

Niger

The Government of Niger supported limited programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor, such as providing services to street children. Gaps remain in legislation, policies, and programs to address the worst forms of child labor. Children continue to be exploited in hazardous work in agriculture, including the raising of animals, and the mining of gold, gypsum, and salt.



Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	66.2%
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	31.1%
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs	24.9%

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Niger are exploited in the worst forms of child labor,³⁷²¹ many of them in agriculture and raising animals.³⁷²² Such children may carry loads that are too heavy for their small stature and work long hours, putting them at greater risk of injury. Children work in dangerous conditions in mines and quarries, including in the production of salt, gypsum, and gold where they break rocks, extract, process, and hoist ore, and transport heavy loads.³⁷²³ Interviews of approximately 400 children in mining sites, conducted in 2009, found that 38 percent of these children reported having been the victim of an accident at the work site.³⁷²⁴

Children, especially girls, working in domestic service and street vending, are at risk of physical or sexual harassment.³⁷²⁵ Children work in manufacturing and maintenance, including welding, carpentry, and metal work.³⁷²⁶ Children also work in slaughterhouses, which exposes them to health and safety risks.³⁷²⁷

In urban areas, street children are prevalent; they are found begging or performing tasks such as dishwashing and portering.³⁷²⁸ Such children risk injury from activities such as carrying heavy loads

as porters or from accidents caused by proximity to vehicles while begging in the street.

Some children in Niger work in conditions of forced labor. In some cases, this stems from the traditional practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include a vocational or apprenticeship component.³⁷²⁹ Some boys are forced by their teachers to beg and surrender the money that they have earned or perform manual labor, including in agriculture.³⁷³⁰ In addition, traditional forms of caste-based servitude still exist in parts of Niger among nomadic populations.³⁷³¹ Slaves, including children, are often forced to work long hours as shepherds, agricultural workers, or domestic servants.³⁷³² Girls who work as domestic servants are sometimes pressed into prostitution. Commercial sexual exploitation of children also exists near the border with Nigeria and along the main highway.³⁷³³

Niger serves as a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.³⁷³⁴ Children are trafficked internally for forced labor in mines, agricultural labor, begging, and domestic service, as well as for commercial sexual exploitation.³⁷³⁵ Children from Benin and Mali are trafficked to Niger for

exploitive labor, including working in mines, on farms, and on the streets as menial laborers.³⁷³⁶ Children are trafficked through Niger to Europe or North Africa.³⁷³⁷ Nigerien children are trafficked to work as beggars or manual laborers in Nigeria, Mali, and Burkina Faso.³⁷³⁸

In 2009, after Niger's President dissolved the National Assembly and the Constitutional Court, granting himself emergency powers, many donor nations suspended development assistance to Niger, which remains one of the least developed nations.³⁷³⁹ In addition, a failed harvest and food crisis prompted many rural Nigeriens to leave their villages to seek food and work, which increased the risk to rural children of being trafficked into the worst forms of child labor.³⁷⁴⁰

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14, including for apprenticeships, while the minimum age for hazardous labor is set at 16. This law also requires that no child or apprentice be employed in work that exceeds his or her strength and that employers guarantee certain minimum sanitary conditions.³⁷⁴¹ However, Decree No. 67-126/MFP/T of September 1967, which authorizes children who are age 16 to work in certain hazardous activities, does not adequately address the related safety concerns by requiring training, instruction, supervision, and other necessary protections for this group of workers.³⁷⁴² Education is only compulsory until age 12, leaving a gap before the legal working age of 14, which puts children in that group at risk of falling into the worst forms of child labor.³⁷⁴³

The Minister of the Interior issued a circular prohibiting the use of children in mining in several regions of Niger.³⁷⁴⁴ Through the labor and penal codes, Niger prohibits and provides criminal penalties for forced and bonded labor.³⁷⁴⁵ The 2003 Loi n° 2003-025 amended the Penal Code to criminalize slavery and provide appropriate penalties (up to 30 years imprisonment) for such acts, and includes specific reference to children under 18 who might be put into such a situation by parents or guardians.³⁷⁴⁶ Nigerien law also specifically prohibits inciting a person to beg, but such acts, categorized as a misdemeanor, may be punished by a fine and up to 1 year of imprisonment.³⁷⁴⁷ However, these restrictions and

penalties do not appear sufficient to deter forced begging, which is a prevalent form of forced child labor in Niger.

