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²⁸²⁷ Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina, *Iniciativa Niñ@ Sur*, [online] [cited March 16, 2008]; available from <http://www.derhuman.jus.gov.ar/direcciones/asistencia/ninosur.htm>. See also Child Rights Information Network, *MERCOSUR*, [online] 2007 [cited December 26, 2007]; available from <http://www.crin.org/espanol/RM/mercosur.asp>.

Philippines

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children work on sugarcane,²⁸²⁸ tobacco,²⁸²⁹ banana, coconut, corn flower, and rice plantations. They also engage in scavenging in garbage dumps,²⁸³⁰ pyrotechnics production, deep-sea fishing, mining, and quarrying.²⁸³¹ Children living on the streets often engage in informal labor activities such as begging and scavenging.²⁸³² Children, primarily girls, are engaged in domestic service.²⁸³³ Children are also involved in the commercial sex industry. They are engaged in prostitution, used in the production of pornography, and exploited by sex tourists.²⁸³⁴ Children living on the streets in urban

centers are particularly vulnerable to prostitution and pornography.²⁸³⁵ Children are also involved in the production and trafficking of drugs within the country.²⁸³⁶

Reportedly children are trafficked internally from rural areas to major cities, as well as abroad to work in factories, in prostitution, drug trafficking, domestic service, and other activities in the informal sector.²⁸³⁷ There are no reports of child soldiers in the Government's Armed Forces, but children under 18 years are recruited into terrorist organizations, including the Abu Sayyaf Group and the New People's Army.²⁸³⁸

**Selected Statistics and Indicators
on Child Labor²⁸³⁹**

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	11
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	13.4
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	8.4
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	
- Agriculture	65.4
- Manufacturing	4.2
- Services	29.4
- Other	1.1
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	11
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	111
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	93
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2001:	87.6
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	75
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law prohibits the employment of children under 15 years except when working directly with a parent, when working in public entertainment is “essential”, and when the work does not endanger the child’s life, safety, health or morals or does not interfere with schooling. The law requires that any child under 15 years employed under these guidelines receive a special permit from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), but it does not define any absolute minimum age for these children to begin work.²⁸⁴⁰ A child is permitted to work as an apprentice at age 14.²⁸⁴¹ The law sets limits on children’s working hours; it prohibits night work for children under 15 years from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., and forbids children 15 to 18 years from working after 10 p.m.²⁸⁴² Penalties for violations include fines and prison terms up to 20 years. The law also requires formal administration of working children’s income, initiates trust funds for working children, and guarantees their access to education and training.²⁸⁴³

Philippine law defines the worst forms of child labor as all forms of slavery or practices similar to

slavery; use, procurement, offering, or exposing a child for prostitution, pornography, or pornographic performances; use, procuring or offering a child for illegal or illicit activities; and work that is hazardous or likely to be harmful to the safety, health, or morals of children, including 9 hazardous categories. Criteria for categorizing work as hazardous includes work that degrades the worth and dignity of a child; exposes the child to physical danger; is performed underground; is performed under difficult conditions; and that involves handling of explosives or pyrotechnics; among others.²⁸⁴⁴ There are various Philippine laws that further describe, prohibit and provide penalties for the identified worst forms of child labor. The law specifically prohibits the handling of dangerous machinery or heavy loads; exposure to extremes of cold, heat, noise, or pressure; and exposure to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse.²⁸⁴⁵ The law criminalizes trafficking of children for exploitation, including trafficking for sex tourism, prostitution, pornography, and the recruitment of children into armed conflict. The law establishes the penalty of life imprisonment for trafficking violations involving children and provides for the confiscation of any proceeds derived from trafficking crimes.²⁸⁴⁶ Government employees face additional penalties for breaking the law, which also mandates immediate deportation of foreign offenders following the completion of their prison sentence.²⁸⁴⁷ The law prohibits the involvement of minors in the manufacture, delivery, or purchase of dangerous drugs.²⁸⁴⁸ Slavery and forced labor are prohibited.²⁸⁴⁹ The law prohibits child prostitution, including engaging in, profiting from, or soliciting prostitution from children.²⁸⁵⁰ The law also prohibits the use of children in the production of pornographic materials.²⁸⁵¹ The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into military service is 18 years or 17 years for training purposes.²⁸⁵²

