

ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Malawi, *Employment Act No.6*, (2000), part IV, article 21; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/58791/65218/E00MWIo1.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Department of State, "Malawi," 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/index.htm>. For free public education, see Government of Malawi, *Constitution of the Republic of Malawi*, (2004), chapter 4, article 25; available from <http://www.sdn.org.mw/constitut/dtindx.html>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Malawi," section 5.

<sup>2336</sup> Government of Malawi, *Constitution of the Republic of Malawi*, article 27. See also, Government of Malawi, *Employment Act No.6*, article 4 (1).

<sup>2337</sup> Government of Malawi, *Employment Act No.6*, article 4 (2).

<sup>2338</sup> Government of Malawi, *Penal Code*, [previously online] 2004], article 140; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org> [hard copy on file].

<sup>2339</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Malawi," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=128>.

<sup>2340</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Malawi," section 6d.

<sup>2341</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2342</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, section 1.

<sup>2343</sup> Ibid., section 6b.

<sup>2344</sup> Ibid., section 5g.

<sup>2345</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, January 12, 2009, section 7.

<sup>2346</sup> Ibid., section 5.

<sup>2347</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, May 30, 2008, para 2.

<sup>2348</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, January 12, 2009.

<sup>2349</sup> Millenium Center for Research & Development, *Final Report: Child Trafficking in Malawi*, 56. See also U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, section 2.

<sup>2350</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Written Replies by the Government of Malawi to the List of Issues Prepared by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Connection with the Consideration of the Second Periodic Report of Malawi*, CRC/C/MWI/Q/2/Add.1, Geneva, January 9, 2009, section 66; available from <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC.C.MWI.Q.2.Add.1.doc>. See also, U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Malawi."

<sup>2351</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, January 12, 2009, section 5.

<sup>2352</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2353</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lilongwe, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, para 5f.

<sup>2354</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Malawi."

<sup>2355</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Country Programme to Combat Child Labour in Malawi*, Project Document, Geneva, 2005, 2, cover page. See also ILO-IPEC, *Country Programme to Combat Child Labour in Malawi*, Final Technical Progress Report, Geneva, March 2009, 1 and 26.

<sup>2356</sup> ECLT Foundation, *Quick Facts: ECLT in MALAWI, ICLEP 2*, [[cited February 22, 2009]; available from [http://www.eclt.org/activities/projects/malawi\\_iclep2.html](http://www.eclt.org/activities/projects/malawi_iclep2.html). See also, ECLT Foundation, *Integrated Child Labour Elimination Program, Phase 2*, [May 21, 2007] [cited February 22, 2009]; available from <http://www.eclt.org/filestore/ICLEP2Programme.pdf>. See also, Alain Berthoud, *Response to "Playing with Children's Lives: Big Tobacco in Malawi"*, [online] March 4, 2008 [cited February 23, 2009]; available from <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=14947>.

## Mali

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Mali, 60 percent of children in rural areas are economically active, compared with 36 percent of children in urban zones, according to a report prepared by UCW. Most working children are employed in agriculture, including in hazardous activities such as mixing chemicals to prepare

pesticides, spraying pesticides, and carrying heavy loads.<sup>2357</sup> Children, including street children, work within the informal urban sector, in activities such as begging, vending goods, portering, and garbage scavenging.<sup>2358</sup>

Children work in hazardous conditions in garages, workshops, quarries, and gold mines,

which include working underground and being exposed to chemicals such as mercury.<sup>2359</sup> Children, especially girls, work as domestic servants, sometimes suffering physical abuse by their employers; a Government study found that such children are at increased risk of sexual exploitation.<sup>2360</sup> There are also reports of commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially girls, who work as venders in hotels, restaurants, bars, mines and quarries, and near construction fields and transportation hubs such as bus stations. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is particularly prevalent in the capital of Bamako as well as in the regions of Kayes and Sikasso.<sup>2361</sup>

