

Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>. See also Government of Equatorial Guinea, *Plan de Acción de Lucha Contra el Tráfico y la Trata de Niños 2005-2009*, 2005, 10.

¹⁴⁴⁴ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Laws Fail to Curb Child Trafficking Racket".

¹⁴⁴⁵ Government of Gabon, *Code du travail*, articles 82 and 177.

¹⁴⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, article 6.

¹⁴⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, article 178.

¹⁴⁴⁸ ILO, *The Effective Abolition of Child Labour*, [previously online], 2003; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/decl/download/review03/childlabour.pdf> [hard copy on file].

¹⁴⁴⁹ Government of Gabon, *Code du travail*, articles 167 and 168.

¹⁴⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, article 195.

¹⁴⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Gabon." See also Government of Gabon, *Code du travail*, article 4.

¹⁴⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Gabon." See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Gabon*, Observation, CEACR 2005/76th Session, Geneva, 2005; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displaycomment.cfm?hdroff=1&ctry=2610&year=2005&type=O&conv=C182&lang=EN>.

¹⁴⁵³ Government of Gabon, *Code du travail*, articles 4 and 16.

¹⁴⁵⁴ Government of Gabon, *Procurement, Procurement of Minors, and Procurement with Coercion Code*, articles 260 and 261; available from www.protectionproject.org [hard copy on file]. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Gabon."

¹⁴⁵⁵ U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, February 24, 2009, paras 25B and D.

¹⁴⁵⁶ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Gabon," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/library/global-reports>.

¹⁴⁵⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Gabon," section 6d.

¹⁴⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶⁰ U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, February 24, 2009, paras 23D, 24A, 27B. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Gabon."

¹⁴⁶¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Gabon," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, February 24, 2009, para 25E.

¹⁴⁶² U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, February 24, 2009, para 25E.

¹⁴⁶³ 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, Geneva, September 1, 2006.

¹⁴⁶⁴ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006.

¹⁴⁶⁵ U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, December 4, 2007, para 3.

¹⁴⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Libreville, *reporting*, February 24, 2009, paras 26F and 27C.

¹⁴⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, para 25G.

¹⁴⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, paras 23D and 24A.

¹⁴⁶⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Gabon."

¹⁴⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

The Gambia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in The Gambia primarily work in the informal sector, engaging in street vending, domestic service, and agriculture.¹⁴⁷¹ Working girls engage in street vending, selling food items such as sweets, water, and fruits for their families.¹⁴⁷² Working boys are found hauling items, sweeping, and collecting fares.¹⁴⁷³ Children

in urban areas work as taxi or bus attendants. Children between 14 and 17 years work in technical sectors such as carpentry, sewing, tailoring, plumbing, masonry, and auto repair.¹⁴⁷⁴ Most working children in The Gambia work as part of family businesses, and very few are paid for their work. Children in rural areas are more likely to work than children in urban areas.¹⁴⁷⁵ Orphaned children are more likely to work than

other children and more likely to work outside the household for pay.¹⁴⁷⁶ Children have been known to sell drugs for their parents, especially cannabis.¹⁴⁷⁷

continues to be a problem in The Gambia.¹⁴⁸¹ Both Gambian men as well as European visitors exploit children through prostitution and sex tourism.¹⁴⁸²

Within The Gambia, children are trafficked for domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation, including in the tourism industry.¹⁴⁸³ Boys are trafficked within the country for street vending and forced begging by religious teachers. Boys from Senegal are trafficked to The Gambia for forced begging, and Gambian boys are trafficked to Senegal for this purpose as well.¹⁴⁸⁴ Gambian girls are trafficked to Senegal for domestic service.¹⁴⁸⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Laws governing the minimum age for work in The Gambia are contradictory. The Labor Law of 2007 prohibits children, defined as persons under 18 years, from engaging in agricultural, industrial or non-industrial work.¹⁴⁸⁶ The Gambian Children's Act specifically prohibits the economic exploitation of children, including night work, hazardous work, and work that interferes with a child's education.¹⁴⁸⁷ According to the Act, however, children over 16 years can engage in light work, and children may serve as apprentices at 12 years or upon the completion of basic education.¹⁴⁸⁸ Penalties for child labor violations range from a fine to imprisonment for up to 5 years.¹⁴⁸⁹

