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<sup>2513</sup> U.S. Embassy- Managua, *reporting*, December 14, 2007.

<sup>2514</sup> Government of Nicaragua, *Acuerdo de Acción Conjunta: Agricultura Libre de Trabajo Infantil: La Cosecha Futura*, June 20, 2007.

<sup>2515</sup> U.S. Embassy- Managua, *reporting*, July 26, 2005. See also ILO-IPEC, "Stop the Exploitation" ("Alto a la explotación") *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic*, Technical Progress Report, RLA/02/P51-05/52/USA, September 3, 2007.

<sup>2516</sup> 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.

<sup>2517</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Nicaragua." See also U.S. Embassy-Managua, *reporting*, March 27, 2007. See also ILO-IPEC, "Stop the Exploitation" ("Alto a la explotación"), *Technical Progress Report*, September 2007.

<sup>2518</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Nicaragua." See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Nicaragua," section 5.

<sup>2519</sup> U.S. Embassy- Managua, *reporting*, March 27, 2007. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Nicaragua."

<sup>2520</sup> U.S. Embassy- Managua, *reporting*, December 14, 2007.

<sup>2521</sup> ILO-IPEC, "Stop the Exploitation" ("Alto a la explotación") *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic*, Project Document, RLA/02/P51-05/52/USA, San Jose, 2002, 2005, 1 and 63. See also ILO-IPEC, *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic*, Project Addendum, Geneva, September 2005, 1 and 22.

<sup>2522</sup> CARE International, *Primero Aprendo Project: Combating Exploitive Child Labor Through Education in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and the Dominican Republic*, Project Document, 2004, 5. See also ILO-IPEC, *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic*, Project Addendum, 22-23.

<sup>2523</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

<sup>2524</sup> 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

<sup>2525</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication, December 12, 2007.

## Niger

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Niger, children work in the agricultural, commercial, and artisanal sectors, often in family businesses. In rural areas, children work on family farms; including gathering water or firewood, pounding grain, and tending animals.<sup>2526</sup> There are children working in hazardous conditions in mines and quarries; breaking rocks; transporting heavy loads in head-pans; washing and processing gold, which may expose children to mercury; and crushing and hoisting ore.<sup>2527</sup> Children also work in domestic service and as vendors.<sup>2528</sup> The practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education is a tradition in various countries,

including Niger.<sup>2529</sup> While some boys receive lessons, others are forced by their teachers to beg and surrender the money that they have earned or perform manual labor.<sup>2530</sup>

Traditional forms of caste-based servitude, including of children, still exist in parts of Niger.<sup>2531</sup> This practice is more prevalent among the nomadic populations of Northern Niger, such as the Tuareg, but is also found among the Zarma and Arab ethnic minorities.<sup>2532</sup> Children are also reportedly being used to gather intelligence on government forces by a rebel group, the Nigerien Justice Movement.<sup>2533</sup> Niger serves as a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for forced labor,

including commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service. Children are trafficked internally to work in mines, agricultural labor, and domestic service, as well as for commercial sexual exploitation and begging.<sup>2534</sup> Girls are trafficked from rural to urban areas for the purpose of prostitution.<sup>2535</sup> Some children are trafficked to Niger for exploitive labor from Benin, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Togo.<sup>2536</sup> Some of these children are trafficked to work in mines, on farms, or in workshops as welders or mechanics.<sup>2537</sup>

The law prohibits forced and bonded labor, except for work by legally convicted prisoners.<sup>2543</sup> Nigerien law also outlaws all forms of slavery and provides for a prison sentence of 30 years for violations.<sup>2544</sup> The law criminalizes the procurement or incitement of a minor for the purpose of prostitution, and establishes fines and prison terms of 2 to 5 years for violations.<sup>2545</sup> Nigerien law also punishes the parents of minors or any person that encourages minors to beg and who profit from their begging, by 6 months to 1 year of imprisonment.<sup>2546</sup> The minimum age for conscription into the military is 18 years.<sup>2547</sup>

