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²⁶²⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Oman (Tier 3 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 23, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting, March 3, 2008*.

²⁶²⁹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Oman (ratification: 2001)*.

²⁶³⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Oman," section 6d.

²⁶³¹ U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting, December 5, 2007*.

²⁶³² U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting, August 23, 2004*.

²⁶³³ U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 14, 2006.

²⁶³⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Oman (ratification: 2001)*.

²⁶³⁵ Sultanate of Oman- Ministry of Education, *National Report on Quality Education in Oman*, Muscat, 2004, 16, 25-28, and 41; available from <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/International/ICE47/English/Natreps/reports/oman.pdf>.

²⁶³⁶ U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting, March 3, 2008*.

Pakistan

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> ²⁶³⁷	
Working children, 10-14 years (%), 1999-2000:	16.4
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 1999-2000:	15.8
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 1999-2000:	17.2
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 1999-2000:	
- Agriculture	78.1
- Manufacturing	7.1
- Services	13.4
- Other	1.4
Minimum age for work:	14 in specified hazardous occupations
Compulsory education age:	Varies by province
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	86
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	67
School attendance, children 10-14 years (%), 1999-2000:	64.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	70
ILO-IPEC participating country.	Yes

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The majority of Pakistan's working children work in agriculture, most of it family-based.²⁶³⁸ Children also work in manufacturing, construction, transport, domestic service, and in small workshops and family businesses.²⁶³⁹ The country's rapid population growth and high rate of urbanization have increased the number of street children in urban areas. Street children work scavenging garbage and vending various products, among other activities.²⁶⁴⁰ In Balochistan and Northwest Frontier provinces, the children of Afghan refugees are particularly vulnerable to involvement in the worst forms of child labor.²⁶⁴¹ Children are employed in several hazardous activities across the country, including rag-picking, leather tanning, mining, deep-sea fishing, seafood processing, brick-making, and manufacturing of surgical instruments and glass bangles.²⁶⁴² Children working in carpet-weaving suffer injuries from sharp tools, eye disease and eye strain, respiratory disease due to wool dust, and skeletal deformation and pain due to cramped working conditions.²⁶⁴³ Many working children are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse, particularly those working far from their families such as child miners and child domestics working in private homes.²⁶⁴⁴

There are reports of children being kidnapped, maimed, and forced to work as beggars.²⁶⁴⁵ Bonded child labor reportedly exists in Pakistan in the

brick, carpet, and textile industries, in rice mills, domestic servitude, and agricultural activities. In some cases, parents initiate their children's bondage by taking advance payments for their work.²⁶⁴⁶ Some children working in mining, agriculture, and domestic service are from families who are bonded or indebted to their employers.²⁶⁴⁷ Commercial sexual exploitation of children continues to be a problem,²⁶⁴⁸ with some families selling their daughters into prostitution.²⁶⁴⁹ Recent reports have also highlighted the increasing numbers of young boys exploited as prostitutes.²⁶⁵⁰ Children are trafficked within Pakistan for begging and other activities, with young boys particularly at risk.²⁶⁵¹ The minimum voluntary recruitment age into the Pakistani military is 16 years, and the compulsory enlistment age is 18 years.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

It is illegal to employ children under 14 years in mines or other hazardous occupations or processes.²⁶⁵² Among the four occupations and 34 processes considered illegal for children are mixing and manufacturing of pesticides and insecticides, as well as fumigation; work within railway stations or ports; carpet weaving, construction and manufacturing of cement, explosives, and other products that involve the use of toxic substances.²⁶⁵³ Children 14 to 18 years may work under various restrictions. Such children may work in mines as long as they have a certificate of fitness granted by a medical practitioner and are allowed 12 hours rest per day, at least 7 of which must be between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. They may work in shops and establishments for no more than 7 hours per day and 42 hours per week, and only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.²⁶⁵⁴ Children of any age may also work in factories for up to 5 hours per day, provided they do not work between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., have been granted a certificate of fitness, and are not involved in hazardous occupations and processes.²⁶⁵⁵ Children of any age may work in non-hazardous occupations, provided they work no more than 7 hours per day and no more than 3 consecutive hours without rest, do not work between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m., and do not work overtime.²⁶⁵⁶ Employers are also required by law to maintain minimum standards of health and safety in a child's working environment.²⁶⁵⁷ Violations can result in a 1-year prison term, or up to 2 years for repeat violations. Children working for their

