

¹⁵⁴⁸ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, reporting, February 21, 2008, para 29a. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Guinea Bissau."

¹⁵⁴⁹ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, technical progress report, Washington, DC, September 1, 2006, 2.

¹⁵⁵⁰ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 5-7. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, Technical progress Report, 10-

11.

¹⁵⁵¹ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, reporting, February 21, 2008, para 27a.

¹⁵⁵² Ibid., para 27a, 27b and 29j. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Guinea Bissau."

¹⁵⁵³ UNICEF, *Under the Facade of Religious Study*. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "On the Child Trafficking Route". See also U.S. Embassy - Dakar, reporting, February 21, 2008, para 27e, 30b.

¹⁵⁵⁴ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, reporting, February 21, 2008, para 30b.

¹⁵⁵⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Guinea Bissau." See also U.S. Embassy - Dakar, reporting, February 21, 2008, para 29a, 29c, 30b.

Guyana

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*¹⁵⁵⁶

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	26.3
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	28.7
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	23.9
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	124
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2002:	93
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	95.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2001:	64
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Guyana work as porters, domestic servants, street vendors, and wait staff in bars and restaurants. Some are found working in sawmills and markets.¹⁵⁵⁷ The work done in sawmills includes fetching sawdust, cutting timber, and operating machinery used to shape logs, while the work done in markets mainly consists of selling goods. Children are known to work in mining and the illicit drug trade.¹⁵⁵⁸ There are reports of sexual exploitation of children in Guyana, including prostitution.¹⁵⁵⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years for most sectors, such as mining, manufacturing, construction, utilities, sanitation, transportation, and commercial agriculture. The minimum age does not apply to work done for the purpose of family business.¹⁵⁶⁰ Children at least 14 years old may be employed if the work conducted is for general, vocational or technical education.

Children younger than 16 years are prohibited from night work in industrial undertakings which include mining and quarrying, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and transportation of passengers or goods.¹⁵⁶¹ Businesses that employ

children are required to keep a child labor registry. There are fines for employers and parents who are guilty of direct involvement with child labor.¹⁵⁶²

Forced labor is prohibited by the constitution.¹⁵⁶³ The law sets the minimum age for voluntary enlistment in the armed forces at 18 years.¹⁵⁶⁴ All forms of trafficking are prohibited by law, and penalties include life imprisonment, forfeiture of property, and payment of full restitution to the trafficked person.¹⁵⁶⁵ Although child pornography or prostitution is not specifically mentioned in Guyanese law, the penalty for selling, publishing, or exhibiting obscene matter is 2 years in prison; carnal knowledge of a girl under 12 is life in prison; and carnal knowledge of a girl age 12 to 16 is 10 years in prison. Also, the law sets the age of sexual consent at 16, thus prohibiting sex with children younger than 16.¹⁵⁶⁶ In addition, the penalty for procurement of a female under age 21 is 10 years in prison.¹⁵⁶⁷ The penalty for unlawful detention of girl under age 18 for carnal knowledge is 10 years. The owner or occupier of a premises that permits the defilement of a girl ages 12 to 13 for the purposes of unlawful carnal knowledge is subject to 10 years imprisonment; if the victim was a girl under the age of 12, the penalty is life in prison.¹⁵⁶⁸

The Child Protection Agency within the Ministry of Labor, Human Services and Social Security has principal responsibility for enforcing legislation relating to child labor. In the case of the unconditional worst forms of child labor, enforcement is handled by the Guyana National Police.¹⁵⁶⁹ As of December 2006, the most recent date such information is available, the Ministry of Labor had 20 labor officers with authority to enter all workplaces to conduct inspections, including inspections concerning child labor.¹⁵⁷⁰ Within the Ministry, an anti-trafficking-in-persons unit has been established to enforce anti-trafficking laws.¹⁵⁷¹ In addition, the Ministry of Education has responsibility for enforcing provisions of the Education Act relating to the employment of children. As such, the Ministry of Education's attendance officers are authorized to enter any premise or place between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. on any day except Sunday and inquire whether any child resides or is employed there.¹⁵⁷² Although the law sets minimum age requirements for employment of children, according to USDOS,

the Ministry of Labor lacks sufficient inspectors to enforce child labor laws effectively.¹⁵⁷³

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

The Guyanese Government continues to participate in a USDOL-funded USD 2 million project implemented by Partners of the Americas to combat exploitive child labor through education, which aims to withdraw 1,267 and prevent 1,777 children from exploitive labor. The project also aims to build the capacity of the Guyanese Government to combat child labor, increase awareness about exploitive child labor in the country, and improve education access for working and at-risk children.¹⁵⁷⁴ The Government of Guyana also participated during the report period in a USD 1.4 million regional project funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by ILO-IPEC aimed at combating the worst forms of child labor.¹⁵⁷⁵

¹⁵⁵⁶ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Guyana, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 99:01) [revised 1999]*, article 3; available from http://www.gina.gov.gy/gina_pub/laws/Laws/cap9901.pdf. See also Government of Guyana, *Education Act, revised 1999*, Chapter 39:01, article 22; available from http://www.gina.gov.gy/gina_pub/laws/Laws/cap3901.pdf. See also Government of Guyana, *Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana*, article 27; available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Guyana/guyana96.html>.

