
2008. See also U.S. Embassy- Managua, *reporting, February 13, 2009.*

²⁷⁷⁵ American Institutes for Research, *ENTERATE: Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor through Education in Nicaragua*, Cooperative Agreement, 2008.

²⁷⁷⁶ 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.

²⁷⁷⁷ CARE, *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.

²⁷⁷⁸ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008. See also ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 4, 2008.

²⁷⁷⁹ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication, December 18, 2008. See also ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication, February 4, 2008.

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 raising animals.²⁷⁸⁰ Children work in manufacturing and maintenance, including welding, carpentry, and metal work. Children also work in tanneries and slaughterhouses.²⁷⁸¹ Girls especially work as domestic servants and as vendors, risking harassment and sexual abuse.²⁷⁸² Street children, who beg or perform tasks such as dishwashing or portering, are prevalent in the capital, Niamey, as well as in Dosso, Maradi, Zinder, and Tahoua.²⁷⁸³

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 Niger.²⁷⁸⁴ 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.²⁷⁸⁵

Children work in hazardous conditions in mines and quarries, including salt quarries in Tounouga; trona mines in the Boboye region; gypsum mines in Madaoua; and gold mines in Liptako-Gourma, Komabangou, M'bangou, and the area near the border with Burkina Faso.²⁷⁸⁶ In mining and

quarrying, children participate in many hazardous activities, such as breaking rocks; extracting, processing, and hoisting up ore; and transporting heavy loads.²⁷⁸⁷ Gold mining is particularly hazardous because gold-washing may expose children to mercury.²⁷⁸⁸ Children are also victimized in prostitution, especially along the highway between Zinder and Birni n'Konni.²⁷⁸⁹

Traditional forms of caste-based servitude, including that of children, still exist in parts of Niger.²⁷⁹⁰ This practice is more prevalent among the nomadic populations. Slaves often work as shepherds, agricultural workers, or domestic servants.²⁷⁹¹

Niger serves as a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.²⁷⁹² Children are trafficked internally for forced labor in mines, agricultural labor, and domestic service, as well as for commercial sexual exploitation and begging.²⁷⁹³ Children from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Togo are trafficked to Niger for exploitive labor, including working in mines, on farms, and on the streets as menial laborers.²⁷⁹⁴ Children from Mali are trafficked to the rice fields in the Tillabery region of Niger, as well as in transit to Europe or North Africa.²⁷⁹⁵ Nigerien children are trafficked to work as beggars or manual laborers in Mali and

Nigeria.²⁷⁹⁶ Children from Niger are trafficked to Cameroon for forced labor in agriculture, vending, and fishing.²⁷⁹⁷

employed in work that exceeds his or her strength and that employers guarantee certain minimum sanitary conditions.²⁸⁰¹

The law prohibits forced and bonded labor, except for work by legally convicted prisoners.²⁸⁰² Nigerien law criminalizes slavery, specifically noting that this includes children under 18 years, who might be put into such a situation by parents or guardians, and provides for a prison sentence of up to 30 years for enslaving a person.²⁸⁰³ The law criminalizes prostitution.²⁸⁰⁴ Nigerien law also prohibits forcing a person to beg, including a parent causing a child to beg.²⁸⁰⁵ The minimum age for recruitment into the military is 18 years.²⁸⁰⁶

Niger 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.²⁸⁰⁷ As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government of Niger 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.²⁸⁰⁸

The Ministry of Labor is charged with enforcing labor laws and has approximately 100 inspectors who are responsible for investigating and enforcing all elements of the Labor Code, including child labor.²⁸⁰⁹ According to USDOS, the labor inspectorate is reported to be acutely lacking in both human and material resources, which hampers inspections, and there were no labor inspections in 2008.²⁸¹⁰ The Ministries of Interior, Justice, and the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children share the responsibility for taking measures against trafficking, and law enforcement officials arrested some traffickers during 2008.²⁸¹¹ Also, in collaboration with UNICEF, Niger established regional committees to address child trafficking in several regions, including Agadez, Niamey, and Zinder. Law enforcement authorities rescued at least 58 children from traffickers near the border with Benin in Niger and in the Agadez region.²⁸¹²