Employers are required to keep a register of all children employed, detailing their date of birth or age, and all employees are given employee labor cards that include their age.¹⁴⁹⁰ These cards are registered with the labor commissioner.¹⁴⁹¹ The Department of Labor is responsible for enforcing laws related to the worst forms of child labor. However, according to USDOS, child labor inspections rarely occur.¹⁴⁹²

Forced child labor is prohibited by law.¹⁴⁹³ The trafficking of children is specifically prohibited under multiple Gambian laws.¹⁴⁹⁴ Under the Children's Act, which takes precedence over other legislation, child trafficking offenses are punishable by life imprisonment.¹⁴⁹⁵ The law prohibits sexual relations with girls under 16 years.¹⁴⁹⁶ Multiple Gambian laws prohibit promoting child prostitution and procuring a

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹⁴⁷⁸

Population children, 5-14 years, 2005-2006:	496,918
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005-2006:	36.4
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005-2006:	28.5
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005-2006:	43.8
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	74.0
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	61.8
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2005-2006:	65.7
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	9/4/2000
ILO Convention 182:	7/3/2001
CRC:	8/8/1990
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	5/5/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

The practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include a vocational or apprenticeship component, is a tradition in various countries, including The Gambia.¹⁴⁷⁹ While some of these boys, known locally as "almudos," receive lessons, many are forced to beg by their teachers for money and food.¹⁴⁸⁰

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including prostitution and child sex tourism,

child for sexual exploitation in The Gambia. Penalties for such offenses range from 2 years to life in prison and/or a fine, with a maximum penalty of 14 years of imprisonment for tourists who commit sexual offenses against a child.¹⁴⁹⁷ Child pornography is also prohibited by law.¹⁴⁹⁸ Children under 18 years may not be recruited into the Armed Forces.¹⁴⁹⁹

In March 2009, a New Zealand national was prosecuted under the Tourism Offence Act of 2003. He was convicted of child pornography and sentenced to one year in prison, but was acquitted of a second count of defilement of a minor. The man's accomplice, a Gambian national, was acquitted on the charge of procurement.¹⁵⁰⁰ In November 2008, a German national was arrested for indecently assaulting an 11-year-old boy in a tourist area. In July 2008, a man was convicted of child trafficking and sentenced to 2 years in prison.¹⁵⁰¹ In December 2008, a Dutch national was convicted of committing an indecent act with a boy; he was sentenced to 2 years in prison and a fine.¹⁵⁰²

The Gambia was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperative 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.¹⁵⁰³ As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government of The Gambia agreed to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders; to rehabilitate and reintegrate trafficking victims; and to assist fellow signatory countries to implement these measures under the Agreement.¹⁵⁰⁴

A number of government agencies are involved in efforts to combat trafficking. According to USDOS, the Tourism Security Unit (TSU) and the Child Protection Unit within the Gambian military are taking on an increasing role in the enforcement and prevention of trafficking.¹⁵⁰⁵ The Department of State for Justice is the lead agency for coordinating anti-trafficking efforts; it serves as the Executive Secretariat for the Anti-Trafficking National Task Force and continues to employ one dedicated officer for trafficking.¹⁵⁰⁶ All law enforcement agencies in The Gambia have

units dedicated to either anti-trafficking or child protection.¹⁵⁰⁷ At border crossings, Government officials check to make sure that minor children are traveling with their parents or with their parents' consent to prevent trafficking.¹⁵⁰⁸

According to USDOS, TSU's patrols of the Tourism Development Area (TDA) have been effective in combating child sex tourism and commercial sexual exploitation. TSU continues to enforce a ban on unaccompanied children under 18 years in the tourist resort areas—turning these children away or placing them in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare—and hotel staff in the TDA refuse to allow children onto hotel premises.¹⁵⁰⁹