families or in Government schools are exempt from these provisions.²⁶⁵⁸

Forced labor is prohibited by law, and those found in violation face 2 to 5 years of imprisonment.²⁶⁵⁹ Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a crime, with penalties that can extend up to life imprisonment. Such offenses are defined as selling, letting to hire, or otherwise disposing of a person for the purpose of prostitution, illicit intercourse, or any unlawful and immoral purpose; or buying, hiring, procuring, or otherwise obtaining possession of a person for the same purposes.²⁶⁶⁰ Parents who cause, encourage, or abet the seduction or prostitution of a girl under 16 years are subject to imprisonment of up to 3 years, as is any person who allows a child under 16 years into a brothel. The law does not specifically prohibit child pornography, but outlaws the circulation of any obscene material, with violations subject to fines and up to 3 months of imprisonment.²⁶⁶¹ Importation of a girl for prostitution is punishable by 3 years of imprisonment.²⁶⁶² Obtaining, securing, selling, purchasing, recruiting, detaining, harboring, or receiving a person by coercion, kidnapping, or abduction for sexual exploitation, slavery, or forced labor is also outlawed, but this prohibition applies only to victims trafficked across the Pakistani border, and not to victims trafficked internally. Penalties for these crimes include from 7 to 14 years of imprisonment, as well as fines.²⁶⁶³ Importing, exporting, trafficking, or dealing in slaves is punishable by life imprisonment.²⁶⁶⁴ There is no forced conscription into the Pakistani military, and the minimum age for voluntary enlistment is 16 years.²⁶⁶⁵

Child labor and forced labor laws are enforced by provincial governments through the labor inspectorate system.²⁶⁶⁶ USDOS reports that enforcement of these laws is weak because of an inadequate number of inspectors; lack of training and resources; corruption; and the exclusion of many small workplaces from the inspectorate's jurisdiction. While authorities do cite employers for child labor violations, the penalties imposed are generally too minor to act as a deterrent.²⁶⁶⁷ The Government's National Labor Inspection Policy encourages the involvement of voluntary, industry-funded monitoring groups in labor inspection, such as the Independent Monitoring Association for

Child Labor (IMAC), which monitors child labor in the sporting goods industry.²⁶⁶⁸

The Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has primary responsibility for enforcing trafficking-related laws, although there are reports of officials complicit in trafficking crimes.²⁶⁶⁹ In 2007, the Government investigated over 6,000 cases of trafficking, resulting in over 5,000 convictions.²⁶⁷⁰ A high-profile case in 2007 involving a 13-year old girl in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) sold into commercial sexual exploitation by her father resulted in the arrest and incarceration of the father and brothel owner.²⁶⁷¹

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

The Government of Pakistan's National Action Plan for Children aims to harmonize federal and state child labor programs and works toward the progressive elimination of child labor.²⁶⁷² Since 2000, the national 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; progressive elimination of child labor from all sectors; educational alternatives to keep children out of work; and rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work.²⁶⁷³ However, the ILO Committee of Experts has noted that implementation of the NPPA has been slow.²⁶⁷⁴ The Government's 2003 PRSP reiterates the Government's commitment to the NPPA and incorporates the reduction of child labor into its target-setting process.²⁶⁷⁵ The Government's Poverty Alleviation Strategy provides increased access to micro-credit loans for the families of working children.²⁶⁷⁶ The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development oversees the National Project on Rehabilitation of Child Labor, implemented by *Pakistan Bait-Ul-Mal*; an autonomous body established by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education. The project withdraws children between 5 and 14 years from hazardous labor in the brick, carpet, mining, tannery, construction, glass bangle, and agricultural sectors, as well as from domestic work and begging. The project also provides them free nonformal education, as well as clothing, and provides stipends to the children and their families.

As of December 2007, 151 centers had been established under the project, serving 15,045 students. Over 9,000 children have completed the program and 7,688 have enrolled in Government schools.²⁶⁷⁷

The provincial labor departments of Punjab, Sindh, and the NWFP have established Child Labor Resource Centers, and the provincial government of Balochistan has established a Child Labor Vigilance Cell, which provide focal points for disseminating information and forging networks of social partners to combat child labor.²⁶⁷⁸ The district government of Rawalpindi (Punjab) allocated 1 million rupees (USD 16,398) to combating child labor in its 2007-2008 budget.²⁶⁷⁹

With support from the ILO, the National Commission 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 and Rehabilitation of Freed Bonded Laborers.²⁶⁸⁰ As part of implementation, the Government provided an initial allocation of 100 million rupees (approximately USD 1.6 million) to educate working children and freed bonded laborers.²⁶⁸¹

USDOL and the Government of Denmark are funding an ILO-IPEC project through 2008 to support the Government of Pakistan's Timebound Program, designed to withdraw 10,100 children and prevent 1,700 children from work in the glass bangle, surgical instrument, tanning, coal mining, scavenging, and deep-sea fishing industries.²⁶⁸² With the support of the Government of Norway, the Government of Pakistan is participating in a USD 1.2 million ILO-IPEC project to engage the media in combating the worst forms of child labor, ending in July 2009. The FIFA international soccer federation is supporting the Government through a USD 0.5 million ILO-IPEC project targeting children in the soccer ball industry in Sialkot, ending in December 2008.²⁶⁸³ USDOL provided USD 3.5 million, and the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association provided USD 0.9 million to jointly support an ILO-IPEC project to combat exploitive child labor in carpet weaving. The project, which ended in September 2007, withdrew 15,652 and prevented 3,663 children from work in the carpet industry.²⁶⁸⁴