The practice of sending boys, called *talibe*, to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include a vocational or apprenticeship component, is a tradition in various countries, including Mali.<sup>2363</sup> While some boys receive lessons, many are forced by their teachers to beg or work in fields and surrender the money that they have earned.<sup>2364</sup> Children as young as 4 years are reported working as *talibes* in Mali and may be punished if they do not remit enough money.<sup>2365</sup> *Talibe* from Mali and from bordering countries, such as Burkina Faso, are also exploited in rice fields where some farmers pay teachers directly for the boys' labor.<sup>2366</sup>

Mali is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>2367</sup> Boys have been trafficked within Mali to work in agriculture, gold mining, and begging.<sup>2368</sup> Children have also been trafficked internally to the central regions to work in rice fields.<sup>2369</sup> Likewise, children from other countries, especially Burkina Faso but also Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, and Senegal, are trafficked for forced labor in rice fields.<sup>2370</sup> Burkinabe children are also trafficked to Mali for the purposes of mining, field work, and domestic servitude.<sup>2371</sup> Boys have also been trafficked to Senegal and Mali for the purposes of forced begging.<sup>2372</sup> Children, especially girls, are trafficked to Guinea to work in domestic service.<sup>2373</sup> Children are trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire to work as domestic servants, in mines, and on plantations, especially on coffee, cotton, and cocoa farms.<sup>2374</sup> Mali is reportedly a transit country for children being trafficked to Europe.<sup>2375</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment and apprenticeship at 14 years.<sup>2376</sup> The Labor Code permits children 12 to 14 years to be employed in light domestic or seasonal work, such as on plantations, with the express authorization and in the presence of their parents or guardians.<sup>2377</sup> However, such children may not be employed for more than 4.5 hours per day or 2 hours per day if they are in school; these children are prohibited from working on Sundays or holidays.<sup>2378</sup> Children under 18 years are prohibited from work that threatens their safety or morals, exceeds 8 hours per day or their

### Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor<sup>2362</sup>

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2005:	3,664,237
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	65.8
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	66.6
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	64.9
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	
- Agriculture	58.2
- Manufacturing	1.9
- Services	39.5
- Other	0.4
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	For 9 years*
Free public education:	Yes**
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	83.1
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	63.0
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2005:	44.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	81.2
ILO Convention 138:	3/11/2002
ILO Convention 182:	7/14/2000
CRC:	9/20/1990
CRCOPAC:	5/16/2002
CRCOPSC:	5/16/2002***
Palermo:	4/12/2002
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

\*According to the law, children are required to attend 9 years of school

\*\*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

\*\*\*Accession

physical capacity, or occurs at night.<sup>2379</sup> In December 2008, Mali's High Council on Labor approved the updated hazardous labor list for children, which was instituted by the Ministry of Labor.<sup>2380</sup>

The law prohibits forced or obligatory labor.<sup>2381</sup> It also makes child trafficking punishable by 5 to 20 years of imprisonment.<sup>2382</sup> The Government requires that Malian children of under 18 years present travel documentation in an effort to reduce cross-border trafficking.<sup>2383</sup> The Penal Code establishes penalties of fines and prison sentences of up to 20 years for sexual exploitation, abuse, and carnal knowledge of any person under 15 years.<sup>2384</sup> The minimum age for both voluntary recruitment and military conscription is 18 years.<sup>2385</sup>

Mali 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.<sup>2386</sup> As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government 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.<sup>2387</sup>

Inspectors from the Ministry of Employment and Civil Service conduct complaint-based and surprise inspections in the formal sector, but according to USDOS, a lack of resources limits the frequency and effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement of child labor laws.<sup>2388</sup> The Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children, and Family is the lead ministry coordinating the fight against trafficking.<sup>2389</sup> In March 2008, police intercepted 26 trafficked children in Kita, whose ages ranged from 6 to 17 years.<sup>2390</sup> During 2008, three traffickers were also arrested and then released pending further investigation.<sup>2391</sup>

