

²⁰⁰⁸ Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, sections 3, 7, 124-129.

²⁰⁰⁹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Global Report 2004 - Lesotho*, [online] 2004 [cited March 17, 2008]; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=119>.

²⁰¹⁰ Julia Sloth-Nielsen, *Harmonisation of laws relating to children: Lesotho*, African Child Policy Forum, 2007, 14; available from <http://www.africanchild.info/documents/Lesotho%20Reportfinal%20Sarah.doc>.

²⁰¹¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, 6.

²⁰¹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lesotho," section 5. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, 2, 3.

²⁰¹³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, 4, 5. See also U.S. Embassy - Maseru, *reporting, November 30, 2007*, para 5.

²⁰¹⁴ Sloth-Nielsen, *Harmonisation of laws relating to children: Lesotho*, 17.

²⁰¹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, September 2, 2003*, para 7.

²⁰¹⁶ U.S. Embassy - Maseru, *reporting, November 30, 2007*, para 5.

²⁰¹⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2007*, para 9.

²⁰¹⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Timebound Programme to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in South Africa's Child Labour Action Programme and Laying the Basis for Concerted Action Against Worst Forms of Child Labour in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland*, project document, Geneva,, September 30, 2003, 38-39.

²⁰¹⁹ *Notice of Award: Cooperative Agreement*
U.S. Department of Labor / American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC, August 16, 2004, 1-2. See also American Institutes for Research, *Reducing Exploitive Child Labor Southern Africa (RECLISA)*, project document, Washington September 8, 2005, 21.

²⁰²⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Lesotho (Special Cases)."

²⁰²¹ American Institutes for Research (AIR), *Reducing Exploitive Child Labor in Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) through Education, Technical Progress Report to USDOL International Child Labor Program*, September, 2007, 5.

Liberia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Liberia work in subsistence agriculture and rubber tapping.²⁰²² Children also work in street vending, domestic service, rock crushing, mining, and fishing.²⁰²³ Children work in construction and as truck loaders, and there are reports that girls engage in prostitution to pay school fees or support their families.²⁰²⁴

Liberia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for regionally trafficked children.²⁰²⁵

Children are reportedly trafficked to Liberia from Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire; and from Liberia to The Gambia, Guinea, and Nigeria for domestic servitude, street vending, sexual exploitation, and agricultural labor.²⁰²⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law prohibits children under the age of 16 from working during school hours and allows labor recruiters to hire children between the ages of 16 and 18 years for occupations approved by the Ministry of Labor.²⁰²⁷ The law does not establish an absolute minimum age for employment. Children under the age of 16 may work for wages if the employer can demonstrate that they are attending school regularly and have a basic education.²⁰²⁸

Liberian law prohibits forced and bonded labor and slavery.²⁰²⁹ The law criminalizes human trafficking and establishes sentences for traffickers ranging from 1 year to life in prison.²⁰³⁰ Liberian law also prohibits any person under 16 years from enlisting in the Armed Forces.²⁰³¹

The Ministry of Labor monitors compliance with Liberia's labor laws, including laws covering child labor.²⁰³² According to USDOS, the Government did not effectively enforce existing labor laws.²⁰³³

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> ²⁰³⁴	
Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2000:	100
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2000:	66
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses	

Liberia was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central African Regions.²⁰³⁵ As part of the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement, the governments agreed to use the child trafficking monitoring system developed by the USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC LUTRENA project; to assist each other in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of trafficking offenders; and to protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficking victims.²⁰³⁶

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

In 2007, the Government of Liberia announced that it will fine or arrest parents for allowing their

children to engage in street vending during school hours. This new policy was designed in part to increase school enrollment and combat exploitive child labor, including child trafficking.²⁰³⁷

The Government of Liberia is participating in a 4-year USDOL-funded USD 6 million Child Labor Education Initiative project in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The project, which was launched in 2005, aims to withdraw a total of 7,473 children and prevent a total of 22,417 children from exploitive child labor by improving access to and quality of education.²⁰³⁸ The Government is also supporting a program with UNICEF to provide vocational training and apprenticeships to former child soldiers and children associated with fighting forces.²⁰³⁹

²⁰²² International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, final project document, New York, August 2007, 9. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Liberia," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, December 10, 2007, para 2e.

²⁰²³ Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization for Administration, Deputy Commissioner, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Liberia," section 6d. See also Director of Touching Humanity in Need of Kindness, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also International Rescue Committee, Education Specialist, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also Ministry of Labor, Agency Official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, December 15, 2006, para 2e. See also International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, 9-10.

²⁰²⁴ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, December 15, 2006, para 2(e). International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, 9. See also Ministry of Gender and Development, Agency Official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006.

²⁰²⁵ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, E-mail communication to USDOL official, August 1, 2007. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, February 26, 2008, para 1a,1b.

²⁰²⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Liberia," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, D.C., June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82806.htm>.

²⁰²⁷ Government of Liberia, *Labour Practices Law (Title 18 and 18A)*, section 74, 1506 (para 11). See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Liberia," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, December 10, 2007*, para 2a.

²⁰²⁸ Government of Liberia, *Labour Practices Law (Title 18 and 18A)*, section 74. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, December 10, 2007*, para 2a.

²⁰²⁹ Government of Liberia, *Constitution of the Republic of Liberia*, (1847), article 12; available from <http://www.embassyofliberia.org/theconstitution.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Liberia," section 6c.

²⁰³⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Liberia," section 5.

²⁰³¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "*Liberia*" in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, March 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=966.

²⁰³² U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, December 15, 2006*, section 2b.

²⁰³³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Liberia," section 6d, 6e.

²⁰³⁴ 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 Liberia, *Labour Practices Law (Title 18 and 18A)*, (1956), section 74; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.details?p_lang=en&p_country=LBR&p_classification=01.02&p_origin=COUNTRY&p_sortby=SORTBY_COUNTRY.

See also U.S. Department of State, "Liberia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007* Washington, D.C., March 11, 2008, section 5; available

from

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100489.htm>. See also UNESCO, *Liberia - Education system*, December 18, 2007; available from http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lr.rtf. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, December 15, 2006*, para 1. See also Women's Commission for refugee women and children, *Help us Help Ourselves: Education in the Conflict to Post-Conflict Transition in Liberia*, New York, March 2006, 7; available from

http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/lr_ed.pdf
²⁰³⁵ 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.

²⁰³⁶ 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.

²⁰³⁷ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "LIBERIA: Go to school or go to jail ", IRINnews.org, [online], September 21, 2007; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=74422>.

²⁰³⁸ International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, 19-22.

²⁰³⁹ UNICEF, *Vocational Training helps reintegrate Liberia's former child soldiers*, [online] [cited November 26, 2007]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/liberia_40185.html.

Macedonia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children work on the streets in Macedonia, begging for money, and also perform minor services, such as selling cigarettes and other small items. These activities occur on the streets as well as in bars or restaurants.²⁰⁴⁰ Children also work in the informal sector on family farms, but this does not usually happen during school hours.²⁰⁴¹ Street children are predominantly of the Roma minority

ethnic group, but also include ethnic Albanians, Turks, and Macedonians.²⁰⁴² Romani children are organized into groups to beg for money at busy intersections, street corners, and in restaurants.²⁰⁴³

Girls and young women from families with social and economic problems are among the groups in Macedonia considered to be at the highest risk of becoming victims of TIP.²⁰⁴⁴