DOLE is responsible for enforcing child labor laws through the labor standards enforcement offices.²⁸⁵³ However, USDOS reports that child labor enforcement is weak because of a lack of awareness, lack of resources, and an inadequate judicial infrastructure.²⁸⁵⁴ The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Bureau of Immigration, and the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group are tasked with

counter-trafficking activities,²⁸⁵⁵ and are members of the national Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking headed by the Department of Justice.²⁸⁵⁶ In addition, local, regional and provincial Inter-Agency Councils Against Trafficking addresses child labor and human trafficking issues throughout the country.²⁸⁵⁷

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 continue to 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.²⁸⁵⁸ In the summer of 2007, the first phase of the NPACL underwent a performance assessment on the outcomes and impacts of the program in preparation for a second phase. As a result, in August 2007, the NPACL was renamed the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) Strategic Framework 2007-2015, and new strategic goals were developed.²⁸⁵⁹ The National Plan of Action for Decent Work 2005-2007 prioritized the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.²⁸⁶⁰ 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.²⁸⁶¹ In addition, several local government units have incorporated child labor into their development plans.²⁸⁶²

Several governmental agencies in the Philippines have ongoing programs to address the needs of children vulnerable to exploitive labor.²⁸⁶³ DOLE continues to implement the Rescue the Child Workers Program to monitor suspected cases of child labor and intervene on behalf of children in confirmed cases.²⁸⁶⁴ From January to December 2007, DOLE rescued 144 minors in 57 different operations from exploitive labor.²⁸⁶⁵ DOLE

continues to regularly carry out child labor training for its approximately 200 labor inspectors.²⁸⁶⁶ 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.²⁸⁶⁷ DOLE also implements the Project Angel Tree, which grants wishes to child laborers such as providing food, clothing, and education assistance.²⁸⁶⁸ The Cebu Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and ILO, maintains an awards program for Child Labor-Free and Child-Friendly Firms. A staff person from DOLE sits on the screening committee for administering the awards.²⁸⁶⁹ In recognition of the World Day Against Child Labor on June 12, the Government participated in a series of week-long child labor awareness raising activities.²⁸⁷⁰ The Philippine’s 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.²⁸⁷¹

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is the lead Government agency that provides support, primarily through 42 temporary shelters, for victims of trafficking,²⁸⁷² children in armed conflict, and children who have been exploited, abused, or rescued from living on the streets.²⁸⁷³ From January to September 2007, DSWD provided social services and temporary shelter to 217 juvenile trafficking victims.²⁸⁷⁴ In 2007, the Interagency Council Against Trafficking established an anti-trafficking task force at Manila’s airport.²⁸⁷⁵ The Philippines is one of several countries in South East Asia participating in a campaign by MTV Europe to raise awareness on human trafficking.²⁸⁷⁶

The Government of the Philippines, through DOLE, is participating in a Timebound Program to implement the NPACL and PPACL. Phase I of the program targeted children involved in commercial sexual exploitation, mining and quarrying, pyrotechnics, deep-sea fishing, domestic service, and work on commercial sugar cane farms. ILO-IPEC and World Vision (in partnership with Plan, Christian Children’s Fund, and Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation)

implemented USDOL-funded projects to support efforts to eliminate child labor in the specified worst forms.²⁸⁷⁷ The USD 5.2 million ILO-IPEC portion of the program ended in August 2007, withdrawing a total of 19,125 children, and preventing a total of 11,963 more from exploitive work.²⁸⁷⁸ The World Vision project was implemented during the reporting period.²⁸⁷⁹ USDOL also funded two additional projects in support of the Timebound Program; a USD 7 million ILO-IPEC project that withdrew 4,335 and prevented 4,560 children from becoming involved in armed conflict in seven countries, including the Philippines,²⁸⁸⁰ as well as an additional inter-regional project allocating USD 500,000 in the Philippines to substantially reduce the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor. Both projects ended in 2007.²⁸⁸¹

In September 2007, USDOL awarded an additional USD 5.5 million to World Vision to support the Government's efforts under Phase II of the Timebound Program and the PPACL. The project targets 18,063 children for withdrawal and 11,937 children for prevention from work in the following sectors: sugarcane plantations, other commercial agriculture, child domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, mining/quarrying, garbage scavenging, and pyrotechnics.²⁸⁸²

