | 3/25/2003 | U |
| Ratified Convention 182 | 6/21/2001 | U |
| ILO-IPEC Member | U |
| National Plan for Children | U |
| National Child Labor Action Plan | U |
| Sector Action Plan | |

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4786 U.S. Embassy- Kampala, reporting, September 02, 2005.
4787 Ibid.
4789 U.S. Embassy- Kampala, e-mail communication to USDOL official, July 7, 2006.
most recent timeframe for which such information is available, the UPDF collaborated with UNICEF to identify and remove 300 to 400 under-age soldiers from Uganda’s 60,000 person army.4791

The Constitution states that a child is entitled to basic education, which is the responsibility of the State and the child’s parents. The Government of Uganda provides free education through grade seven. In fiscal year 2004-2005, 31 percent of the government’s general budget was allocated to the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) for education. Of this amount, 66 percent was allocated to primary education and 16.7 percent to secondary education.4792 However, education is not compulsory.4793 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 141 percent.4794 Gross 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 Uganda.4795 As of 2001, 64 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.4796

In 2003, 80 percent of the students taking their primary leaving examinations passed, but there are differences in achievement that appear to be influenced by geography. Children in stable areas of the country were more likely to pass the examination, while barely 20 percent passed in “the remote, troubled districts.”4797 In addition, there are gender differences in achievement: boys perform better in and are more likely to finish primary school than girls.4798

The U.S. Department of State reports that corruption, instability in some areas of the country, and inadequate teacher preparation prevented full implementation of universal primary education initiatives despite increases in educational resources and educational improvements.4799 Reports indicate that almost 90 percent of children aged 5 to 17 who

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4791 Ibid.
4794 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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.
4795 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.
4799 Ibid.
work do not attend school: 78 percent have left school and 10 percent have never been to school.4800

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The revised Employment Decree of 1975 sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years and prohibits persons below the age of 18 from engaging in hazardous labor.4801 Article 34 (4) of the Constitution of Uganda states that children under 16 years have the right to be protected from social and economic exploitation and should not be employed in hazardous work; work that would otherwise endanger their health, physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development; or work that would interfere with their education.4802

Legislation is in draft that if adopted will expand the laws to address additional forms of child labor. The legislation will define “worst forms of child labor”, many in accordance with ILO Convention 182. While current child labor laws only apply to the formal sector, the new legislation could expand enforcement to the informal sector as well where working children are common.4803

Currently, the worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Uganda. The Constitution prohibits servitude and forced labor.4804 While trafficking in persons is not a specific violation under Ugandan law, related offenses are, which taken together cover the full scope of trafficking in persons. For instance, detaining a person with sexual intent is punishable up to 7 years of imprisonment, and the penalty for trading in slaves is punishable by up to 10 years of imprisonment. “Defilement,” defined as having sex with a minor, is a punishable offense with a range of sentences leading up to the death penalty.4805 In 2005, the government actively applied its law to the latter offense, arresting 4,756 people.4806

The Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development (MGLSD), charged with enforcing child labor laws, investigates child labor complaints through district labor


4806 U.S. Embassy- Kampala, email communication to USDOL official, August 11, 2006.
officers. In addition, local governments are also empowered to investigate child labor complaints. However, until a child labor complaint monitoring system is developed, comprehensive statistics regarding child labor violations and investigations of such complaints are not available.4807

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

The MGLSD houses the Child Labor Unit and implements the “National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labor.” However, according to the U.S. Department of State, limited resources prevent the National Plan from being carried out to the extent that was envisioned.4808 The MGLSD also coordinates the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Policy, which extends social services to groups that include children who participate in the worst forms of labor. 4809

In partnership with USDOL, NGOs and the ILO, the Government of Uganda participates in the implementation of various projects that aim to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.4810 ILO-IPEC implements a USD 5.3 million regional capacity building project funded by USDOL. The project, “Building the Foundations for Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Anglophone Africa,” is being implemented from September 2002 until June 2006.4811 “Opportunities for Reducing Adolescent and Child labor through Education (ORACLE)” is a USD 3 million project funded by USDOL and implemented by the International Rescue Committee and the Italian Association for Volunteers in International Service. ORACLE is a 4-year project begun in August 2003. The project contributes to the prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labor amongst conflict-affected children in Northern Uganda through the provision of transitional and non-formal education and family-based poverty reduction strategies.4812

There are two additional regional projects funded by USDOL in which the Government of Uganda participates. ILO-IPEC is implementing a project funded at USD 3 million entitled “Combating and preventing HIV/AIDS-induced child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: pilot action in Uganda and Zambia.” To reduce their vulnerability to participation in child labor, the project provides vocational and basic education, psycho-social rehabilitation and social protection to children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.4813 Another USD 14.5 million program is being implemented by World Vision in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. The program, “Combating Exploitative Child Labor

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4807 Ibid.
4808 Ibid.
4809 Ibid.
4810 Ibid.
4811 Ibid.
through Education” also known as KURET, provides educational alternatives to children who are especially vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor because of HIV/AIDS.4814

Tobacco exporters and unions support a project that combats child labor in the tobacco growing industry. In 2003, the Eliminate Child Labour in Tobacco Foundation funded a three-year USD 516,560 project to reduce the incidence of child labor in the tobacco industry in the Masindi region of the country (west central Uganda). The goals of the project are to remove primary school age children working on tobacco farms and place them in primary schools, and provide assistance to ensure their retention in the educational system. The Government of Uganda is represented on a steering committee that coordinates the activities of the program and the Masindi District Local Council is slated to provide land for the construction of and provide management for a vocational school serving the project. 4815

The government provides a variety of resettlement packages to former rebels returning to Uganda, some of which include educational benefits and vocational training.4816 At two locations in the country, military-operated programs assist the reintegration of returning child soldiers.4817 In addition to these programs, the government is involved in efforts to eliminate child labor through strategies to reduce poverty, specifically the Poverty Eradication Action Plan and the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture.4818

The MOES implements the policy of Universal Primary Education to encourage the enrollment and retention of primary students by improving access to education, enhancing the quality of education, and ensuring that education is affordable.4819 The MOES developed a “Basic Education Policy and Cost Framework for Educationally Disadvantaged Children” to increase access among children not served by the current education system, including street and working children and children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.4820

Uruguay

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Uruguay are unavailable.\(^{4821}\) The majority of child work occurs in the informal sector, where children work in agriculture, street vending, and garbage collection.\(^{4822}\) Such areas of labor generally were regulated less strictly, and pay was lower than in the formal sector.\(^{4823}\) The country’s economic crisis from 1998 to 2003 reportedly led to an increase in the incidence of children working in the informal sector.\(^{4824}\) Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, less than 2 percent of the population of Uruguay were living on less than USD 1 a day.

The arrests of children involved in sexual work provide evidence that child prostitution exists; however, there are few statistics on the problem.\(^{4825}\) Several types of prostitution have been reported, including of very poor and homeless children around factories and in slums, in downtown bars and pubs, on the street, and through pimps.\(^{4826}\) There are also isolated reports of prostitution of boys.\(^{4827}\) Reports from children’s rights NGOs and the media indicate that minors resorted to prostitution for survival or to assist their families in rural areas where unemployment was greater than 20 percent.\(^{4828}\)

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\(^{4821}\) 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.


\(^{4823}\) U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Uruguay, Section 6d.

\(^{4824}\) U.S. Embassy- Montevideo, reporting, September 2004, Section 1.

\(^{4825}\) U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Uruguay, Section 5.


\(^{4828}\) Ibid.

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<td>Ratified Convention 182 8/3/2001 U</td>
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<td>ILO-IPEC Member U</td>
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<td>National Plan for Children U</td>
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<td>National Child Labor Action Plan U</td>
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<td>Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation) U</td>
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Uruguay serves as a destination and transit point for some forced labor in the region, as well as a source country for women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation, according to the U.S. Department of State. In addition, children often are trafficked across Uruguay’s poorly controlled borders from Argentina, Brazil, and other countries. Organized groups sometimes require children to beg, and children of some poor rural families are sent by their parents to work at ranches under conditions of involuntary servitude. According to authorities, children were trafficked for prostitution and pornography. Most of the commercial sexual exploitation of children between ages 11 and 15 occurred in the states bordering Brazil and Argentina. Also, possible child prostitution rings in Montevideo and the resort areas of Punta del Este and Maldonado were a concern for authorities.