Also in September 2007, Save the Children-UK completed a USDOL-supported, USD 5 million project to remove children from hazardous work in carpet weaving, leather tannery, shoe manufacturing, automobile workshops, brick kilns, and agriculture in the Sheikhpura and Kasur districts of Punjab.²⁶⁸⁵ Save the Children-UK is also implementing a USDOL-funded USD 4.3 million project through September 2009 that aims to withdraw 7,300 children and prevent 8,420 children from hazardous work in the provinces of Balochistan, NWFP, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.²⁶⁸⁶ USDOL is also working with the Government on a USD 1.5 million project to provide education and training programs for children in Balakot (NWFP); left vulnerable to hazardous child labor by the earthquake of October 8, 2005. The project targets 500 children for withdrawal and 2,000 children for prevention from hazardous work.²⁶⁸⁷ In 2007, USDOL also funded a 3-year, USD 3.5 million research project to be carried out by Macro International Inc., on children working in the carpet industry in India, Nepal, and Pakistan.²⁶⁸⁸

The FIA partners with the IOM to provide training to government officials on trafficking.²⁶⁸⁹ The Government operates 276 shelters that provide legal representation, vocational training, and medical care to Pakistani trafficking victims, including children.²⁶⁹⁰

²⁶³⁷ For statistical data not cited here, please see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, please see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Pakistan, *Employment of Children Act*, (June 4, 1991, as amended December 20, 2005), sections 2, 3, Schedule; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/22707/64834/E91PAK01.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy - Islamabad, *reporting*, December 13, 2007. See also UNESCO, *Education - National Legislation*, [online] [cited December 14, 2007]; available from http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12388&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html. See also U.S. Department of State, "Pakistan," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100619.htm>.

²⁶³⁸ U.S. Embassy - Islamabad, *reporting*, December 13,

2007, para 7. See also UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank Surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

²⁶³⁹ Government of Pakistan, *Information on Efforts to Eliminate the 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", Islamabad, August 15, 2005, 3. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Pakistan," section 6d.

²⁶⁴⁰ ECPAT International with Dr. Tufail Muhammad and Dr. Naeem Zafar, *Situational Analysis Report on Prostitution of Boys in Pakistan (Lahore & Peshawar)*, Bangkok, June 2006, xi; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/publications/Boy_Prostitution/PDF/Pakistan.pdf.

²⁶⁴¹ Save the Children - UK, *Mitigating Child Labour Through Education in Pakistan*, project document, London, October 2006, 3, 6, 7.

²⁶⁴² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Pakistan," section 6d. See also ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Pakistan*, project document, Geneva, September 17, 2003, 9-10 and 75-76.

²⁶⁴³ ILO- Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Zafar Mueen Nasir, *A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in the Carpet Industry of Pakistan*, Geneva, 2004, 9; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2725.

²⁶⁴⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Pakistan*, October 27, 2003, para 69; available from [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.15.Add.217.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.15.Add.217.En?OpenDocument). See also ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Ahmad Saleem, *A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in Pakistan's Mining Sector*, Geneva, March 2004, 15; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2583.

²⁶⁴⁵ ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Collective for Social Science Research Karachi, *A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in Domestic Work and Begging in Pakistan*, Geneva, March 2004, 4, 22; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2622.

²⁶⁴⁶ ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, *Unfree Labour in Pakistan: Work, Debt and Bondage in Brick Kilns*, Geneva, March 2004, xiv, 7;

available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2724. See also ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Zafar Mueen Nasir, *A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in the Carpet Industry of Pakistan*, Geneva, 2004, 18-20; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2725. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Pakistan," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, December 13, 2007, para 2b. See also U.S. Embassy -Islamabad, *reporting*, March 1, 2008.

²⁶⁴⁷ ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Collective for Social Science Reserach Karachi, *Bonded Labour in Domestic Work and Begging*, 19. See also ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Maliha H. Hussein; Abdul Razzaq Saleemi; Saira Malik; and Shazreh Hussain, *Bonded Labour in Agriculture: A Rapid Assessment in Sindh and Balochistan, Pakistan*, Geneva, March 2004, 16, 28; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2727. See also ILO - Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour with Ahmad Saleem, *Bonded Labour in Pakistan's Mining Sector*, 14.

²⁶⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Pakistan," section 5. See also ECPAT International, *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Pakistan*, Bangkok, 2006, 11-12; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/A4A_2005/PDF/South_Asia/Global_Monitoring_Report-PAKISTAN.pdf.

²⁶⁴⁹ U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, December 13, 2007, para 2b. See also U.S. Embassy -Islamabad, *reporting*, March 1, 2008.

²⁶⁵⁰ ECPAT International with Dr. Tufail Muhammad and Dr. Naeem Zafar, *Prostitution of Boys in Pakistan*, xi, 21, and 39. See also U.S. Department of State, "Pakistan (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82806.htm>.

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²⁶⁵² United Nations Office High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Status of Ratifications of the Principal International Human Rights Treaties*, Geneva, June 9, 2004, article 11(3); available from <http://www.unhchr.ch/pdf/report.pdf>.

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²⁶⁵⁷ Government of Pakistan, *Employment of Children Rules, 1995*; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/44242/65005/E95PAK01.htm>.

²⁶⁵⁸ Government of Pakistan, *Employment of Children Act*, sections 3, 14.

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