Additional government projects contributing to the goals of the Timebound Program include a 2-year USD 469,000 project, in collaboration with the Eliminating Child Labor in the Tobacco Industry Foundation, to combat child labor in tobacco production in Region I (Ilocos Region).²⁸⁸³ UNICEF also works actively with the Government to promote children's rights, protect children from trafficking, and support educational improvements.²⁸⁸⁴ The UN Trust Fund for Human Security is implementing a USD 1.9 million program in the Philippines and Thailand to empower returned child trafficking victims economically and socially.²⁸⁸⁵ USDOS and USAID provide support to a number of anti-trafficking projects in the Philippines, including a shelter that collaborates with local police and social workers to provide emergency shelter and counseling to exploited children and child trafficking victims, as well as an awareness-raising program to combat child trafficking.²⁸⁸⁶

The Philippines Education for All National Plan of Action includes child laborers as beneficiaries of education services.²⁸⁸⁷ The Department of Education (DepEd) is implementing functional education and literacy programs that provide working children with basic education and skills training.²⁸⁸⁸ DepEd's Bureau of Alternative Learning System²⁸⁸⁹ is tasked with promoting, improving, and monitoring alternative learning interventions for out-of-school youth and groups with special educational needs,²⁸⁹⁰ and has developed learning modules for parents of working children in areas with a high incidence of child labor.²⁸⁹¹ DepEd *Bulletin No.4 Series 2003* instructs education officials at the national, regional, and local levels to intervene to reduce or eliminate child labor.²⁸⁹² Additionally, DepEd *Order No. 31 S. 2006* provides policy guidance for reporting children involved in armed conflict in order to ensure that they receive any necessary assistance.²⁸⁹³

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²⁸³⁵ Castro, *Child Sakadas in Philippine Agriculture*, 79.

²⁸³⁶ Emma Porio and Christine Crisol, *The Use of Children in the Production, Sales and Trafficking of Drugs*, Manila, 2004, 1, 2. See also Magdalena Lepiten, *Children's Involvement in the Production, Sale and Trafficking of Drugs in Cebu City: A Rapid Assessment*, ILO-IPEC, Geneva, February 2002.

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²⁸⁴¹ Government of the Philippines, *Labour Code*, article 59.

²⁸⁴² Government of the Philippines, *Policy Instruction No. 23*, (May 30, 1977), section 1 a, b. See also Government of the Philippines, *Republic Act No. 9231*, section 3.

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²⁸⁵¹ Government of the Philippines, *Special Protection of Children Act*, article V. See also Government of the Philippines, *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act*, Section 4.

²⁸⁵² Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Philippines," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*,

London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=875.

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²⁸⁸⁶ U.S. Embassy- Manila, *reporting, December 14, 2006*. See also U. S. Embassy official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 27, 2007.

²⁸⁸⁷ Government of the Philippines, *National Action Plan to Achieve Education for All by Year 2015*, 2005, 51; available from http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ef/a/EFA_Plans/Phil_EFA2015_Final_Plan.pdf. See also ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Timebound Program on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Republic of the Philippines*, Technical Progress Report, March 2006, 2.

²⁸⁸⁸ Government of the Philippines, *National Action Plan to Achieve Education for All by Year 2015*, 51.

²⁸⁸⁹ Government of the Philippines, *Renaming the Bureau of Nonformal Education to Bureau of Alternative Learning System*, Executive Order No. 356, (September 13, 2004). See also U.S. Embassy- Manila, *reporting, December 6, 2007*.

²⁸⁹⁰ Government of the Philippines, *National Action Plan to Achieve Education for All by Year 2015*, 26. See also U.S. Embassy- Manila, *reporting August 29, 2003*.

²⁸⁹¹ U.S. Embassy- Manila, *reporting, December 6, 2007*, 21.

²⁸⁹² Department of Education, *DepED Bulletin No. 4 S. 2003, Philippines Timebound Program (PTBP) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL)*, 2003.

²⁸⁹³ Department of Education, *DepEd Order No. 31 S. 2006, Implementation of Policy Instruments in Reporting Cases of Children Involved in Armed Conflict*, July 28, 2006.

Russia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In urban areas, children can be found working primarily in the informal sector in retail services, selling goods on the street, washing cars, repairing automobiles, making deliveries, collecting trash, and begging.²⁸⁹⁴ In rural areas children work primarily in agriculture.²⁸⁹⁵ Children from neighboring countries, in addition to Russian

children, are engaged in exploitive work in Russia.²⁸⁹⁶

Among street children, boys are usually involved in hard physical labor, while girls are more likely to be engaged in prostitution.²⁸⁹⁷ However, child prostitution involving boys does take place, particularly involving homeless and orphaned children.²⁸⁹⁸ Homeless and orphaned children are also at risk of other forms of exploitation or