

or programs by the Government of Seychelles to address exploitive child labor.*

* Because of extremely limited information, a determination was made that USDOL would publish full reports on 9 countries and 18 territories, including the country or territory covered here, once every 5 years. For this reason, this report includes shortened profiles for these countries and territories, containing only new information published during the reporting

period. For extended profiles on these countries and territories, please see *The Department of Labor's 2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*. The next extended profiles on these countries and territories should appear in *The Department of Labor's 2010 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

³³⁷³ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section.

Sierra Leone

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> ³³⁷⁴	
Population, children, 5-14 years, 2005:	1,670,733
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	58.5
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	59.0
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005:	58.0
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	147.1
Net primary enrollment rate (%):	-
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2006:	67.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	No
ILO Convention 182:	No
CRC:	6/18/1990
CRCOPAC:	5/15/2002
CRCOPSC:	9/17/2001
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Sierra Leone are found working on family subsistence farms. Some children work in the fishing industry (e.g., snapper, herring, and

mackerel).³³⁷⁵ Children also engage in petty vending and domestic work.³³⁷⁶ Street children are used by adults to sell various items, steal, and beg.³³⁷⁷ Street children are also engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, including in Freetown and Bo.³³⁷⁸

Children crush stones in granite quarries and work under hazardous labor conditions, including carrying heavy loads and working long hours.³³⁷⁹ Children are engaged in sand mining.³³⁸⁰ Children also work in alluvial diamond mining areas.³³⁸¹ The majority of children that work in the diamond mining areas are boys generally between the ages of 10 and 17 years. These boys work in areas such as the Kenema and Kono districts and generally engage in petty trade and perform supportive roles.³³⁸² Some children report being forced to work in diamond mining areas 6 to 7 days a week without pay and report injury and illness due to the activities they perform.³³⁸³

Sierra Leone is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in children. Within Sierra Leone, children are trafficked to urban areas, where they work in domestic service, petty trading, or are engaged in prostitution.³³⁸⁴ Children are also trafficked internally for forced labor in agriculture, fishing, diamond mines, and begging. Children from Sierra Leone are trafficked to Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, and The Gambia.³³⁸⁵ Further, children from Nigeria and possibly Liberia and Guinea, are trafficked to Sierra Leone

for forced begging and mining, as well as portering and sexual exploitation.³³⁸⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment is 15 years, although at 13 years children may perform light work, defined as work that is likely not to be harmful to a child or interfere with schooling.³³⁸⁷ In addition, children must be 15 years or have completed basic education (whichever is later) before entering into an apprenticeship, including apprenticeships in the informal sector. Children are also prohibited from performing night work, defined as work between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.³³⁸⁸ The minimum age for a child to engage in hazardous work is 18 years. Hazardous work is defined as work that is dangerous to a child's health, safety, or morals, and includes activities such as going to sea; mining and quarrying; carrying heavy loads; working in bars; and working in environments where chemicals are produced or used and machinery is operated.³³⁸⁹

Forced and compulsory labor by children is prohibited by law.³³⁹⁰ The law prohibits commercial sexual exploitation of children under 18 years. Procuring or attempting to procure a girl for prostitution is punishable by up to 2 years in prison.³³⁹¹ The law also criminalizes all forms of human trafficking.³³⁹² The penalty for trafficking a person for labor or prostitution is up to 10 years in prison and restitution to the victim.³³⁹³ The age for voluntary recruitment or conscription into the armed forces is 18 years.³³⁹⁴

Sierra Leone 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.³³⁹⁵ 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.³³⁹⁶