¹⁵⁵⁷ George K. Danns, *Guyana The Situation of Children in the Worst Forms of Child Labor: A Rapid Assessment*, International Labour Office, Port of Spain, October 2002, 34; available from http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/library/rapid_assessment/raguy.pdf.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵⁹ Partners of the Americas, *Educare-Guyana: Combating Child Labor through Education in Guyana*, technical progress report, September 30, 2007, 33. See also U.S. Department of State, "Guyana," in *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008; available from

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

¹⁵⁶⁰ Government of Guyana, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 99:01)*, article 2-7, and Parts I and II. See also Government of Guyana, *Education Act (Chapter 39:01)*, article 17-24. See also Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana - A Guide to Legislative Reform*, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, June 2005, 23.

¹⁵⁶¹ Government of Guyana, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 99:01)*, article 2-7, and Parts I and II. See also Government of Guyana, *Education Act (Chapter 39:01)*, article 17-24. See also Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, 23.

¹⁵⁶² Government of Guyana, *Employment of Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 99:01)*, articles 3 and 5. See also Government of Guyana, *Education Act (Chapter 39:01)*, article 20-21.

¹⁵⁶³ Government of Guyana, *Constitution of Guyana*, article 140.

¹⁵⁶⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Guyana," in *Global Report 2004*; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=828.

¹⁵⁶⁵ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, 26-27.

¹⁵⁶⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Guyana."

¹⁵⁶⁷ Government of Guyana, *Criminal Law (Offences) Act* articles 69, 70, 73, and 351; available from http://www.gina.gov.gy/gina_pub/laws/Laws/cap801.pdf.

¹⁵⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, articles 86-88.

¹⁵⁶⁹ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, 31.

¹⁵⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Georgetown, *reporting*, December 20, 2006.

¹⁵⁷¹ Guyana Government Information Agency, *TIP seminar opens at GWLI*, [online] April 20, 2005 [cited December 14, 2007]; available from <http://www.gina.gov.gy/archive/daily/b050420.html>.

¹⁵⁷² Government of Guyana, *Education Act (Chapter 39:01)*, articles 11 and 12.

¹⁵⁷³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Guyana," Section 6d.

¹⁵⁷⁴ Partners of the Americas, *Educare-Guyana, technical progress report*, 2, 12-14, 44.

¹⁵⁷⁵ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, Electronic communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

Haiti

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Haiti work on family farms and in the informal sector, such as street vending. In general, because of high unemployment and job competition, few children work in the industrial sector or on commercial farms.¹⁵⁷⁶

The most common form of work for children in Haiti is domestic service.¹⁵⁷⁷ The practice of sending children, particularly girls, from poor rural areas to work as domestic servants for relatively richer families is common. While some of these children, referred to as "restaveks," are cared for and receive an education, many are victims of trafficking. Such children receive no schooling; are sexually exploited and physically abused; and are unpaid, undocumented, and unprotected.¹⁵⁷⁸ It is estimated that up to 300,000 children work under the restavek system in Haiti.¹⁵⁷⁹ A requirement to pay a salary to

domestic workers of 15 years and older encourages employers to dismiss the restaveks before they reach that age, which in turn contributes to a large population of street children in Haiti.¹⁵⁸⁰ Many children who live on the streets in Haiti are former domestic servants. Children on the streets work as vendors, beggars, and also in prostitution.¹⁵⁸¹

In addition to internal trafficking, children are also trafficked from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.¹⁵⁸² An IOM/UNICEF study in 2002 found that more than 2,000 Haitian children are victims of such trafficking each year.¹⁵⁸³ Haitian children trafficked to the Dominican Republic work in domestic service, agriculture, and construction, and they often live in miserable conditions.¹⁵⁸⁴ There have been conflicting reports as to whether the transport of undocumented Haitians for work on Dominican sugarcane plantations has lessened.¹⁵⁸⁵ Girls are also trafficked from the Dominican Republic to