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

The Government of Mali continues to implement measures aimed against exploitive child labor

from the 2007 Malian Government Plan of Action. To this end, the Ministry of Labor created a National Steering Committee via a decree and worked with this group to update the hazardous labor list.<sup>2392</sup> The National Documentation and Information Center on Women and Children also held a workshop to develop an action plan on the development of protection indicators related to child labor in July 2008.<sup>2393</sup> And, throughout the year, labor inspectors received training on preventing child labor abuses.<sup>2394</sup>

During 2008, the Government provided temporary shelter and protection to trafficking victims at welcome centers in several cities and helped child trafficking victims return to their families.<sup>2395</sup> Malian officials also cooperated with government authorities from Guinea-Bissau to repatriate trafficked children.<sup>2396</sup>

Mali is participating in a USD 3.5 million ILO-IPEC Timebound Preparation project, funded by USDOL, that is working to withdraw 3,000 children and prevent 6,000 children from exploitive work in agriculture, mining, the informal urban sector, domestic service, and commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>2397</sup>

The Government of Mali also participates in a USAID project, for which Phase I was completed in December 2008 and Phase II runs through November 2009. This program is educating families in five villages, as well as truck, bus, and taxi drivers on the methods used by child traffickers.<sup>2398</sup>

Mali is participating in a 3-year USD 4.8 million regional ILO-IPEC project, funded by the Government of France, which runs until December 31, 2009, and includes vocational training and apprenticeship programs.<sup>2399</sup> The Government of Mali is also participating in a 4-year USD 23.8 million project funded by the EU and implemented by ILO-IPEC to combat child labor through education in 11 countries.<sup>2400</sup>

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<sup>2357</sup> UCW, *Comprendre le Travail des Enfants au Mali*, Rome, June 2008, 9, 18, 27. See also M. Traore, "Travail des Enfants: Le Milieu Rural en Ligne de Mire," *L'Essor*, June 14, 2007; available from [http://www.essor.gov.ml/jour/cgi-bin/view\\_article.pl?id=15812](http://www.essor.gov.ml/jour/cgi-bin/view_article.pl?id=15812).

<sup>2358</sup> UCW, *Comprendre le Travail des Enfants au Mali*, 37. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Mali: Children scrape by on scrap", IRINnews.org [online] April 7, 2008 [cited May 5, 2008]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=77641>. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "MALI: Urbanisation fuelling begging on streets of capital", IRINnews.org [online] January 22, 2008; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=76375>.

<sup>2359</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Support for the Preparation of the Mali Time-Bound Programme*, Technical Progress Report, Geneva, March 3, 2008, 9. See also ILO-IPEC, *Mali Time-Bound Programme, Technical Progress Report, March 2008*, 6. See also ILO-IPEC, *Support for the Preparation of the Mali Time-Bound Programme*, Project Document, Geneva, September 1, 2006, iii. See also ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour in Gold Mining: The Problem* [online] June 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipsec/areas/Miningandquarrying/MoreaboutCLinmining/1ang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>2360</sup> UCW, *Comprendre le Travail des Enfants au Mali*, 36. See also U.S. Department of State, "Mali," 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/2007/100492.htm>. See also Human Rights Watch, *Bottom of the Ladder: Exploitation and Abuse of Girl Domestic Workers in Guinea*, Volume 19, No.8 (A), New York, June 2007, 37 and 38; available from <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/guinea0607/guinea0607web.pdf>.

<sup>2361</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Programme d'Action pour la Prévention, le Retrait et la Réinsertion Socioprofessionnelle des Enfants Victimes ou à Risque d'Exploitation Sexuelle à des Fins Commerciales*, Technical Progress Report: Annex I, Geneva, September 1, 2007, 13, 14, 18.

<sup>2362</sup> 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 Mali, *Decret no. 96-178/P-RM portant Application de Diverses Dispositions de la Loi no 92-20 portant Code du travail*, (June 13, 1996), article 187; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/44399/65027/F96MLI01.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory, see Government of Mali, *Loi no 02-062/P-RM portant Code de protection de l'enfant*, (June 5, 2002), article 20; available from <http://www.justicemali.org/doc107.htm>. For free public education, see UNESCO, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2008*, accessed March 30, 2009, 282; available from <http://www.unesco.org/education/gmr2008/annexes/annex5.pdf>. See also World Bank Group, *Evaluation of the World Bank Assistance to*

*Primary Education in Mali*, Washington, DC, 2007, 24; available from [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/03/27/000090341\\_20070327162259/Rendered/PDF/391530MLI1education1PUBLIC1.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/03/27/000090341_20070327162259/Rendered/PDF/391530MLI1education1PUBLIC1.pdf).