The Ministry of Labor is charged with enforcing child labor laws through its seven labor monitors.³³⁹⁷ The Ministry of Mineral Resources

with an estimated 350 labor inspectors, is charged with enforcing regulations against the use of child labor in mining activities. According to USDOS, the Government did not effectively enforce laws against child labor (such as in the diamond mines), as well as forced and bonded child labor.³³⁹⁸ However, during the reporting period, the Government undertook raids on brothels in an effort to enforce laws against commercial sexual exploitation.³³⁹⁹ Further, in February 2009, the UN-supported Special Court for Sierra Leone convicted three Revolutionary United Front senior commanders of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The rebel leaders were also found guilty of recruiting child soldiers.³⁴⁰⁰ The rebel leaders committed these crimes between 1991 and 2002, during the civil war in Sierra Leone.³⁴⁰¹ In addition, according to USDOS, the Government of Sierra Leone worked with the Government of Guinea to investigate traffickers and repatriate trafficking victims.³⁴⁰²

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

During the reporting period, the Government of Sierra Leone continued to refer trafficking victims to the shelter, which provides services such as education, medical care, and counseling.³⁴⁰³ With support from NGOs, the Government continued to participate in training sessions and awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking.³⁴⁰⁴

The Government of Sierra Leone continued to participate in a 2-year USD 324,000 project funded by USDOS and implemented by World Hope International. The project seeks to provide training on trafficking and strengthen victim referral networks.³⁴⁰⁵ In addition, the Government is 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, including Sierra Leone.³⁴⁰⁶

The Government of Sierra Leone participates in the 4-year USD 6 million project that is funded by USDOL and implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC).³⁴⁰⁷ The project operates in Sierra Leone and Liberia and aims to withdraw 8,243 children and prevent an additional 21,647

children in both countries by improving access to and quality of education.³⁴⁰⁸ During the reporting period, the Government of Sierra Leone participated in IRC's media personnel trainings on child labor issues, in an effort to raise public awareness on child labor.³⁴⁰⁹

³³⁷⁴ 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 Sierra Leone, *Child Rights Act 2007*, (June 7, 2007), section 125; available from <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2007-7p.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Sierra Leone," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/index.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory, see Government of Sierra Leone, *Child Rights Act 2007*, section 125. For free education, see U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 5.

³³⁷⁵ Macro International, *In-Country Research: Site Visit Notes*, In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods, 2008. See also Macro International, *In-Country Research: Summaries of Goods Researched*, In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods, 2008. See also Macro International, *In-Country Research: Interview Type 2*, In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods, 2008. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 6d.

³³⁷⁶ International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, *Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards in Sierra Leone: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Sierra Leone*, Geneva, 2005, sections III; available from <http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/classierraleone2005.pdf>. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention: Sierra Leone second report*, CRC/C/SLE/2, Geneva, September 8, 2006, sections 88, 320, and 322; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/0d28ce8b8d49b955c12572610029584b/\\$FILE/G0644130.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/0d28ce8b8d49b955c12572610029584b/$FILE/G0644130.pdf).

³³⁷⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 6d. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Report: Sierra Leone*, sections 88, 320, and 322. See also International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour through Education (CYCLE)*, Project Document, New York, August 2007, 9.

³³⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 5.

³³⁷⁹ Macro International, *In-Country Research: Summaries of Goods Researched*.

³³⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 6d.

³³⁸¹ Ibid. See also M. Bøås and A. Hatløy, *Living in a material world*, Fafo Institute for Applied Social Science, Oslo, 2006, 49; available from <http://www.fafo.no/pub/rapp/515/515.pdf>. See also L. Gberie, *War and Peace in Sierra Leone: Diamonds, Corruption and the Lebanese Connection*, Partnership Africa Canada, Ottawa, November 2002, 20; available from http://action.web.ca/home/pac/attach/sierraleone2002_e.pdf. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Report: Sierra Leone*, articles 88, 320, and 322.

³³⁸² M. Bøås and A. Hatløy, *Living in a material world*, 50, 63. See also Office of the UN Secretary General, *Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General*, A/58/546, Geneva, October 30, 2003, section 40; available from http://www.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/story_id/000161.pdf. See also U.S. Embassy- Freetown official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 14, 2009.

³³⁸³ M. Bøås and A. Hatløy, *Living in a material world*, 56-59, 61-63, 65. See also International Rescue Committee, *Child Labor and Education in Sierra Leone: Needs and Resource Assessment in Targeted Communities*, New York, June 2006, 12. See also UN, *Economic and Social Council: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights*, E/CN.4/2006/106, February 15, 2006, section 10.