Kindergarten, primary, and secondary education are free and compulsory for a total of nine years. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 109 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 90 percent. 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 Uruguay. As of 2001, 93 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. More recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Uruguay.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Children’s Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, and at 18 years for hazardous work. Hazardous work is defined as work that endangers the health, life, or morals of a child. Workers between 15 and 18 years require government permission to work and must undergo physical exams to identify possible exposure to job-related physical harm. The government only grants permission to work for minors who have finished either 9 years of compulsory education or who are enrolled in

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4830 Ibid.
4832 Ibid.
4834 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrollment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 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.
4835 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.
4838 Ibid., Section 2.
4839 Ibid.
4840 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Uruguay, Section 6d.
school and in the process of completing compulsory education.\textsuperscript{4841} They also may not work more than 6 hours per day, or 36 hours per week.\textsuperscript{4842} Violations of child labor laws are punishable by a fine of up to 2,000 “Readjustable Units,” which are calculated based on the cost of living.\textsuperscript{4843} Repeat offenders may be imprisoned, and parents of working children may be subject to fines, imprisonment, or possible limitation or revocation of guardianship.\textsuperscript{4844}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Uruguay. Forced or bonded labor, including by children, is prohibited by the Constitution.\textsuperscript{4845} The penalties for businesses employing forced laborers include fines or closure, which could not be applied against groups that forced children to beg.\textsuperscript{4846} The Commercial or Noncommercial Sexual Violence Against Children, Adolescents, and the Handicapped law addresses pornography, prostitution, and trafficking involving minors.\textsuperscript{4847} The production, facilitation, or dissemination of child pornography is punishable by 6 months to 6 years of incarceration. Prison terms for trafficking children in or out of the country or contributing to the prostitution of a child range from two to 12 years.\textsuperscript{4848} Additionally, prostituting a child for profit is punishable by a minimum jail sentence of two to 12 years.\textsuperscript{4849} Eighteen is the minimum age for voluntary or compulsory military conscription.\textsuperscript{4850}

The Adolescent Labor Division of the National Institute for Adolescents and Children (INAU) bears primary responsibility for implementing policies to prevent and regulate child labor and to provide training on child labor issues.\textsuperscript{4851} INAU works with the Ministry of Labor to investigate complaints of child labor and the Ministry of the Interior to prosecute cases.\textsuperscript{4852} However, the U.S. Department of State reports that lack of resources and the concentration of child work in the informal sector, which accounts for

\begin{itemize}
\item\textsuperscript{4841} Ibid.
\item\textsuperscript{4842} Poder Legislativo, República Oriental del Uruguay: Children's Code, Ley No. 17.823, (September 2004), Articulo 169.
\item\textsuperscript{4843} U.S. Embassy- Montevideo, reporting, September 2004, Section 3.
\item\textsuperscript{4844} Ibid., paras. 2, 3.
\item\textsuperscript{4845} U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Uruguay, Section 6c.
\item\textsuperscript{4846} U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Uruguay.
\item\textsuperscript{4847} The Commercial or Noncommercial Sexual Violence Against Children, Adolescents, and the Handicapped Law, Law No. 17.815, was passed by the Uruguayan Senate in 2004. Poder Legislativo, República Oriental del Uruguay: Violencia Sexual Comercial o No Comercial Cometida Contra Ninos, Adolescentes o Incapaces, Ley No. 17.815, (August 18, 2004).
\item\textsuperscript{4848} Ibid., Articulo 6.
\item\textsuperscript{4849} Ibid., Articulo 5.
\item\textsuperscript{4851} The National Institute for Adolescents and Children (INAU) was formerly known as the National Institute for Minors (INAME). Poder Legislativo, República Oriental del Uruguay: Children's Code, Ley No. 17.823, Articulo 68.
\item\textsuperscript{4852} There have been claims that the division of responsibility between the Ministry of Labor and INAU vis-à-vis child labor is not always clear, since they both conduct investigations. See U.S. Embassy-Montevideo, reporting, September 2004, para. 4.
\end{itemize}
40 percent of total employment in Uruguay, make enforcement difficult.\footnote{4853} Responsibility for investigating trafficking cases lies primarily with the Ministry of the Interior.\footnote{4854} In January 2005, police arrested five traffickers and also issued warrants for two others suspected of smuggling Chinese migrants for forced agricultural labor.\footnote{4855}

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

The National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor (CNETI) had a National Action Plan for 2003-2005 to combat child labor.\footnote{4856} The plan included measures to raise awareness, strengthen legal protections, reintegrate and retain working children in school, and develop alternative income generation options for families of working children.\footnote{4857} In addition, the issue of child labor has been incorporated into the teacher training curriculum as part of the national action plan to combat child labor.\footnote{4858} UNICEF is also implementing an awareness-raising project on children’s and adolescents’ rights that includes a component on child labor.\footnote{4859}

The Interdepartmental Commission for the Prevention and Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation, along with INAU, has a national plan of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children that includes protection measures for victims and witnesses.\footnote{4860} In addition, INAU maintains shelters for children at risk of abuse and cooperates with an NGO to provide food vouchers to parents of street children who attend school.\footnote{4861} INAU also offers various services for adolescents, such as work training and safety programs, and educational and placement services.\footnote{4862} The government also provides parents of working children with monthly payments in exchange for regular class attendance by their children, and offers free lunch to needy children in public schools.\footnote{4863} In 2004, the Ministry of Interior created a special office to address child trafficking.\footnote{4864} In August that year, the Crime Prevention Office also initiated implementation of a database on cases related to trafficking.\footnote{4865} However, overall during the period April 2004 to March 2005, the Government of Uruguay lacked...
programs for specifically assisting trafficking victims, according to the U.S. Department of State.4866

The government, with support from the World Bank, is implementing a project to improve the equity, quality, and efficiency of preschool and primary education.4867 The government is also participating in an IDB-funded program that includes initiatives to address child labor, reduce school attrition, and improve children’s performance in school.4868

4866 Ibid.
Uzbekistan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 16.5 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Uzbekistan in 2000. Approximately 19.9 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 12.9 percent of girls in the same age group. Children work in agriculture in rural areas, where the large-scale, compulsory mobilization of children to help with cotton harvests has been reported. Schools close in some rural areas to allow pupils and teachers to work during the harvest, sometimes without remuneration. Reports indicate that children have been forced to spray harmful chemicals with no protection and endure poor living conditions on farms located far from their homes and families.

There are reports that children help cultivate rice and raise silk worms in rural areas. Children also work in street vending, services, construction, building materials and other sectors.

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4869 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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 section in the front of the report titled “Data Source and Definitions.”


manufacturing, and transportation. Older children frequently work as temporary hired workers, or mardikors. Child beggars are present in Tashkent. Children are vulnerable to exploitation as prostitutes in Uzbekistan. Young women and possibly adolescent girls are trafficked to destinations in the Persian Gulf, Asia, and Europe for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 2000, 17.3 percent of the population in Uzbekistan were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Basic education is compulsory for 9 years under the Education Law of 1992 and free according to Article 41 of the Constitution. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 103 percent. Gross 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 Uzbekistan. The early marriage of girls poses a challenge to their continued education since they are expected to leave school, raise a family, and work domestically after being wed. Parents and students are often asked to cover the costs of school repairs and supplement teachers’ incomes due to low salaries. Rural children are said to lag behind their urban peers in schooling, due to their participation in the cotton harvest and required time away from their studies.

See Legal Aid Society, STATUS, Center for Social and Humanitarian Researches, Business Women Association (Kokand), Mekhri, Beguborlik, SABO, PIASC, KRIDI, Mekhr Tayanchi, UNESCO Youth Club, Kokand Children's Club, Shygiz Children's Club Kukus, Mothers and Daughters, Bolalar va Kattalar Children's Club, Save the Children (UK), and UNICEF, Supplementary NGO Report, 33.

Congo.net, The Situation with Child Labour is Unlikely to Change in the Foreseeable Future.


Traffickers most often target women between 17 and 30 years of age. Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy-Tashkent, reporting, August 26, 2005.


UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats UIS.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportID=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 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.

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.


UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Uzbekistan: Focus on Rural Schools.
Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. Fourteen year-olds may only work in light labor that does not negatively affect their health and/or development. Children ages 14 to 18 years are required to obtain written permission from a parent or guardian in order to work, and work may not interfere with their studies. Children between the ages of 14 and 16 may only work 10 hours per week while school is in session and 20 hours per week during school vacation. Children between 16 and 18 years may only work 15 hours per week when school is in session and 30 hours per week during school vacations. In addition to establishing limited work hours for minors, the Labor Code prohibits children less than 18 years of age from working in unfavorable labor conditions.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Uzbekistan. The Constitution prohibits forced labor except when fulfilling a court sentence. The Penal Code establishes punishment for people who profit from prostitution or maintain brothels, with higher penalties when a child is involved, including jail sentences of 5 to 10 years. The Penal Code prohibits the recruitment of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, with higher penalties for taking children out of the country. The penalty for recruitment for sexual or other exploitation is 6 months to 3 years in prison and up to USD 900 in fines. Trafficking of children outside the country is punishable with 5 to 8 years in prison.

The Prosecutor General and the Ministry of Interior’s criminal investigators are responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws. While enforcement appears effective in deterring child labor in the formal sector, the U.S. Department of State reports that it is not effective in regulating children’s work in family-based employment and the agricultural sectors. An anti-trafficking unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs investigates trafficking-related crimes.

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4888 U.S. Embassy- Tashkent, reporting, August 26, 2005.
4889 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Uzbekistan, Section 6d.
4894 U.S. Embassy- Tashkent, reporting, August 26, 2005.
4895 Ibid.
Despite the presence of inspectors, there were no reports of inspections resulting in legal proceedings or administrative penalties for violations of domestic child labor laws.\textsuperscript{4896} The government increased prosecutions for trafficking violations from 80 in 2003 to 251 in 2004, although, due to a general amnesty in 2004 for anyone convicted of crimes with prison terms of less than ten years, most served little or no jail time.\textsuperscript{4897} According to the U.S. Department of State, NGO reports indicate that some local officials are involved in trafficking.\textsuperscript{4898}

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

Representatives from the Government of Uzbekistan are working with neighboring countries to gather information about the child labor situation in Central Asia. USDOL has provided funding to ILO-IPEC for a USD 2.5 million sub-regional project to enhance the capacity of national institutions to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in Uzbekistan and to share information and experiences across the sub-region.\textsuperscript{4899}

The government has an inter-agency working group to combat trafficking in persons, and actively cooperates with local NGOs and the OSCE on anti-trafficking training of law enforcement and consular officials.\textsuperscript{4900} Ministry of Internal Affairs officials trained an additional 1,500 officers in anti-trafficking procedures between May 2004 and spring 2005 and contacts were made with counterparts in the United Arab Emirates, the top destination for trafficked Uzbek women.\textsuperscript{4901} The government has been cooperating with a local NGO that meets returning victims at the airport and provides rehabilitative services\textsuperscript{4902} and actively supported a public awareness campaign including posters, billboards, and advertising on state-controlled mass media.\textsuperscript{4903}

In cooperation with the IOM, the government is engaged in a research study to determine the extent of trafficking in Uzbekistan and participates in a trafficking prevention campaign and a law enforcement training program.\textsuperscript{4904}

The Government of Uzbekistan’s 2000-2005 State Program on Forming a Healthy Generation focuses on improving childhood development in such areas as health and

\textsuperscript{4896} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Uzbekistan*, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{4897} It is not specified if any of these crimes included the trafficking of children under the age of 18 years. See U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Uzbekistan*, Washington, D.C., June 2005, 224; available from http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf.