<sup>2363</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Rapport du Forum Sous Regional sur la Migration des Enfants 'un Risque à la Traite et à l'Exploitation' - Quels Enjeux Pour les Enfants Talibés*, Response to USDOL Technical Progress Report Question: Attachment, Segou, April 2007, 4. See also Peter Easton, Mark Peach, Ibrahim 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/abel2.html>. See also Peter Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," *IK Notes*, no. 11 (August 1999), 1 and 3; available from <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt11.pdf>.

<sup>2364</sup> IOM, *Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa*, Warns IOM, [online] 2006 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleAF/cac/he/offonce?entryId=12007>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Mali," section 5.

<sup>2365</sup> M. Hamadou Tolo, *Etude sur la traite des enfants au Mali: Dimensions internes, phenomenes transfrontaliers, role et responsabilites du secteur prive*, Bamako, June 2007, 37.

<sup>2366</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Mali (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 16, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also Winrock International, *Spotlight on ENDA, Mali*, [online] July 2005 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from <http://circle.winrock.org/news/ml-ENDA.cfm>.

<sup>2367</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Mali (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105658.pdf>. See also M. Hamadou Tolo, *Etude sur la traite des enfants au Mali et au Senegal: Dimensions internes, phenomenes transfrontaliers, role et responsabilites du secteur prive*, Bamako, June 2007, 6.

<sup>2368</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Mali." See also U.S. Department of State, "Mali," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119012.htm>

<sup>2369</sup> M. Hamadou Tolo, *Etude sur la traite des enfants au Mali et au Senegal*, 68 and 69. See also ILO-IPEC, *Mali*

*Time-Bound Programme, Technical Progress Report, March 2008*, 9.

<sup>2370</sup> M. Hamadou Tolo, *Etude sur la traite des enfants au Mali et au Senegal*, 7. See also U.S. Department of State, "Niger (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105658.pdf>.

<sup>2371</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Burkina Faso (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>. See also M. Hamadou Tolo, *Etude sur la traite des enfants au Mali et au Senegal*, 69 and 70.

<sup>2372</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Mauritania (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105658.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Senegal (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/index.htm>.

<sup>2373</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Bottom of the Ladder*, 36-38. See also U.S. Department of State, "Guinea (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

<sup>2374</sup> ILO-IPEC LUTRENA, *La Traite des Enfants Aux Fins D'Exploitation De Leur Travail Dans Les Mines d'Or D'Issia Cote D'Ivoire*, Research Report, Cote D'Ivoire, 2005, 24, 62, 64. See also U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, January 7, 2009 - 16:36, para 14. See also U.S. Department of State, "Cote d'Ivoire (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

<sup>2375</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, January 7, 2009 - 16:36, para 14. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cote d'Ivoire."

<sup>2376</sup> Government of Mali, *Loi no 92-020 portant Code du Travail*, (September 23, 1992), article 187; available from <http://www.assemblee-nationale.insti.ml/codesetlois/18-travail.pdf>.

<sup>2377</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Mali (ratification: 2002)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 16, 2009], article 7; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also Government of Mali, *Code du Travail*, article 189: 35-36.

<sup>2378</sup> Government of Mali, *Code du Travail*, article 189: 35-36.

<sup>2379</sup> *Ibid.*, articles D.189-14, D.189-15, D.189-16.

<sup>2380</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Support for the Preparation of the Mali Time-Bound Programme, Technical Progress Report*, Geneva, March 1, 2009, 11 and 16. See also Government of Mali, *Ministerial Order No. 09/0151/MTFPRE-SG of 04.02.09 completing the list of hazardous labour banned for children under the age of 18*, (December 2008).