³³⁸⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Sierra Leone (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008>.

³³⁸⁵ Ibid.

³³⁸⁶ Ibid.

³³⁸⁷ Government of Sierra Leone, *Child Rights Act 2007*, sections 125-127, 128, 134-135.

³³⁸⁸ Ibid.

³³⁸⁹ Ibid.

³³⁹⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 6c.

³³⁹¹ Government of Sierra Leone, *Child Rights Act 2007*, section 2. See also Government of Sierra Leone, *Prevention of Cruelty to Children Ordinance*, (1926), part I (article 2) and part II (articles 6-13); available from <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/preventionofcrueltytochildren.html> [hard copy on file].

³³⁹² Government of Sierra Leone, *The Anti-Human Trafficking Act*, Vol CXXXVI, No 44, (August 18, 2005), Part II 2.1; available from <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2005-7p.pdf>.

³³⁹³ U.S. Embassy- Freetown, *reporting*, January 27, 2009, para 6.

³³⁹⁴ Government of Sierra Leone, *Child Rights Act 2007*, section 28. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Sierra Leone," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/home>.

³³⁹⁵ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006.

³³⁹⁶ 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; available from http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/img/pdf/Multilateral_Agreement_Trafficking-1184251953.doc.

³³⁹⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy-Freetown, *reporting*, January 27, 2009, para 11.

³³⁹⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 6c, 6d. See also U.S. Embassy-Freetown, *reporting*, January 27, 2009, para 11.

³³⁹⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Sierra Leone."

³⁴⁰⁰ Reuters, "U.N. Court Convicts Sierra Leone Rebels of War Crimes", [online], February 25, 2009 [cited October 8, 2008]; available from http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USLP688235_CH_2400.

³⁴⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁴⁰² U.S. Embassy- Freetown, *reporting*, January 27, 2009, para 5g.

³⁴⁰³ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Sierra Leone." See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Sierra Leone," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Freetown, *reporting*, January 27, 2009, para 6b.

³⁴⁰⁴ U.S. Embassy- Freetown, *reporting*, January 27, 2009, para 7a.

³⁴⁰⁵ U.S. Embassy- Freetown, *reporting*, September 30, 2008, para 1. See also U.S. Department of State, "Fiscal Year 2008 Anti-Human Trafficking Programs," Washington, DC, November 3, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/111540.htm>.

³⁴⁰⁶ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 15, 2008. See also 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>.

³⁴⁰⁷ International Rescue Committee, *CYCLE, Project Document*, 1-2, 23.

³⁴⁰⁸ Ibid.

³⁴⁰⁹ International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour through Education (CYCLE)*, Technical Progress Report, New York, September 2008, 10.

Solomon Islands

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Government officials have acknowledged reports of children working as cooks and performing other tasks in logging camps and have also reported their involvement in the sale and production of homebrewed alcohol.³⁴¹⁰ Reports indicate that children, both boys and girls, are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation associated with the logging, tourism, and fishing industries in areas near logging camps; on fishing boats; and in Honiara, the capital city.³⁴¹¹ The use of children in pornography is also indicated.³⁴¹²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for admission to work in Solomon Islands is 12 years. Children under 12 years may participate in light agricultural,

domestic, or other labor if they are employed by and in the company of a parent or guardian, and the work has been approved by the Commissioner of Labor.³⁴¹³ Children under 15 years are prohibited from working in industry or on ships, with the exception of approved school or training ships.³⁴¹⁴ It is illegal for children under 16 years to work underground in mines.³⁴¹⁵ Children 16 to 18 years are also prohibited from working underground in mines, though boys over 16 years may obtain a medical certificate clearing them for such work.³⁴¹⁶

Children under 18 years may not be employed as trimmers or stokers on ships and must obtain a medical certificate for any other work on a ship. The Commissioner of Labor may allow a boy of less than 18 years to begin work on a ship without medical clearance in certain circumstances,