\textsuperscript{4899} Countries participating in the sub-regional project are Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. See ILO-IPEC, *CAR Capacity Building Project: Regional Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, project document, RER/04/P54/USA, Geneva, September 2004, vii.


\textsuperscript{4904} Project also includes Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. IOM, *Combating Trafficking in Persons in Central Asia: Prevention, Prosecution, Protection (ASPPP)*, [cited June 15, 2005]; available from http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Project/ServletSearchProject?event=detail&id=KZ1Z016.
To encourage school attendance, the government provides aid to students from low-income families in the form of scholarships, full or partial boarding, textbooks, and clothing. In addition, children from low-income households are provided with free medical services.

The government has a National Action Plan on Education for All with the goal of ensuring that by 2015 all children have access to free and compulsory primary education. Through its education reform program, the government is taking steps to expand compulsory education from 9 to 12 years.

The Asian Development Bank provides technical input to policy and program development, and funds education reforms in Uzbekistan. The ADB has provided a USD 55 million loan to promote the efficient and sustainable provision of affordable textbooks to schoolchildren.

USAID supports a basic education program with USD 400,000 for teacher training, strengthening the capacity of school management, increasing parent involvement in the schools, and providing computers to schools throughout the country.

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4907 Government of Uzbekistan, Executive Summary, 19.
4909 Three years of professional or vocational training in special training institutes or colleges would become mandatory. The program is expected to begin in 2007. See U.S. Embassy- Tashkent, reporting, August 26, 2005.
Vanuatu

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Vanuatu are unavailable. However, there are reports that many children assist their parents in family-owned agricultural production.

Access to school is limited, and there is no constitutional guarantee mandating that education be either compulsory or free. School fees can be as high as USD 400 a year, which may amount to 13 percent of per capita GDP. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 113 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 94 percent. 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 rates are unavailable for Vanuatu. As of 1999,

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4913 This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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 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.


4919 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?REportId=52 (Gross and Net enrolment Ratios, primary; accessed October 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definition of gross primary enrollment rate in the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report.

4920 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.
72 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.\textsuperscript{4921} The educational system is complicated by the use of 1 or 2 official languages in the classroom, while there are over 100 vernaculars used over many islands.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Under the Labor Code, children below the age of 12 are prohibited from working outside family-owned operations involved in agricultural production.\textsuperscript{4922} Children between the ages of 12 and 18 are restricted from working by occupation category and labor conditions, including working at night or in the shipping industry.\textsuperscript{4923}

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Vanuatu. Forced labor is prohibited by law.\textsuperscript{4924} Vanuatu’s Penal Code prohibits procuring, aiding or facilitating the prostitution of another person or sharing in the proceeds of prostitution.\textsuperscript{4925} No armed forces are maintained by the Government of Vanuatu. There were no reports of persons under 18 years in the security or paramilitary forces in Vanuatu.

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

Vanuatu’s Cultural Center, in collaboration with NGOs, is currently working with the Ministry of Education on primary school curriculum reform, in an effort to teach in the vernacular languages, improve relevance of education, and increase literacy levels.\textsuperscript{4926} The government is also working with UNICEF through the Ministry of Health, other government agencies, NGOs, and Pacific Island Regional Organizations to address issues of early childhood education.\textsuperscript{4927}

\textsuperscript{4922} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Vanuatu*, Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{4923} Ibid., Section 6d.
\textsuperscript{4924} Ibid., Section 6c.
\textsuperscript{4926} UNESCO, *Education ou aliénation?*
Venezuela

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 9.1 percent of children ages 10 to 14 years were counted as working in Venezuela in 2003. Approximately 11.4 percent of all boys 10 to 14 were working compared to 6.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the services sector (63.6 percent), followed by agricultural (25.9 percent), manufacturing (8.1 percent), and other sectors (2.4 percent). Children work mostly in the informal sector including in agriculture, domestic service, and street vending. Boys work mostly in agriculture (49 percent), commerce (27 percent), and manufacturing (14 percent). Girls work more in commerce (65.1 percent) and services (17.8 percent). Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 14.3 percent of the population in Venezuela were living on less than USD 1 a day.

Although little data on the problem is available, the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a problem in Venezuela. Venezuela is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Children trafficked to and through Venezuela come from countries such as Colombia, Guyana, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. Venezuelan children are trafficked internally and to destinations including Western Europe, notably Spain, and

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4928 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates, October 7, 2005. 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.


countries such as Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago. Children living near the Venezuelan border are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and forced recruitment by armed Colombian groups, as well as trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation to Guyanese mining camps.

The Constitution mandates free and compulsory education up to the university preparatory level (approximately to age 15 or 16). However, according to the U.S. Department of State, basic education suffers from chronic underfunding. Further, one hundred and eighty schools were damaged as a result of flooding in 2005. The Child and Adolescent Protection Act defines the state’s responsibility to provide flexible education schedules and programs designed for working children and adolescents. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 104 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 91 percent. 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. In 2003, 94.4 percent of children ages 10 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 84 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Indigenous children are legally guaranteed education in their

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4937 An additional 150 schools were used as shelters for those displaced by flooding. UNICEF, At a glance: Venezuela - Hundreds of thousands of children affected by floods, [online] [cited June 22, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/venezuela_25206.html.


4939 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed October 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance 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.

4940 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates.

primary language. However, indigenous children, children of African descent, and the extremely poor often do not have access to education.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

Venezuela’s Constitution prohibits adolescents from working if such work affects their development. The Child and Adolescent Protection Act sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years and the executive branch reserves the right to adjust the minimum age for dangerous or harmful work. However, there are exceptions to the minimum age. State and local Child and Adolescent Protection Councils may authorize adolescents 12 to 14 years of age to work, provided that the activity is not dangerous to their health or well being, does not obstruct their education, and the adolescent undergoes a health exam. All working adolescents are required to register with the Protection Council’s Adolescent Worker Registry. Adolescents are not permitted to work more than 6 hours per day or 30 hours per week. Children under age 18 may not work at night. The Labor Code contains additional provisions such as requiring parental permission for adolescents ages 14 to 16 to work, prohibiting work in mines and smelting factories, and prohibiting work that may risk the life, heath, or the intellectual or moral development of a child.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Venezuela. The Child and Adolescent Protection Act prohibits the sexual exploitation, slavery, forced labor, and trafficking of minors. Perpetrators are subject to prison sentences of 6 months to 8 years. Child pornography is prohibited and punishable by fines and confiscation of the material. Additionally, the Computer Crimes Law prohibits the use of any form of information technology to depict child pornography. Punishments range from 4 to 8 years of incarceration and fines, with increased penalties under certain circumstances. The Criminal Code establishes penalties ranging from 3 to 18 months

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4945 *Ley del Niño y del Adolescente*, Article 96.

4946 Ibid.

4947 Ibid., Article 98.

4948 Ibid., Article 102.

4949 Ibid.


4951 *Ley del Niño y del Adolescente*, Articles 33, 38, 40, and 79d.

4952 Ibid., Articles 255-258 and 266-267.

4953 Ibid., Article 237.

of incarceration for inducing the prostitution of a minor to another party, with punishments increased for up to 5 years of incarceration under aggravated circumstances. Promoting the prostitution of a minor to another party repeatedly or for profit, and the forced prostitution of a relative are both punishable by 3 to 6 years of incarceration. The Military Conscription and Enlistment Act sets the minimum recruitment age at 18. Secondary students are mandated by the Act to complete two years of pre-military instruction. Since 1999, the Government of Venezuela has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.4958

The Ministry of Labor and the National Institute for Minors are responsible for enforcing child labor laws. These laws are enforced effectively in the formal sector, but less so in the informal sector. The National Protection System for Children and Adolescents includes institutions such as state and local Councils on Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights that are responsible for monitoring children’s rights and Children’s and Adolescents’ Ombudsmen that are responsible for defending children’s rights. According to the U.S. Department of State, the actions of governmental institutions do not demonstrate a commitment to eliminating exploitative child labor. The U.S. Department of State also reports that the Government of Venezuela is not making a significant effort to combat trafficking, as insufficient resources, a weak legal system, and corruption hamper its efforts. There is no evidence that the government arrested individuals in relation to the commercial sexual exploitation of children or prosecuted any trafficking cases in 2004, the latest date for which such information is available.