<sup>2381</sup> Government of Mali, *Code du Travail*, article 6.

<sup>2382</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Mali," section 5. See also Government of Mali, *Loi no 61-99 AN-RM du aout 1961*, (August 3, 1961), article 189; available from <http://www.assemblee-nationale.insti.ml/codesetlois/11-codepenal.pdf>.

<sup>2383</sup> Government of Mali, *Déterminant les spécifications techniques du titre de voyage tenant lieu d'autorisation de sortie pour les enfants âgés de zéro à dix-huit ans*, (February 20, 2002).

<sup>2384</sup> Government of Mali, *Code pénal*, articles 180 and 182.

<sup>2385</sup> Government of Mali, *Code de protection de l'enfant*, article 17. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Mali," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=131>.

<sup>2386</sup> 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.

<sup>2387</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, 5-13.

<sup>2388</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Mali," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, January 7, 2009 - 16:36, para 4.

<sup>2389</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, January 7, 2009 - 14:36, para 2. See also U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, September 2, 2008.

<sup>2390</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, April 1, 2008.

<sup>2391</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, January 7, 2009 - 16:36.

<sup>2392</sup> *Ibid.*, paras 2 and 10.

<sup>2393</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Mali Time-Bound Programme, Technical Progress Report, March 2008*, 17.

<sup>2394</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bamako, *reporting*, January 7, 2009 - 16:36, para. 5.

<sup>2395</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Mali," section 5.

<sup>2396</sup> U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting*, March 4, 2008, para 28h. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Mali," section 5.

<sup>2397</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Mali Time-Bound Programme, Project Document*, cover page and 46.

<sup>2398</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bamako, reporting, January 7, 2009 - 16:36, para 8.

<sup>2399</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008. See also ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 27, 2008.

<sup>2400</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Tackle Child Labor through Education: Moving Children from Work to School in 11 Countries*, Geneva, 2008; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipceinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=8511>.

See also ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication, December 18, 2008.

## Mauritania

### *Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*<sup>2401</sup>

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
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:	14
Compulsory education age:	14
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	103.2
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	80.4
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	63.7
ILO Convention 138:	12/3/2001
ILO Convention 182:	12/3/2001
CRC:	5/16/1991
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	4/23/2007**
Palermo:	7/22/2005**
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

\*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

\*\*Accession

### **Incidence and Nature of Child Labor**

In rural areas in Mauritania, children frequently work with their families in activities such as farming (e.g., rice, beans, and vegetables), herding (e.g., goats), and fishing. Children also burn wood to produce charcoal.<sup>2402</sup> Children perform a

wide range of urban informal activities in cities such as Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Kiffa, and Rosso, including domestic labor, street vending, and driving donkey carts to collect garbage and deliver water and construction materials.<sup>2403</sup>

Girls between the ages of 7 and 13 years sell fish, vegetables, and other items in markets and at bus stands, and most work more than 8 hours a day.<sup>2404</sup> Boys between the ages of 14 and 18 years cart and transport people and goods, and many work more than 8 hours a day, 6 days a week.<sup>2405</sup> Boys who work as apprentices to mechanics are as young as 7 years; many of these boys work more than 8 hours a day, 6 days a week. Some boy apprentices are beaten and forced to work for many years by their master.<sup>2406</sup>

Girls, many of whom are between the ages of 7 and 12 years, work as domestic servants in urban households for more than 10 hours a day. Many girls work without pay and some are beaten and sexually abused.<sup>2407</sup> Many domestic servants in Mauritania come from the Senegal River Valley and Assaba and work in Nouakchott.<sup>2408</sup> The USDOS estimates that there are 400 street children.<sup>2409</sup> These children work on the streets in cities such as Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, and Rosso; many are boys around the age of 14 years. Some are former *talibes*. Also, some street children are sexually exploited, including by tourists.<sup>2410</sup>

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 Mauritania.<sup>2411</sup> The majority of boy students, or *talibes*, are between the ages of 6 and 10 years and