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Gambia Tourism Authority (GTA) responded to the problem of child sex tourism by developing, in collaboration with UNICEF and the NGO Child Protection Alliance (CPA), a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Tourist Areas, which outlines penalties for abusing children.¹⁵¹⁰ CPA conducted training for teachers on commercial sexual exploitation and child rights, and training for staff and security personnel of small- and medium-scale businesses on the role of stakeholders in preventing child sex tourism, protecting children, and promoting responsible tourism.¹⁵¹¹ TSU is collaborating with GTA to compile a database of persons suspected to be and/or convicted as traffickers and/or pedophiles.¹⁵¹²

The Government finalized a national action plan to combat trafficking in December 2008.¹⁵¹³ In October 2008, officials from the Department of State for Justice and UNICEF toured police stations and border crossings throughout the country to educate officers about trafficking and distribute copies of the 2007 anti-trafficking law.¹⁵¹⁴

The Government co-funded and operated, in collaboration with UNICEF and ChildFund International, a drop-in center that provides medical care and other basic services to street children and almudos. Once almudos have registered in the drop-in center program, they are

no longer allowed to continue begging on the streets for their teachers.¹⁵¹⁵

The Government continues to run a 24-hour shelter for child trafficking victims. Children at the center are provided with basic services, and the Government helps reunite them with their families.¹⁵¹⁶

¹⁴⁷¹ Frances Foord, Cherno Jallow, Katie Paine, and Alieu Sarr, *Situational Analysis of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in the Gambia*, UNICEF and the Government of The Gambia, Banjul, August 2004, 54; available from www.csd.gm/Social%20Research/OVC%20Situational%20Analysis%20Final%20Report%5B1%5D.doc. See also Gambia Department of State for Education official, Interview with USDOL contractor, September 4, 2006, 32.

¹⁴⁷² Christian Children's Fund- The Gambia, *Child Protection Baseline Assessment for Children Living and Working in the Streets of Banjul*, January 3, 2006, 13. See also Gambia Department of State for Education official, Interview, September 4, 2006, 33.

¹⁴⁷³ Christian Children's Fund- The Gambia, *Child Protection Baseline Assessment*, 13.

¹⁴⁷⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia," section 6d.

¹⁴⁷⁵ Gambia Bureau of Statistics, UNICEF, and The World Bank, *The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2005/2006 Report*, Bakau, 2007, 62 and 135; available from http://www.childinfo.org/fles/MICS3_Gambia_Final_Report_2006_Eng.pdf.

¹⁴⁷⁶ Frances Foord, Cherno Jallow, Katie Paine, and Sarr, *Situational Analysis of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in the Gambia*, 54-57. See also ILO, *HIV/AIDS and Work: Global Estimates, Impact, and Response*, Revised edition, Geneva, 2004, 32; available from http://www.ilo.org/global/Supplemental_Navigation/Site_Search/ContextualSearchResults/lang--en/docName--KD00022/index.htm [hard copy on file].

¹⁴⁷⁷ Gambia Department of State for Education official, Interview, September 4, 2006, 32.

¹⁴⁷⁸ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, (July 21, 2005), articles 18 and 43(1). For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL, February 28, 2008. For free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "The Gambia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d;

available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008>.

¹⁴⁷⁹ Peter Easton, Mark Peach, Ibrahima Lalya Bah, ElHadj Bella Doumboula, and Mohammed Lamine Barry, *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/a-bel2.html>. See also Peter Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," *IK Notes*, no. 11 (August 1999); available from <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt11.pdf>. See also Christian Children's Fund- The Gambia, *Child Protection Baseline Assessment*, 3, 13, and 15. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, paras 2C, 2E, 5D.

¹⁴⁸⁰ U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, paras 2C, 2E, 5D. See also Christian Children's Fund- The Gambia, *Child Protection Baseline Assessment*, 3, 13, 15. See also IOM, *Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa, Warns IOM*, [online] 2006 [cited May 22, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleAF/cac/he/offonce?entryId=12007>.