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

The Ministry of Interior and Justice heads an inter-agency working group that is developing an anti-trafficking plan. In January 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held anti-trafficking workshops that included the IOM and the OAS. Venezuela, in coordination with UNICEF, has encouraged the legal registration of children through its

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4956 EPCAT International CSEC Database, *Venezuela; accessed June 22, 2005.*
4958 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
4960 UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, *Eighteenth Periodic Reports of States Parties Due in 2004*, para. 139, 140, and 142.
4962 Ibid.
4963 Ibid.
4965 Ibid.
National Identity Plan. Children without legal birth registration may be at higher risk for trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

The Ministry of Education and Sports has several strategies aimed at improving education. The “Alternative Educational Spaces Program” provides services to out-of-school youths with the objective of reinserting them in the formal educational system. Other projects include a pedagogy improvement project, a national literacy campaign (2003-2005) whose objectives include reaching out-of-school youth, a bilingual indigenous education project in coordination with UNICEF, and a school feeding program. The “Rights in My Size” program emphasizes children’s rights and promotes cooperation between pre-schools and public state and local agencies. Some children receive special services not generally available in conventional Venezuelan schools through the Bolivarian Education Project. At the pre-school and primary education levels this includes full-day education and meals through the “Simoncito Project” and “Bolivarian Schools.” At the secondary education level this includes school meals through “Bolivarian Lyceums.” Additionally, some youth receive technical training through the “New Schools.”

The Public Defender’s Office works with UNICEF to promote and defend the rights of minors, as well as to provide training and raise awareness. The Ministry of Health and Social Development is implementing a program to guarantee the rights of children

4974 Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministerio de Educación y Deportes de Venezuela: Lista de Páginas.  
and adolescents through strengthening the National Protections System as well as related projects with funding from the IDB.\textsuperscript{4976}

Yemen

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 23.7 percent of children ages 6 to 14 years were counted as working in Yemen in 2001. Approximately 27.2 percent of all boys 6 to 14 were working compared to 20.1 percent of girls in the same age group.\(^{4977}\) Children living in rural areas are more likely to work than children in urban areas.\(^{4978}\) The majority of working children work in agricultural sectors, including in the production of *qat* (a mild narcotic found in Yemen).\(^{4979}\) Children also work as street vendors, beggars, domestic servants, and in the fishing, leather, construction, textile, and automobile repair sectors.\(^{4980}\) Children employed in domestic service and working street children are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation.\(^{4981}\) Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 15.7 percent of the population in Yemen were living on less than USD 1 a day.\(^{4982}\)

\(^{4977}\) UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


\(^{4980}\) CHF International, *Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region*, project document, Silver Spring, MD, March 28, 2005, 7-8. It has been reported that children who work in restaurants have encountered sexual abuse. See Understanding Children's Work (UCW), *Understanding Children's Work in Yemen*, 2.


| Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Ratified Convention 138 | 6/15/00 | U |
| Ratified Convention 182 | 6/15/00 | U |
| ILO-IPEC Member | | U |
| National Plan for Children | | |
| National Child Labor Action Plan | | U |
| Sector Action Plan | | U |
Yemen is a country of origin and destination for child trafficking. The U.S. State Department reports that children are trafficked out of the country to work as street beggars, domestic help, or as camel jockeys in oil rich Gulf States, especially Saudi Arabia. Very young children are reportedly trafficked into Saudi Arabia and forced to beg or work, often with the consent of their parents. There have been reports of some parents driven by poverty to push their daughters into brief “tourist marriages” to male tourists from wealthy Gulf States, which can be considered another form of child prostitution. Children are also used as smugglers to move goods between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Children move back and forth across the border, smuggling in qat (an illegal substance in Saudi Arabia) and bringing back flour to sell at home. Children reportedly participate in ongoing conflicts among tribal groups and in the defense of qat fields.

The Constitution guarantees free and compulsory primary education to all Yemeni citizens from age 6 to 15 years. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, the law on compulsory education is not applied. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 83 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 72 percent. Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered


4988 It is culturally accepted that boys will be given their own gun between 10 and 16 years of age, varying by region. In rural areas in the north, boys often own or carry fully automatic assault rifles from the age of 15 years. See Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Yemen, 2. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2004.


4990 U.S. Embassy - Sana'a, reporting, May 21, 2005.

in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Children’s work interferes with school attendance, particularly in the agriculture and domestic service sectors. In 2001, 52.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 76 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. According to Ministry of Education estimates, more than 3 million children in Yemen are without access to education. Yemen has only an estimated 15,000 formal schools to serve the country’s population centers, many of which are too remote to provide sufficient infrastructure. The Government of Yemen has committed to building at least one new school per day, but would need to build at least four schools per day to keep pace with demand. Recently, the Government has been criticized for giving too much attention to increasing access to basic education, and insufficient efforts to improve the quality of schooling. The lack of trained teachers, especially female teachers and the lack of sanitary facilities at schools have been identified as major deterrents to enrollment and retention in rural areas, particularly for girls. Nearly half of primary school age girls in Yemen do not go to school.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The 2002 Yemeni Child Rights Law sets the minimum working age at 14 years; 15 years is the minimum age for industrial work. The law also emphasizes that children must be protected from all types of exploitation. The existing Labor Law stipulates that young persons (defined as any person below 15 years of age) may not be employed without the consent of his/her guardian and without notifying the Ministry’s specialized office. It is unclear which law would apply in the case of a child under 15 who is working with the consent of his/her parents. In addition, there are no restrictions on children of any age

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4993 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.


4995 Dr. Hashem Awnallah, Ministry of Planning- Republic of Yemen, "Progress and Challenges in Mainstreaming the Most Disadvantaged Children & Youth: Experiences from Yemen" (paper presented at the Urban Children and Youth in the MENA Region, Dubai, May 17, 2005).


working in family enterprises. Under the Labor Code of 1995, a young person may work up to 7 hours per day and must be allowed a 60-minute break after 4 hours of labor. A young person may work a maximum of 42 hours per week. An employer must secure the approval of a child’s guardian and notify the Ministry of Labor before employing a young person. The Labor Code prohibits hazardous working conditions for children. Overtime, night work, and work on official holidays are prohibited for young persons. Moreover, employers must grant every youth a 30-day annual leave for every 12-month period of labor completed. Neither the child nor the parent may waive this annual leave. The Labor Code further establishes the minimum wage for children to be not less than two-thirds that of an adult. Since 1999, the Government of Yemen has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor’s Child Labor Unit is responsible for enforcing child labor laws. The U.S. Department of State reports that while there are laws in place to regulate employment of children, the government’s enforcement of these provisions is limited, especially in remote areas. According to Understanding Children’s Work, a joint program of the World Bank, ILO-IPEC, and UNICEF, legal sanctions for child labor violations, including fines of 5,000-20,000 Yemeni Riyals (USD 28-111) and up to three months of imprisonment, are rarely applied.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Yemen. Children under age 18 are prohibited from entering the government armed forces. Although Yemeni law does not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons, there are provisions in the Penal Code to prosecute and punish traffickers. Article 248 of the Yemeni Penal Code stipulates a prison sentence of 10 years for “anyone who buys, sells, or gives as a present, or deals in human beings; and anyone who brings into the country or exports from it a human being with the intent of taking advantage of him.” If the offense is committed against a child, the prison term can be extended to 15 years. Article

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5000 It is estimated that 87 percent of child workers in Yemen are working in some kind of family enterprise. Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Yemen, 3.
5001 Labor Code, Article 48.
5002 Ibid., Articles 48-52.
5003 Ibid., Article 52.
5004 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
5005 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports- 2004: Yemen, Section 6d.
5006 Ibid. There are fewer than 20 child labor inspectors in Yemen. See U.S. Embassy- Sana'a, reporting, August 23, 2004.
5007 Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Yemen, 31. For currency conversions, see Oanda.com, FXConverter, [online] [cited December 9, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.
5008 Understanding Children's Work (UCW), Understanding Children's Work in Yemen, 2. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2004.
249 assigns a penalty of seven years in prison for kidnapping and the death penalty in kidnapping cases that involve sexual assault or murder. Articles 146, 147, and 161 of the Child Rights Law protect children from sexual and economic exploitation and other illegal activities. In 2004, the most recent year for which such information is available, the government investigated 12 cases of trafficking in children and referred two for prosecution, resulting in one conviction and a three-year prison sentence. In March, the U.S. State Department reported that there were numerous cases of aborted child trafficking operations intercepted by authorities during the year, particularly in the cities of Sana’a and Aden. The government has stated that it is extremely difficult to control Yemen’s long seacoast, and that lack of resources, security staff, and equipment have exacerbated the situation.

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

The Government of Yemen is implementing policies to curb child labor outlined in its National Strategy to Combat Child Labor and through its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which was designed to complement and support the government’s efforts to alleviate poverty. The government is also taking steps to combat child labor through its National Strategy for Integrating Youth into Development, which aims to enforce laws and legislation that prohibit child labor and undertake actions against any forms of exploitation of young people that adversely affect their mental, physical, social or ethical well-being, among other goals. The Ministry of Human Rights has established a center to receive complaints concerning the exploitation, trafficking, and sexual or other abuse of children, and has set up a hotline for this purpose.