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²⁷⁹⁸

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2000:	3,140,254
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 (%), 2006:	50.6
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	43.4
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	31.1
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	56.2
ILO Convention 138:	12/4/1978
ILO Convention 182:	10/23/2000
CRC:	9/30/1990
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	10/26/2004
Palermo:	9/30/2004
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, including for apprenticeships.²⁷⁹⁹ Children under 18 years must have at least a 12-hour break and may not be employed at night, except in certain special circumstances that are subject to decree.²⁸⁰⁰ The law also requires that no child or apprentice be

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

During 2008, the Government of Niger continued to target child labor through the framework established by its Poverty Reduction Strategy Document.²⁸¹³ Under this framework, the Government supports three technical and vocational training centers in Zinder, Maradi, and Tahoua.²⁸¹⁴ Also, the Government provides services to street children via the National Committee for Combating the Phenomena of Street Children, under leadership of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children.²⁸¹⁵ As part of this effort, the Ministry of Labor launched a vocational training program for street children rescued by an NGO.²⁸¹⁶ UNICEF is also working with the Government to reduce the number of children working on the street by providing non-formal education to former street vendors.²⁸¹⁷

The Government of Niger continues to support research efforts aimed at determining the extent of child labor in the country. As such, the Ministry of Labor and National Institute of Statistics are working with ILO-IPEC and UNICEF to conduct surveys on child labor, while the National Commission for Human Rights and Civil Liberties is conducting a survey of customary slavery in Niger, including that of children.²⁸¹⁸

In 2008, the Government conducted awareness-raising events on child labor.²⁸¹⁹ As part of this effort, the Ministry of Labor organized a celebration for the World Day Against Child Labor.²⁸²⁰ Niger also continued to rescue and provide rehabilitation services to children who were victims of trafficking.

The Government of Niger is participating in a 3-year, USDOL-funded USD 3 million regional project, implemented by ILO-IPEC, that runs until July 2009, to withdraw 1,500 children and prevent 2,500 children from hazardous artisanal gold mining in Niger and Burkina Faso.²⁸²¹

The Government of Niger participated through September 2008 in a 4-year, USDOL-funded USD 2 million Child Labor Education Initiative, implemented by Catholic Relief Services, to

combat child labor through education. The project withdrew 804 and prevented 6,347 children from exploitive work in mining, hazardous forms of agriculture, and cattle-raising by providing access to formal education or vocational training.²⁸²² Additionally, the project raised awareness of the worst forms of child labor, strengthened the capacity of local NGOs, and improved existing school infrastructure.²⁸²³

The Government of Niger 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.²⁸²⁴

²⁷⁸⁰ Government of Niger- National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*, May 2008, 13. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Niger," section 6d.

²⁷⁸¹ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, para D.

²⁷⁸² Government of Niger- National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*, 13. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "NIGER: Youths are 'demographic time bomb'", IRINnews.org [online] September 12, 2008 [cited January 28, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=80323>. See also UNICEF, *Aichatou's story: New skills protect a former street vendor from exploitation in Niger*, [online] November 17, 2008 [cited January 28, 2009]; available from http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/niger_46412.html?q=printme.

²⁷⁸³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Niger (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 28, 2009], article 7, para 2; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=21887&chapter=9&query=%28Niger%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*, [online] June 15, 2007 [cited January 28, 2009]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger_39997.html?q=printme.

²⁷⁸⁴ 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 and 6. See also 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/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>.

²⁷⁸⁵ 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/cache/offonce?entryId=12007>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Niger (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 28, 2009], article 3(2); available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=10394&chapter=6&query=%28Niger%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also Government of Niger, ANDDH, and UNICEF, *Rapport de l'étude nationale sur le trafic des personnes au Niger*, March, 2005, 10 and 12.

²⁷⁸⁶ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour*, article 3(2), clause (d). See also O. Issa, "Niger's gold miners exploit children", *Business in Africa* [online] August 30, 2005 [cited January 28, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=72487>.