¹⁴⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia," section 5 and 6d. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Gambia: Sex Tourists Exploiting Children", IRINnews.org, [online], October 30, 2008 [cited January 29, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=81205>. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: The Gambia*, previously online, 2007, 11; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/A4A_2005/PDF/AF/Global_Monitoring_Report-GAMBIA.pdf [hard copy on file].

¹⁴⁸² U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, February 29, 2008, paras 2B and 3M. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Gambia: Rising Poverty Breeds Sexual Exploitation of Children by Sugar Daddies", IRINnews.org, [online], May 6, 2004 [cited February 10, 2009]; available from <http://newsite.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=49784>. See also ECPAT, *Report on the Status of Action*, 11.

¹⁴⁸³ U.S. Department of State, "The Gambia (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

¹⁴⁸⁴ Ibid. See also Christian Children's Fund- The Gambia, *Child Protection Baseline Assessment*, 8 and 9.

¹⁴⁸⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: The Gambia."

¹⁴⁸⁶ Government of the Gambia, *Labour Act*, 5/2007, (October 17, 2007), 8, article 45.

¹⁴⁸⁷ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, articles 41-44. See also Government of the Gambia, *Constitution*, (1997), article 29(2); available from <http://confinder.richmond.edu>. See also Government of the Gambia, *Labour Act*, article 46.

¹⁴⁸⁸ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, articles 43 and 51. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, November 30, 2007, para A.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Government of the Gambia, *Labour Act*, article 48.

¹⁴⁹⁰ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, article 45-49. See also Government of the Gambia, *Labour Act*, article 47.

¹⁴⁹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia," section 6d.

¹⁴⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹³ *Ibid.*, section 6c.

¹⁴⁹⁴ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, articles 26 and 39. See also Government of the Gambia, *Trafficking in Persons Act*, (October 5, 2007), article 28. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, February 19, 2009, para 2.

¹⁴⁹⁵ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, article 39(2). See also Government of the Gambia, *Trafficking in Persons Act*, article 56. See also ECPAT, *Report on the Status of Action*, 22. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009.

¹⁴⁹⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia," section 6d.

¹⁴⁹⁷ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, articles 26-38. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, February 19, 2009, para 2. See also ECPAT, *Report on the Status of Action*, 21. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Tourism Offences Act*, accessed February 10, 2009; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse. home.

¹⁴⁹⁸ U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, February 19, 2009, para 2.

¹⁴⁹⁹ Government of the Gambia, *Children's Act*, article 59(1). See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Gambia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/library/global-reports>.

¹⁵⁰⁰ U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL, July 9, 2009.

¹⁵⁰¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia."

¹⁵⁰² U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, para 4M.

¹⁵⁰³ 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.

¹⁵⁰⁴ 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.

¹⁵⁰⁵ U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, para 3B.

¹⁵⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, paras 3B and 3D. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia," section 5.

¹⁵⁰⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: The Gambia," section 5.

¹⁵⁰⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: The Gambia."

¹⁵⁰⁹ U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, paras 6E and 6F.

¹⁵¹⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: The Gambia." See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Sex Tourists Exploiting Children".

¹⁵¹¹ ECPAT International, *ECPAT Directory: Africa*, January 29, 2009; available from http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Ecpat_directory.asp?id=31&groupID=1.

¹⁵¹² U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, para 2A.

¹⁵¹³ *Ibid.*, paras 3B and 6D.

¹⁵¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para 3D.

¹⁵¹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, February 19, 2009, para 2C. See also U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, para 5B.

¹⁵¹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Banjul, *reporting*, March 5, 2009, para 5B.

Georgia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Working children in Georgia may be found in the streets, begging or selling small items.¹⁵¹⁷ In 2008,

the NGO Save the Children estimated there to be 1,600 street children, half of whom were living in Tbilisi. Children sometimes work in family businesses or intermittently on family farms.¹⁵¹⁸