With support from USDOL, the Government of Yemen is implementing a national program in cooperation with ILO-IPEC that aims to strengthen enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, build capacity, raise awareness on the negative consequences of child labor, and prevent and/or withdraw several thousand children engaged in or at risk

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5016 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports*, para. 56.
of engaging in the worst forms of child labor.\textsuperscript{5017} As part of this project, ILO-IPEC, with support from the Mayor of Sana’a, provides remedial education and vocational training in a rehabilitation center for street children who are engaged in exploitative forms of work or at-risk of entering child labor.\textsuperscript{5018} The Ministry of Labor’s Child Labor Unit is working with support from ILO-IPEC to analyze and update information on the worst forms of child labor in Yemen, and other aspects of child labor pertaining to gender, education, statistics, inspection, enforcement, occupational health and safety, and legislation; and to conduct additional policy analysis on the linkages between child labor and development issues.\textsuperscript{5019} The government is also participating in a USD 8 million sub-regional project funded by USDOL to combat child labor through education in Lebanon and Yemen.\textsuperscript{5020}

The Government of Yemen is increasing its efforts to combat trafficking in children and has signed agreements with neighboring countries in order to deal with the problem.\textsuperscript{5021} Yemeni authorities, with support from UNICEF, are also working to crack down on corruption of border guards who participate in trafficking and to raise awareness among parents about the dangers of child trafficking.\textsuperscript{5022} The government is also using its state-owned radio waves to broadcast programs for families aimed at raising awareness of child trafficking. The Yemeni government, in cooperation with UNICEF and ILO-IPEC, has set up a reception center at the Haradh border with Saudi Arabia to receive, rehabilitate, and educate child returnees. Since its launch in May until December 2005, the center had received more than 300 children.\textsuperscript{5023}

Although Yemen has the second lowest literacy rate for women in the Middle East,\textsuperscript{5024} the government is committed to improving overall basic education and bridging the gender gap.\textsuperscript{5025} The government has recently abolished primary school fees, assigned monetary penalties to parents who do not send their children to school, and prohibited

\textsuperscript{5017} The 4-year project, which began in September 2004, is targeting the following districts and sectors: Aden (fisheries); Hadramout-Seiyoon (rural child labor); and Sana’a (working street children). See ILO-IPEC, \textit{Supporting the National Policy and Programme Framework}, project document, 38.

\textsuperscript{5018} U.S. Embassy- Sana’a, \textit{reporting}, August 23, 2004. Throughout the year, the center holds classes after working hours to facilitate the transition from work to school. See U.S. Embassy- Sana’a, \textit{reporting}, August 18, 2003.

\textsuperscript{5019} ILO-IPEC, \textit{Supporting the National Policy and Programme Framework}, project document, 33.

\textsuperscript{5020} U.S. Department of Labor, \textit{United States Provides over $110 Million in Grants to Fight Exploitive Child Labor Around the World}, press release, Washington, DC, October 1, 2004. The 4-year project is targeting 3,000 children working and/or at-risk of working in agriculture or vulnerable to trafficking in Hajja, agricultural laborers in Ibb, and children working in the fishing industry in Abyan. See also CHF International, \textit{Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region}, cover page.

\textsuperscript{5021} UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, \textit{Consideration of Reports}, para. 22.

\textsuperscript{5022} Garwood, "Yemen Steps up Fight."

\textsuperscript{5023} Reuters, \textit{Yemen: Fears over increasing child trafficking}.


corporal punishment in schools to eliminate some of the main obstacles to education.\textsuperscript{5026} Through the National Strategy for Girls’ Education and the National Strategy for the Development of Basic Education 2000-2015, special classes have been established for girls in existing schools, and new primary and secondary schools have been built. Other efforts include teacher training, modernization of curricula, and the provision of better facilities and equipment to schools throughout Yemen.

Through the World Bank’s Education for All Fast Track Initiative, Yemen is one among 13 countries receiving expedited support to expand and improve the basic education sector and to provide all children with a primary school education by the year 2015.\textsuperscript{5027} In 2005, with support from the World Bank, the Government of Yemen began implementing a USD 65 million Basic Education Development Program to help increase access to basic education for all, particularly girls and disadvantaged groups, to enhance the quality of education and to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MOE).\textsuperscript{5028} The Government of Yemen and the World Bank are also continuing to implement the Basic Education Expansion Project, which aims to support national basic education sector strategies.\textsuperscript{5029} UNICEF is also working with the government to reduce the gender gap in primary education and improve educational quality.\textsuperscript{5030} USAID is supporting a USD 4.7 million project to increase access to and improve the quality of basic education at the school level.\textsuperscript{5031}

\textsuperscript{5026}UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports, paras. 7-8, 34.


\textsuperscript{5030}Activities include training teachers, headmasters, and teachers and parents’ councils, and raising awareness at the community, regional, and national levels. See UNICEF, Promoting Girls' Education in Yemen.

\textsuperscript{5031}U.S. Embassy-Sana'a official, email communication, February 17, 2004.
Zambia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 11.2 percent of children ages 5 to 14 were counted as working in Zambia in 1999. Approximately 11.5 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 10.8 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the agricultural sector (90.1 percent), followed by services (9.1 percent), manufacturing (0.5 percent) and other sectors (0.3 percent).\(^{5032}\) Children work in the hotel and catering industries, as well as in domestic service, and transportation.\(^{5033}\) In urban areas, children work in street vending.\(^{5034}\) According to ILO-IPEC, it is not uncommon to find children working in hazardous industries and occupations, including stone crushing and construction.\(^{5035}\) Children also work in mining.\(^{5036}\) Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 63.7 percent of the population in Zambia were living on less than USD 1 a day.\(^{5037}\)

It is estimated that there are as many as 1 million orphans under age 15 in Zambia, primarily due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.\(^{5038}\) These orphans often migrate to urban areas and live on the streets.\(^{5039}\) The problem of child prostitution is widespread in Zambia and, in Lusaka, it can be partly attributed to the growing numbers of street children.\(^{5040}\) Zambia is a source and transit country for women and children who are trafficked for

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\(^{5032}\) UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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.


\(^{5034}\) Ibid.


\(^{5039}\) In the city of Lusaka alone, an estimated 30,000 children live on the streets. Ibid., Sections 5 and 6d.

\(^{5040}\) See Ibid., Section 5.
commercial sexual exploitation. Zambian police in 2004 intercepted a group of 14 Congolese girls between the ages of 5 to 17 years being trafficked to South Africa.

According to government policy, education is free for the first 9 years of primary school, but not compulsory. The government continues to prohibit mandatory uniforms and school fees for primary school students. However, the lack of educational materials and inadequate educational facilities in Zambia remains a problem and education is inaccessible for many families. In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 82 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 68 percent. 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. In 1999, 52.8 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school. As of 2001, 98 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5. Since 1990, enrollment rates have increased only marginally, due to the lack of schools, distances from children’s homes to schools, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of textbooks and learning materials. In primary school, the number of boys and girls are approximately equal, but in secondary school, fewer girls attend.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The Constitution establishes 15 years as the minimum age for employment and states that under no circumstance can children under 15 be forced or allowed to engage in any work that would harm their health or education or interfere with their physical, mental, or moral development. The Employment of Young Persons and Children Act of 1933 prohibits children up to the age of 18 from engaging in hazardous work, but commercial

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5044 Ibid.
5045 Ibid.
5046 Ibid.
5049 UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.
farms are exempt from this law. The government’s ban on street vending has had the effect of moving street vendors to designated marketplaces where they are regulated by child labor laws.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Zambia. Although Zambia does not have a comprehensive trafficking law, the Constitution prohibits forced labor and trafficking of children. The Employment of Young Persons and Children’s (Amendment) Act 2004 made the worst forms of child labor illegal in Zambia, including child prostitution, slavery in all of its forms, military conscription, and work that is harmful to the safety, health, or morals of children and young people. The law also prohibits the trafficking of children under 18 years. Children between the ages of 13 and 15 years are permitted to perform light work under certain conditions. The Defense Act prohibits children who are “under the apparent age of 18” from being recruited into the military without the consent of a parent, guardian, or local District Secretary. Since 1999, the Government of Zambia has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) is responsible for enforcing labor laws and has established a child labor unit to specifically address issues relating to child labor. The MLSS conducts inspections of workplaces and investigates child labor complaints. The Employment of Young Persons and Children’s Act gives labor inspectors the authority to enter households and farms in order to investigate potential child labor violations. The Act also allows the MLSS to bring child labor charges which can result in a fine or imprisonment. The U.S. Department of State reports that the MLSS Child Labor Unit is currently underfunded, as its budget was substantially reduced

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5059 The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is concerned that the law is stated in terms of “apparent age,” and noted that births were registered in Zambia at a rate of less than 10 percent in 1999. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Child Soldiers Global Report 2004: Zambia, London, November 17, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=966.
5060 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.
5062 Ibid. See also Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Zambia official, Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Zambia, June 6, 2001.
in 2005. The Zambian Police’s Victim Support Unit is responsible for monitoring trafficking reports and reporting on its anti-trafficking efforts.

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

The Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Child Development received funding in 2005 for a program that provides education and skills training for children who have been removed from the streets, including prostitutes and older youth. The government also continues to work with NGOs to relocate street children and place them in educational settings. The government also continues to undertake awareness-raising activities to sensitize lawmakers, teachers, and trade union officials about child labor. In addition, the government has sponsored efforts to raise awareness about child domestic labor in local communities. The government, with the support of ILO-IPEC, is developing child labor training manuals for its labor officers, and data and monitoring systems for its inspectors and investigators. Despite its budget reduction, the MLSS Child Labor Unit hired 49 new labor inspectors, officers, and prosecutors in 2005 to aid enforcement of child labor laws.