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> <sup>2538</sup>	
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	66.2
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	71.8
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	60.6
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	12
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	50
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	42
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	31.1
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	65
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

### **Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, including apprenticeships.<sup>2539</sup> Children under 18 years may not be employed at night and must have at least a 12 hour break.<sup>2540</sup> Children 12 and 13 years old may work with special authorization for up to 2 hours per day; those 14 to 18 years old may not work for more than 4.5 hours per day and are restricted to certain types of employment.<sup>2541</sup> The law also requires that no child be employed in work that exceeds their strength, and that employers guarantee certain minimum sanitary conditions.<sup>2542</sup>

The Ministry of Labor is charged with enforcing labor laws and has approximately 80 inspectors who are responsible for investigating and enforcing all elements of the Labor Code, including child labor.<sup>2548</sup> According to USDOS, there were no labor inspections during the year due to resource constraints.<sup>2549</sup>

Niger 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.<sup>2550</sup> 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.<sup>2551</sup>

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

In 2007, the Government of Niger approved its Poverty Reduction Strategy Document (Phase 2), which included elements on child labor.<sup>2552</sup> In 2007, the Ministry of Labor created a national committee to combat child labor within its agency.<sup>2553</sup> The Ministry of Labor also continued its work with ILO-IPEC and UNICEF on a program to determine the extent of the country's child labor problem.<sup>2554</sup> The Ministry of Basic Education trained educators on the needs of child laborers.<sup>2555</sup> The Government

conducted awareness-raising events and campaigns on slavery and trafficking. As part of this effort, the Ministry of Basic Education funded a project involving teachers, school inspectors, and trafficking victims; while the Ministry of Labor had labor inspectors provide counseling to employers, parents, and children.<sup>2556</sup>

The Government of Niger is participating in a USDOL-funded USD 3 million regional project, implemented by ILO-IPEC, to withdraw 1,500 children from artisanal gold mining and prevent 2,500 children from exploitive work in two mining areas within Niger and Burkina Faso.<sup>2557</sup>

The Government of Niger is also participating in the Child Labor Education Initiative, a USDOL-funded USD 2 million project, implemented by Catholic Relief Services to combat child labor through education. This project targets 3,200 children from exploitive work in such industries as mining; it also aims to limit children's exposure to agricultural work, cattle-breeding activities, and domestic service.<sup>2558</sup>

The Government of Niger participated in two ILO-IPEC regional projects funded by the Government of France to combat child labor in Francophone Africa through 2007; with funding levels of USD 1.3 million and USD 3.6 million. Additionally, Niger continues to participate in a USD 4.9 million French-funded ILO-IPEC regional project that runs until December 31, 2009.<sup>2559</sup> The project focuses on combating child labor by building capacity, and improving vocational training and apprenticeships.<sup>2560</sup>

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<sup>2526</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 6d. See also U. S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting*, October 2, 2007. See also U.S. Embassy-Niamey, *reporting*, December 5, 2007.

<sup>2527</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Mining in West Africa*, Project Document, Geneva, September 30, 2005, 2. See also USDOL, *Trip Report of Site Visit by U.S. Department of Labor Officials to Niger : November 10-19* Washington, DC, December, 2007, 10-11. See also ILO-IPEC, *Eliminating Child Labor in Mining and Quarrying*, Background Document, Geneva, June 12, 2005, 7 and 11.

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<sup>2528</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Niger (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>. See also USDOL, *Trip Report of Site Visit to Niger*.

<sup>2529</sup> Peter Easton et al., *Research Studies Series no. 8*, International Working Group on Nonformal Education of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, May 1997; available from <http://www.adeanet.org/wgnfe/publications/abel/abel2.html>. See also Peter Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," *IK Notes* no. 11 (August 1999), 1, 3; available from <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt11.pdf>.

<sup>2530</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 5 and 6d. See also U.S. Embassy-Niamey, *reporting December 5, 2007*. See also USDOL, *Trip Report of Site Visit to Niger* 5. Republique du Niger ANDDH and UNICEF, *Rapport de l'etude nationale sur le trafic des personnes au Niger*, March, 2005, 10 and 12.