²⁷⁸⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour*. See also ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour in Salt Mining: The Problem*, [online] June 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Miningandquarrying/MoreaboutCLinmining/lang--en/index.htm>. See also ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Mining in West Africa*, Project Document, Geneva, September 30, 2005, 2. See also ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour in Gold Mining: The Problem*, [online] June 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Miningandquarrying/MoreaboutCLinmining/lang--en/index.htm>.

²⁷⁸⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour*. See also ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour in Salt Mining*.

²⁷⁸⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Niger," section 5.

²⁷⁹⁰ *Ibid.* See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "NIGER: New slavery study welcomed by human rights experts", IRINnews.org [online] May 31, 2007 [cited January 28, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=72487>.

²⁷⁹¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) Niger*

(*ratification: 1961*), [online] 2008 [cited January 28, 2009], articles 1(1) and 2(1); available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=9685&chapter=6&query=%28Niger%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 10, 2007, paras 1-3.

²⁷⁹² 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/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105388.htm>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

²⁷⁹³ UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Niger."

²⁷⁹⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Niger." See also UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*. See also 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>.

²⁷⁹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009.

²⁷⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, para D. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Niger."

²⁷⁹⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Cameroon (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

²⁷⁹⁸ 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 Niger, *Ordonnance no 96-039 du 29 juin 1996 portant Code du travail*, (1996), 99; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/44750/66561/F96NER01.htm#a095>. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Niger (ratification: 1978)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 28, 2009], article 3, para. 3; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=21619&chapter=9&query=%28Niger%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Niger," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119017.htm>.

²⁷⁹⁹ Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, article 99.

²⁸⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 96.

²⁸⁰¹ Ibid., articles 100 and 30. See also U.S. Department of State, "Niger," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100497.htm>.

²⁸⁰² Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, article 4.

²⁸⁰³ Government of Niger, *Loi n° 2003-025 du 13 juin 2003 modifiant la loi n° 61-27 du 15 juillet 1961 portant institution du Code pénal* (2003), articles 270.1-270.5; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/SERIAL/66128/62103/F1872754105/66218.pdf>.

See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Forced Labour*.

²⁸⁰⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Niger," section 5.

²⁸⁰⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour*, article 3(2). See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 3, 2007.

²⁸⁰⁶ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, para A.

²⁸⁰⁷ 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.

²⁸⁰⁸ 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.

²⁸⁰⁹ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, para B. See also Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, articles 248-264.

²⁸¹⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Niger," section 6d. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour*, article 5.

²⁸¹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Niger," section 5.

²⁸¹² U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, November 19, 2008, paras B and C. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Niger," section 5.

²⁸¹³ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, para D.

²⁸¹⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request, Minimum Age*, article 3, para 3. Government of Niger, *Full Poverty Reduction Strategy*, Niamey, August 2007, 56-57.

²⁸¹⁵ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Youths are 'demographic time bomb'". See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour*, article 7, para 2.

²⁸¹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, para C.

²⁸¹⁷ UNICEF, *Aichatou's story*.

²⁸¹⁸ Government of Niger- National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "New slavery study welcomed by human rights experts". See also Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger* Technical Progress Report, September 15, 2008, 8.

²⁸¹⁹ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, para B.

²⁸²⁰ Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education, Technical Progress Report, September 2008*, 3.

²⁸²¹ ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Mining, Project Document*, 36.

²⁸²² Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education, Technical Progress Report, September 2008*, 19. See also Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger*, Project Document, 2006, 19-20.

²⁸²³ Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education, Technical Progress Report, September 2008*, 6, 8, 28, 45, 46.

²⁸²⁴ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

Nigeria

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Nigeria work in agriculture, including under hazardous conditions, on family and commercial plantations.²⁸²⁵ Children work on cassava farms and on cocoa and rubber plantations, in activities such as weeding, cocoa pod breaking, and mixing hazardous chemicals.²⁸²⁶ In urban areas, children also work as street-

peddlers, shoe-shiners, load carriers, car-washers, scavengers, and bus-fare collectors.²⁸²⁷ Children risk exposure to hazardous conditions while working in fishing, sand-harvesting, transportation, and construction.²⁸²⁸ Children are involved in fishing, including casting nets, unloading fish, boat repair, and trading activities.²⁸²⁹ One study of fisher-children in riverine communities in Nigeria found that 70