The Government of Zambia participates in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional capacity-building project. It also participated in an ILO-IPEC regional project through May of 2005, which targeted children working in commercial agriculture, particularly in the cotton industry, commercial sexual exploitation, and domestic work. In addition, Zambia is part of a regional ILO-IPEC project that provides skills training to children in the worst forms of child labor in the urban informal sector. This project is funded by the Canadian government, and is also being implemented in Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Zambian government is also collaborating with Jesus Cares Ministries on the second phase of a USDOL-funded Child Labor Education Initiative project that aims to withdraw and prevent children from engaging in exploitive work through the provision of educational services. The project targets children who are working in

5066 The Government of Zambia allocated USD 333,333 for this program, which converts Zambia National Service camps into education centers. The program has benefited 200 street children to date and expects to reach 1,000 children once renovations to the camps have been completed. U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, reporting, August 28, 2005. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, reporting, August 24, 2004. See also U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, reporting, August 19, 2003.
5068 Ibid.
5069 Ibid.
5070 Ibid.
5071 Ibid.
5073 ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8.
prostitution, stone-crushing, and agriculture.\textsuperscript{5074} The government is also working with IOM in border areas to train police and immigration officers to identify and investigate human trafficking.\textsuperscript{5075}

In 2005, the Government of Zambia continued to implement its universal primary education program, called the Basic Education Sub-Sector Investment Program (BESSIP), with the support of the World Bank and other donors.\textsuperscript{5076} BESSIP specifically targets working children.\textsuperscript{5077} The government also works with UNICEF to help girls stay in or return to school as part of the Program for the Advancement of Girls’ Education.\textsuperscript{5078} In addition to these activities, the Ministry of Education is implementing a program to combat child labor that includes policy coordination, curriculum review, and awareness-raising activities.\textsuperscript{5079}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{5075} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Zambia}.
\item \textsuperscript{5076} The Government of Zambia is the largest contributor to the USD 340 million BESSIP program, with its allocation of USD 167 million; other donors have contributed USD 133 million, and the World Bank has contributed USD 40 million for the program. See Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, \textit{Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper}, Government of the Republic of Zambia, Lusaka, July 7, 2000, Section 24.
\item \textsuperscript{5077} See U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, electronic communication to USDOL official, October 29, 2003.
\item \textsuperscript{5078} U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Zambia}, Section 5.
\item \textsuperscript{5079} U.S. Embassy- Lusaka, \textit{reporting}, August 24, 2004.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
Zimbabwe

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Zimbabwe are unavailable.\textsuperscript{5080} Over 90 percent of economically active children age 5 to 17 reside in rural areas.\textsuperscript{5081} These children often work in traditional and commercial farming, forestry, and fishing.\textsuperscript{5082} Many of these children work for long hours in the fields, in some cases in order to pay for schooling.\textsuperscript{5083} The incidence of child labor on commercial farms has decreased, however, as a result of the government’s land redistribution program.\textsuperscript{5084} Children also work in domestic service, small-scale mining, gold panning, quarrying, construction, microindustries, manufacturing, trade, restaurants, and as beggars.\textsuperscript{5085} The high unemployment rate has contributed to an increased incidence of children working in the informal sector as more children have been forced to fill the income gap left by ill and unemployed relatives.\textsuperscript{5086} Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, 56.1 percent of the population in Zimbabwe were living on less than USD 1 a day.\textsuperscript{5087}

\begin{table}[!h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|}
\hline
Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments &  \\
\hline
Ratified Convention 138 & 6/6/2000 & U  \\
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Ratified Convention 182 & 12/11/2000 & U  \\
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ILO-IPEC Associated Member &  \\
\hline
National Plan for Children &  \\
\hline
National Child Labor Action Plan &  \\
\hline
Sector Action Plan &  \\
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\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{5080} This statistic is not available for the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the “Data Sources and Definitions” section of this report 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.


\textsuperscript{5082} Ibid., para. 45, 60. See also Line Eldring, Sabata Nakanyane, and Malehoko Tshoaedi, "Child Labor in the Tobacco Growing Sector in Africa" (paper presented at the IUF/ITGA/BAT Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor, Nairobi, October 8-9, 2000), 87. Children from rural areas are also often recruited to work as domestics in the houses of distant kin or unrelated employers for long hours with little free time.

\textsuperscript{5083} Children work after school during the planting and harvesting seasons and full time during holidays. See Eldring, Nakanyane, and Tshoaedi, "Child Labor in the Tobacco Growing Sector," 84.


\textsuperscript{5086} In 2004, the unemployment rate was estimated to be as high as 80 percent. U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Zimbabwe}, Section 6d.

\textsuperscript{5087} World Bank, \textit{World Development Indicators 2005} [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.
In July 2002, the government announced that as of January 2003, national youth training camps, also known as youth militia training, would be compulsory for all children completing school.\footnote{Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Child Soldiers Global Report 2004}, November 17, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=803.} While the purpose of the camps is to build self-esteem, equip children with job skills, and reinforce their understanding of Zimbabwe’s struggle for independence, reports indicate that no real vocational instruction takes place and that trainees are subjected to poor conditions and political indoctrination.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Zimbabwe}, Section 5.} In addition, girls as young as 11 or 12 were said to have been repeatedly raped at the camps, including by officials.\footnote{Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, \textit{Child Soldiers Global Report 2004}. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, ""Green Bombers" deserting poor conditions in camps", [online], January 23, 2004; available from http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=39106.}

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has also increased children’s vulnerability to exploitative work.\footnote{Zimbabwe suffers from one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world, with 24.6 percent of adults HIV infected, and 120,000 children infected. See UNAIDS/WHO, \textit{UNAIDS/WHO Epidemiological Fact Sheet - Zimbabwe}, 2004 Update, 2.} The epidemic has left close to 1 million children orphaned and has forced children or adolescents who head their families to work in order to survive.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Zimbabwe}, Section 5.} Government-funded and private orphanages are filled to capacity, and the number of street children continued to rise dramatically, severely straining formal and traditional social safety systems.\footnote{Ibid.} The situation facing many children has led them to rely increasingly on dangerous survival strategies such as poaching, theft, and prostitution.\footnote{Ibid.  See also UNICEF, \textit{At a Glance: Zimbabwe}, UNICEF, [online] [cited May 13, 2005]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/zimbabwe.html.}

Zimbabwe is a source and transit country for the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children, according to the U.S. Department of State.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Trafficking in Persons Report- 2004: Zimbabwe}, online, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., June 14, 2004; available from http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/33189.htm.} There were reports that women and children were internally trafficked to southern border towns as well as to South Africa for commercial sexual exploitation.\footnote{Ibid.} There were also reports of police or immigration officials sexually abusing children at the borders of Botswana and South Africa.\footnote{Ibid.}

Education is neither free nor compulsory in Zimbabwe.\footnote{U.S. Department of State, \textit{Country Reports- 2004: Zimbabwe}, Section 5.} The HIV/AIDS crisis and increasing school fees have combined to increase dropout rates and reduce school enrollment and attendance.\footnote{Ibid.} In 2003, the gross primary enrollment rate was 93 percent
and the net primary enrollment rate was 79 percent. 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 rates are not available for Zimbabwe. As of 2002, 70 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.

**Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The minimum age for employment is 13 years. Children between the ages of 13 and 15 may be employed if they are apprentices or if their work is an integral part of a vocational training program. At age 15, children may engage in light work beyond training programs, and young persons under the age of 18 years are prohibited from performing work that might jeopardize their health, safety, or morals.

The Children’s Protection and Adoption Amendment Act prohibits the involvement of children in hazardous labor. The act defines hazardous labor as any work likely to interfere with the education of children; expose children to hazardous substances; involve underground mining; require the use of electronically powered hand tools, cutting, or grinding blades; expose children to extreme conditions; or occur during a night shift.

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Zimbabwe. The Criminal Code prohibits children from visiting or residing in a brothel and prohibits anyone from causing the seduction, abduction, or prostitution of children. No laws specifically address trafficking in persons. The Sexual Offenses Act criminalizes the transportation of persons across borders for sex. Both the Constitution and Labor Relations Amendment Act prohibit forced labor. However, the Labor Relations Amendment Act makes an exception for labor required from a member of a disciplined force, presumably allowing for compulsory service in the National Youth Service.

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5101 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.
5105 Ibid.
Under the Sexual Offenses Act of 2001, a person convicted of prostituting a child under the age of 12 years is subject to a fine of up to ZWD 35,000 (USD 5.60) or imprisonment of up to 7 years. The Sexual Offenses Act also establishes a maximum fine of ZWD 50,000 (USD 8.06) and a maximum prison sentence of 10 years for procuring another person for prostitution or sex inside and outside of the country. Since 1999, the Government of Zimbabwe has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.

According to an ILO report, labor regulations, including child labor laws, are poorly enforced because of weak interpretations of the laws, a lack of labor inspectors, and a poor understanding among those affected of their basic legal rights. While reports indicate that labor relations officers from the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare are responsible for general enforcement of labor regulations, it is unclear if they also handle child labor cases. The Zimbabwe Republic Police serve as the primary authority to combat trafficking and the Department of Immigration monitors borders. Although the government has established Victim Friendly Courts in Harare (where abuses perpetrated against children can be tried), no trafficking cases had been prosecuted as of 2004, the latest year for which such information is available.

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

While the government has completed the development of a National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children to help ensure that such children are able to access education, food, and health services and are protected from abuse and exploitation, the plan had not been enacted by the end of 2004 due to a lack of budgetary resources. The Government of Zimbabwe has a Child Labor Task Force Committee to define child labor, identify child exploitation, recognize problem areas, and propose legislation to resolve these problems.
Monies from the universal AIDS payroll tax have been allocated through the National AIDS councils for a number of supportive services for orphans, including funds to cover school expenses. On May 19, 2005, however, the Government of Zimbabwe commenced Operation Murambatsvina, also referred to as Operation Restore Order, in an attempt to “drive out filth” from illegal dwellings and structures and to combat alleged unlawful activities. It is estimated that 700,000 residents (over 200,000 children) have lost either their homes, jobs, or both, causing an estimated drop in school enrollment between 20 and 25 percent.