<sup>2531</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 5. See also Anti-Slavery International & Association Timidira, *Slavery in Niger: Historical, Legal and Contemporary Perspectives*, ed. Galy Kadir Abdelkader (London: Anti-Slavery International, 2004), 14, 82; available from <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/publication.htm>. See also International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), *Internationally Recognised Core Labour Standards in Niger and Senegal*, ICFTU, Geneva, September 24, 2003, 8; available from <http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/nigersenegalclsreport.pdf>.

<sup>2532</sup> U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting*, January 10, 2007, para 1-3.

<sup>2533</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 1g.

<sup>2534</sup> U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting December 5, 2007*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger."

<sup>2535</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 5.

<sup>2536</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Niger." See also UNICEF, *At a Glance: Niger*, [online] [cited October 23, 2007]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger.html>.

<sup>2537</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting December 5, 2007*.

<sup>2538</sup> 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 Niger, *Code du Travail*

(1967), article 99. See also UNESCO, "Regional Overview: Sub-Saharan Africa," in *Global Monitoring Report 2003/4: Gender and Education for All*, Paris, 2004; available from [http://www.unesco.org/education/efa\\_report/zoom\\_regions\\_pdf/ssafrica.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/education/efa_report/zoom_regions_pdf/ssafrica.pdf). See also U.S. Department of State, "Niger," 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/2007/100497.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 4, 2005.

<sup>2539</sup> Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, article 99.

<sup>2540</sup> *Ibid.*, article 96.

<sup>2541</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 6d.

<sup>2542</sup> Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, article 100. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting December 5, 2007*.

<sup>2543</sup> Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, article 4. See also International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), *Core Labour Standards in Niger and Senegal*, 8.

<sup>2544</sup> U. S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting October 2, 2007*. See also Amnesty International, *Niger Human Rights Concerns*, [online] [cited December 9, 2007]; available from <http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/niger/index.do>.

<sup>2545</sup> Government of Niger, *Criminal Code: Chapter VIII- Offenses Against Public Morals*, (Previously online from The Protection Project Legal Library), articles 292-294. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Niger."

<sup>2546</sup> U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting December 5, 2007*.

<sup>2547</sup> U.S. Embassy- Niamey, E-mail communication dated October 4, 2005.

<sup>2548</sup> U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting December 5, 2007*.

<sup>2549</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 6d.

<sup>2550</sup> Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger* Technical Progress Report, September 26, 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.

<sup>2551</sup> 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, *LUTRENA, Technical Progress Report-September 2006*, 10-11.

<sup>2552</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Mining in West Africa*, Technical Progress Report, Geneva, September 12, 2007, 2-3. Government of Niger, *Full Poverty Reduction Strategy*, Niamey, August 2007, 56-57.

<sup>2553</sup> Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger* Technical Progress Report, September 5, 2007, 20.

<sup>2554</sup> USDOL, *Trip Report of Site Visit to Niger* 3. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 6d.

<sup>2555</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Niger," section 6d.

<sup>2556</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Niger."

<sup>2557</sup> ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Mining, Project Document*, 36. See also USDOL, *Trip Report of Site Visit to Niger*

<sup>2558</sup> Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger*, Project Document, 2006, cover page and 20.

<sup>2559</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication USDOL official, December 13, 2007.

<sup>2560</sup> ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 27, 2008.

## Nigeria

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Nigeria work in agriculture and as domestic servants, as well as in carpentry, masonry, hairdressing, weaving, dyeing, tailoring, and tanning.<sup>2561</sup> In urban areas, children also labor as street-peddlers, shoe-shiners, load carriers, car-washers, scavengers, and beggars.<sup>2562</sup> Children work risking exposure to hazardous conditions in fishing, sand-harvesting, mining, quarrying,

transportation, and construction.<sup>2563</sup> One study of children in riverine communities in Nigeria who engage in the fishing industry, which involves diving and dangerous tools such as knives, found that 70 percent of these children reported having been injured at least once in the previous year.<sup>2564</sup>

The practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education is a tradition in various countries,