The government engaged in anti-trafficking efforts and programs to combat sexual exploitation of children. In 2005, the Attorney General’s office began developing an anti-trafficking education and training program for prosecutors and judges to equip them to better utilize existing law to address trafficking-related issues in prosecutions.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Social Welfare’s Children in Difficult Circumstances Program and the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) provide school fees, uniforms and books for children who cannot afford to attend school. By the second term of the 2004 school year, education assistance given to orphans and disadvantaged children through BEAM had run out due to a hike in school fees, leaving at least 800,000 children receiving support unable to pay the higher fees. Corruption in the beneficiary selection process also undermined the provision of these social welfare grants, with selection committees in some communities directing grants to relatives, friends, and political supporters. UNICEF and other international organizations are assisting with the government’s education efforts and have been particularly involved in school feeding programs during the recent food crisis.
of rehabilitating 100 satellite schools, and training 15,000 primary school teachers to teach life skills and provide education on HIV/AIDS to 500,000 pupils.\textsuperscript{5129} The Ministry of Education operates 489 satellite schools on formerly white-owned commercial farms to accommodate the close to 70,000 children whose families have been resettled from communal lands.\textsuperscript{5130} Satellite schools, often criticized for their poor quality education and resulting high absenteeism, function as unregistered learning centers affiliated with local official schools.\textsuperscript{5131}
Territories and Non-Independent Countries

There is limited information regarding the extent and nature of child labor and the quality and provision of education in non-independent countries and territories eligible for GSP, AGOA, and CBTPA benefits. These countries and territories generally are not eligible to become members of the ILO, so ILO Conventions 138 and 182 do not apply to any of them.⁵¹³² Territories are subject to laws of the sovereign country.

Anguilla (territory of the United Kingdom)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Anguilla are unavailable.⁵¹³³ Information is unavailable on the incidence and nature of child labor. The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, and prohibits night work for children under the age of 18 years.⁵¹³⁴ The Education Act of 1994 mandates compulsory education for 13 years from the age of 5 through 17 years.⁵¹³⁵ In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 100 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 95 percent.⁵¹³⁶ 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 Anguilla. According to the population Census 2001 there was a small number of children below age 15 years not attending school due to severe physical or mental disabilities. The Special Needs Department of the Ministry of Education promotes activities to expand access to education for these children.⁵¹³⁷ The Government of Anguilla is implementing a 5-year Education Development Plan that aims to increase access to quality education, improve teacher assessments and retention rates, promote curriculum standardization, provide

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⁵¹³² ILO official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, January 31, 2002. Most of the areas covered in this summary report are considered by the ILO to be non-metropolitan territories and therefore, are ineligible to become members of the ILO. An ILO member can submit a declaration to the ILO requesting that these conventions apply to their non-metropolitan territories. See ILO, Constitution; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/about/iloconst.htm.

⁵¹³³ 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.


⁵¹³⁵ U.S. Department of State official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, March 16, 2004.

⁵¹³⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51 (Gross and Net Enrolment 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 glossary of this report.

⁵¹³⁷ U.S. Department of State official, e-mail communication, March 16, 2004.
increased teacher training, and increase the emphasis on social education and the involvement of teachers in educational planning.5138

**British Virgin Islands (territory of the United Kingdom)**

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in the British Virgin Islands are unavailable.5139 Under the Education Ordinance, children must attend school until the age of 14.5140 In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 107 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 94 percent.5141 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 the British Virgin Islands. The Development Planning Unit’s Social Welfare Policy of 2002 calls for universal access to and completion of primary education.5142 The Labor Standards set the minimum age for employment at 14 years.5143 The government has set up a Complaints Commission to handle complaints of violations of children’s rights.5144

**Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands (territories of Australia)**

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 on Christmas Island and in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are unavailable.5145 Western Australian (W.A.) state laws on education and child welfare apply to both territories. The W.A. Child Welfare Act of 1947 prohibits work during school hours and night work for children under 15 years.5146 Causing, permitting or seeking to induce a child under 18 years to be involved in prostitution or pornography can result in 14 years of imprisonment under the W.A.

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5139 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.


5141 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *(Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005).*


5145 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.

5146 *Western Australia Child Welfare Act 1947*, Section 107B(2); available from http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/statutes/swans.nsf/5d62daee56e9e4b348256ebd0012c422/4011418e908f429c4825664d000a775f$FILE/Child%20Welfare%20Act%201947.PDF.
Prostitution Act. The Australian Federal Police are responsible for enforcing laws on Christmas Island. Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 to 15. Primary school enrollment and attendance statistics are not available for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island.

Cook Islands (self-governing state in free association with New Zealand)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in the Cook Islands are unavailable. According to the Education Act, education is compulsory and free for children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Recent primary school enrollment and attendance statistics are not available for the Cook Islands. The Ministry of Education developed a 5-year plan in 2004 that seeks to improve the quality and efficiency of pre-primary through secondary education. A National Youth Policy was launched in 2003.

The Industrial and Labor Ordinance of 1964 prohibits the employment of children under the age of 16 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. and on Sundays and holidays. Children under the age of 18 may not work in dangerous occupations, unless they have been trained to handle dangerous machinery. The Labor and Consumer Affairs Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for monitoring the implementation of child labor laws.

Falkland Islands (territory of the United Kingdom)

Statistics on the number of children working under age 15 in the Falkland Islands are unavailable. According to the Government of the Falkland Islands, in 2002 there were no children below compulsory school age working full time and there have been no

5149 Western Australia School Education Act 1999, Section 6; available from http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/statutes/yrbyyr.nsf/2c010fb704a3a348256865002a4868/25ce0e8c00c8e7f8482568260006183f?OpenDocument.
5150 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.
5151 UNESCO, Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Cook Islands, prepared by Ministry of Education, pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 52/84, Section 1.2; available from http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/cook_islands/rapport_1.htm. See also U.S. Embassy-Auckland official, e-mail communication, October 1, 2001.
5154 U.S. Embassy-Auckland official, e-mail communication, October 1, 2001.
5155 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.
recent cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.5156  In addition, the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom received no reports or complaints of child labor violations in 2004, the most recent date such information was available.5157  Education is free and compulsory from 5 years of age until the end of the academic year during which a child reaches 16 years of age. Primary school enrollment and attendance statistics are not available for the Falkland Islands.

The Employment of Children Ordinance prohibits the employment of children under the age of 14. Children 16 and under cannot work during school hours, before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on any day, for more than 2 hours on a school day or on Sundays.5158  The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance of 1967 prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in industrial establishments.5159

Sexual activity with a child under 13 years can result in up to 14 years of imprisonment under the United Kingdom’s Sexual Offenses Act of 2003. The act also specifically prohibits the purchase of a child for sexual services and causing, controlling, arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography.5160  The government is not currently implementing any policies or programs to address child labor, as this is not perceived to be a problem, because of the 100 percent school enrollment rate and the restrictions on employment in the Children’s Ordinance.5161  The government has yet to establish an independent mechanism to review complaints from children concerning violations of their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.5162

**Gibraltar (territory of the United Kingdom)**

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Gibraltar are unavailable.5163  The Foreign Office of the United Kingdom received no reports or complaints of child labor violations in 2004.5164  Information on the incidence and nature of child labor is unavailable. Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 4 and

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5156 The most recent year a report was received from the government was 2002. That year, the government reported that it has no records of how many children between the ages of 14 and 18 are working on a part-time basis. See Alison A.M. Inglis, Crown Counsel, e-mail communication to USDOL official, September 11, 2002.

5157 U.S. Department of State official, e-mail communication to USDOL official, May 24, 2005.

5158 Inglis, e-mail communication, September 11, 2002.

5159 Rosalind Cheek, Crown Counsel, Attorney General’s Chambers, e-mail communication to USDOL official, December 21, 2000.


5161 Inglis, e-mail communication, September 11, 2002.

5162 Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations*, para. 15.

5163 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.

5164 U.S. Department of State official, e-mail communication, May 24, 2005.
15 years.\textsuperscript{5165} Primary school enrollment and attendance statistics are not available for Gibraltar. Procuring a girl under 18 years of age, permitting a girl under 16 years of age to use premises for intercourse, and causing or encouraging prostitution of a girl under 16 years of age are illegal.\textsuperscript{5166} Slavery, servitude, and forced labor are prohibited under the Gibraltar Constitution Order of 1969.\textsuperscript{5167} The Employment and Training Ordinance prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15 years in any industrial undertaking, and from working at night or underground.\textsuperscript{5168} Labor Inspectors are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Employment Ordinance.\textsuperscript{5169} The Convention on the Rights of the Child has not yet been extended to include Gibraltar.\textsuperscript{5170}

**Montserrat (territory of the United Kingdom)**

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Montserrat are unavailable.\textsuperscript{5171} Information is also unavailable on the incidence and nature of child labor. However, the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom received no reports or complaints of child labor violations in 2004, the most recent date such information was available.\textsuperscript{5172} The government has yet to establish an independent mechanism to review complaints from children concerning violations of their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.\textsuperscript{5173} Education is compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 16, and free up to the age of 17.\textsuperscript{5174} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 118 percent.\textsuperscript{5175} 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 rates are unavailable for Montserrat. However, the incidence of truancy and the number of drop-outs from school is increasing.\textsuperscript{5176}

\textsuperscript{5170} Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations*, para. 5.  
\textsuperscript{5171} 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.  
\textsuperscript{5172} U.S. Department of State official, e-mail communication, May 24, 2005.  
\textsuperscript{5173} Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations*, para. 15.  
\textsuperscript{5174} U.S. Department of State official, e-mail communication, March 16, 2004. See also Alex Ackie, Clerical Officer, Governor's Office, e-mail communication to USDOL official, January 23, 2001.  
\textsuperscript{5175} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, (Gross and Net Enrolment 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 glossary of this report.  
\textsuperscript{5176} Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations*, para. 43.
Niue (self-governing state in free association with New Zealand)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Niue are unavailable.\textsuperscript{5177} Information is also unavailable on the incidence and nature of child labor. Education is compulsory from 5 to 16 years of age.\textsuperscript{5178} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 126 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 99 percent.\textsuperscript{5179} 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 Niue. The Niue Youth Council is implementing a 2003-2008 National Youth Policy to empower youth and prevent emigration.\textsuperscript{5180}

Norfolk Island (jointly-governed territory of Australia)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 on Norfolk Island are unavailable.\textsuperscript{5181} Norfolk Island’s Employment Act prohibits employment for children younger than 15 years during school hours and at night.\textsuperscript{5182} The Island’s Education Act makes education free and compulsory for children ages 5 to 15 years.\textsuperscript{5183} Primary school enrollment and attendance statistics are not available for Norfolk Island.

Pitcairn Islands (territory of the United Kingdom)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in the Pitcairn Islands are unavailable.\textsuperscript{5184} In 2002, the Government of Pitcairn Islands reported that there were no working children in the territory.\textsuperscript{5185} Children under age 15 are prohibited from engaging in paid government work.\textsuperscript{5186} Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15.\textsuperscript{5187} Primary school enrollment and attendance statistics are not available for the

\textsuperscript{5177} 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. ILO, LABORSTA, [online] August 2005; available from http://laborsta.ilo.org/.
\textsuperscript{5179} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross enrollment rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.
\textsuperscript{5180} Tangata Vainerere, A Sense of Direction for our Youth. See also Pacific Youth Bureau, Pacific Youth Strategy 2005 Updates, 2005; available from http://www.spc.int/youth/PYS_2005/niue.htm.
\textsuperscript{5181} U.S. Embassy- Canberra, submission, May 2005.
\textsuperscript{5183} U.S. Embassy- Canberra, submission, May 2005.
\textsuperscript{5184} 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.
\textsuperscript{5185} Leon Salt, Commissioner for Pitcairn Islands, e-mail communication to USDOL official, August 25, 2002.
\textsuperscript{5186} Leon Salt, Commissioner for Pitcairn Islands, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 7, 2000.
\textsuperscript{5187} Ibid.
Pitcairn Islands. Under the Summary Offences Ordinance, a parent or guardian who does not ensure the regular attendance of their child at school can be fined up to NZD 25 (USD 17.59).5188

Saint Helena (territory of the United Kingdom)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Saint Helena are unavailable;5189 however, in 2000, the Government of St. Helena reported that there were no working children in the territory.5190 The minimum age for employment is 15 years.5191 Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15.5192 Primary school enrollment and attendance rates are unavailable for St. Helena. St. Helena participates in a Joint Child Protection Strategy with other South Atlantic territories.5193

Tokelau (self-administering territory of New Zealand)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Tokelau are unavailable.5194 Information is also unavailable on the incidence and nature of child labor. Education is compulsory for 12 years, or up to age 16.5195 Primary school enrollment and attendance rates are not available for Tokelau.

Turks and Caicos Islands (territory of the United Kingdom)

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in the Turks and Caicos Islands are unavailable.5196 Information is also unavailable on the incidence and nature of child labor. The Turks and Caicos Employment Ordinance of 2004 sets the minimum age of employment at 15 years and stipulates that children under 16 years must have parental or guardian consent to work. However, children under 16 years may work for family members.5197 The Constitution of Turks and Caicos prohibits slavery and forced labor.5198 The government provides 13 years of basic education to children from age 4 to

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5188 Salt, e-mail communication, August 25, 2002. For currency conversion see FXConverter, [online] [cited December 12, 2005]; available from http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic.
5189 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.
5190 Gillian Francis, Assistant Secretary, e-mail communication to USDOL official, November 24, 2000.
5191 Ibid.
5192 Ibid.
5194 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.
5196 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.
In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 84 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 73 percent.\textsuperscript{5200} 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 the Turks and Caicos Islands. The government has set up a Complaints Commission to handle complaints of violations of children’s rights.\textsuperscript{5201}

**West Bank and Gaza Strip (Occupied Territories Subject to the Jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority)**

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in West Bank and Gaza are unavailable.\textsuperscript{5202} The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics published results from a 2004 Labor Force Survey, which estimated that 1.1 percent of children ages 10 to 14 were working in West Bank and Gaza during that year.\textsuperscript{5203} The survey estimated that 46.1 percent of working children are employed in agriculture, fishing, and forestry, while 6.6 percent are employed in construction. Two-thirds of working children are employed as unpaid family members, while 28.1 percent are employed as wage employees outside the home.\textsuperscript{5204} The survey also reported that 7.6 percent of working children were exposed to injury or chronic disease during their work,\textsuperscript{5205} and 24.3 percent of child laborers do not attend school.\textsuperscript{5206} There are also reports that children have received military training and function as fighters or as human shields for Palestinian armed groups.\textsuperscript{5207}

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\textsuperscript{5200} These figures are down from 99 percent gross and 88 percent net primary enrollment in 2001. See UNESCO Institute for Statistics, (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005).

\textsuperscript{5201} Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations*, para. 15.

\textsuperscript{5202} 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.

\textsuperscript{5203} Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Survey - Annual Report 2004*; available from http://www.pcbs.org/lab_annual04/tab_2.aspx. The Central Bureau of Statistics conducted another survey in 2004 with a sample size of 10,334 households with 8,601 households having at least one child. Of the children in the survey sample, only 1.7 percent meet the definition of child labor as used by the survey. Child labor, according to PCBS, is defined as unpaid family work, domestic work, or any type of paid work. For children ages 12 to 14 years, working more than 14 hours per week is considered child labor. For children ages 15 to 17 years, working more than 40 hours per week is considered child labor. See Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, *Child Labor Survey, 2004: Main Findings*, July 2004, 19, 24, 27; available from http://www.pcbs.org/press_r/lfs_child04e.pdf.

\textsuperscript{5204} Ibid., 29.

\textsuperscript{5205} Ibid., 27.

Education is compulsory through grade nine.\textsuperscript{5208} In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 99 percent, and the net enrollment rate was 91 percent.\textsuperscript{5209} 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 the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Although gross and net enrollment rates are high, many girls marry early and do not complete the mandatory level of schooling, and in rural areas and refugee camps, boys often drop out of school early to help support their families.\textsuperscript{5210} The U.S. Department of State reports that closures and checkpoints limit children’s and teachers’ access to schooling and that student learning is negatively affected by the violent security situation.\textsuperscript{5211} It has been reported that a shortage of 5,000 classrooms exists in the Arab sector of the public education system.\textsuperscript{5212}

The minimum age for work in the West Bank and Gaza is 15 years, and there are restrictions on the employment of children between the ages of 15 and 18. The restrictions include prohibitions against night work, work under conditions of hard labor, or jobs that require them to travel outside their domicile.\textsuperscript{5213} The Palestinian Authority is responsible for enforcing the area’s labor laws; however, the U.S. Department of State reports that with only 40 labor inspectors for an estimated 65,000 enterprises, the Authority has limited capacity to enforce labor laws.\textsuperscript{5214} There is no law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons. No trafficking incidents have been reported.\textsuperscript{5215}

The Child Rights Charter, passed by the Palestinian Legislative Council, is in effect to protect and guarantee the rights of children in West Bank and Gaza. Under this charter investigations into allegations of recruiting and exploiting children in armed operations are required, and those responsible for such activities are to be tried in a court of law.\textsuperscript{5216}

The Palestinian Authority is working with UNICEF to improve child labor laws and enforcement, and with ILO-IPEC to assess the extent and nature of child labor in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.\textsuperscript{5217} Through 2004, UNICEF provided 40,000 children with uniforms and school supplies, and distributed 375 school-in-a-box kits to reach 30,000

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students in affected Gaza schools.\textsuperscript{5218} The World Bank is working with the Ministry of Social Affairs to implement a Social Safety Net project, which is assisting poor and vulnerable children access education through a conditional cash transfer program.\textsuperscript{5219}

**Western Sahara**

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Western Sahara are unavailable; however, the U.S. Department of State reports that child labor does not seem to be a problem.\textsuperscript{5220} Residents of Western Sahara are subject to Moroccan labor laws that set the minimum age for employment at 15 years.\textsuperscript{5221} Forced labor is prohibited under Moroccan law, and a law imposes fines and prison terms against those involved in trafficking in persons.\textsuperscript{5222} Education is compulsory for 8 years.\textsuperscript{5223} Information regarding government policies and programs to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in Western Sahara is unavailable.

**Other Territories and Non-Independent Countries**

Information on the incidence and nature of child labor, child labor laws and legislation, and government policies and programs to eliminate the worst forms of child labor is unavailable for the following territories and non-independent countries: British Indian Ocean Territory (territory of the United Kingdom), Heard Island and MacDonald Islands (territory of Australia), and Wallis and Futuna (territory of France).


\textsuperscript{5221} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Western Sahara*. See also Lawrence Connell, e-mail communication to USDOL official, January 29, 2002.

\textsuperscript{5222} U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Western Sahara*.

\textsuperscript{5223} UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *National Education Systems*. 