Since 2006, Niger has been reviewing a draft law against trafficking but had not yet adopted it, as of the end of the reporting period.³⁷⁴⁸ Nonetheless, traffickers of children may be prosecuted under the Penal Code which criminalizes kidnapping.³⁷⁴⁹ The Penal Code also defines and sets penalties for several components of commercial sexual exploitation, but does not capture all such crimes. It criminalizes carnal knowledge of children under the age of 13, facilitating prostitution and owning a brothel, but it does not directly criminalize prostitution. Such crimes might be considered offenses under the prohibition against indecency, but this is not clear from the law.³⁷⁵⁰ The lack of legislation criminalizing all forms of commercial sexual exploitation leaves children vulnerable and unprotected.³⁷⁵¹

In February 2010, a military junta seized power and suspended the Constitution, along with some of the governing institutions discussed in this report.³⁷⁵² Although this did not affect the laws discussed above, the impact on the country's child labor efforts at this point is not known.

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	16
	Compulsory Education Age	12
	Free Public Education	Yes

Institutional Mechanisms for Monitoring and Enforcement

Niger established a national child labor steering committee which coordinates efforts to reduce worst forms of child labor.³⁷⁵³ This steering committee, established through the Ministry of Community Development in 2006, includes representatives from eight ministries, as well as representatives from NGO and UN agencies.³⁷⁵⁴

The Ministry of Labor is charged with enforcing labor laws, including those provisions governing hazardous labor for children under age 18. It has nine regional labor inspectorates and approximately 100 inspectors who are responsible for investigating and enforcing all elements of the Labor Code, including child labor.³⁷⁵⁵ Inspectors conduct both routine and complaint-based inspections in the formal sector.³⁷⁵⁶ According to the ILO Committee of Experts, the labor inspectorate acutely lacks both human and material resources, although each regional inspection service does have a vehicle to visit worksites.³⁷⁵⁷

While the Ministry of Labor handles hazardous work, responsibility for other worst forms of child labor is divided. The Ministries of Interior, Justice, and the Promotion of Women, and the Protection of Children share the responsibility for problems such as trafficking, slavery, and sexual exploitation.³⁷⁵⁸ Since 2004, Nigerien authorities investigated at least 8 cases of caste-based slavery, including the enslavement of children.³⁷⁵⁹ During the reporting period, law enforcement officials arrested several traffickers connected to the trafficking of at least 112 children. At least two of these traffickers were subsequently released without charges, while others were charged under laws related to kidnapping.³⁷⁶⁰

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In March 2000, Niger adopted a National Action Policy (NAP) against Child Labor, which provided a framework for some actions, but did not address child labor in the rural sector.³⁷⁶¹ The Government worked with stakeholders to update this NAP. In November 2009, an updated NAP was reviewed and validated by a group of experts. To date, however, the updated NAP has yet to be adopted.³⁷⁶² The government developed an action plan in 2007 to target

the exploitation of children by religious instructors, but this has reportedly not been implemented due to a lack of funding.³⁷⁶³ Child labor concerns have been incorporated in the following national development agendas and policy documents: Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan (2008-2012) and the draft United Nations Development Assistance Framework Workplan 2009-2013.³⁷⁶⁴

The Ministry of Labor and National Institute of Statistics conducts surveys related to the worst forms of child labor, with the support of partners such as UNICEF and ILO-IPEC. However, Niger does not appear to have published comprehensive data related to the worst forms of child labor since 2000, impeding its ability to appropriately target and prioritize policies and programs.³⁷⁶⁵

Niger also established a National Committee to Combat Forced Labor and Discrimination in 2006. It undertook a pilot study to assess slavery and child labor in preparation for a national action plan; but has not finished developing this plan.³⁷⁶⁶ A NAP to combat the sexual exploitation of children was adopted by the Government in 2006.³⁷⁶⁷ Niger has also developed several draft NAPs, which provide overarching, sectoral frameworks, including a NAP for child protection and survival, and a NAP against the trafficking of children.³⁷⁶⁸ However, these draft plans have not yet been adopted.

During the reporting period the Government adopted the Regional Policy on Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa under ECOWAS. This agreement explicitly targets, among others, victims trafficked for the purpose of exploitive labor and hazardous child labor. Begging was included as a form of exploitation, reflecting the regional need to combat this growing problem.³⁷⁶⁹ The agreement builds on the framework developed under 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.³⁷⁷⁰ In 2009, the Government of Niger also participated in the launch of the African Union Commission Initiative against Trafficking Campaign, which focuses on ensuring that the fight against trafficking is a priority development goal across the continent.³⁷⁷¹

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Niger has been delivering social programs, which provide services for children engaged in the worst forms of child labor since at least 2001. For example, the Government has been providing services to street children via the National Committee for Combating the Phenomena of Street Children, under the leadership of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children.³⁷⁷² As part of this effort, the Ministry of Labor also supports a vocational training program for street children.³⁷⁷³ 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.³⁷⁷⁴ Since 2006, Niger has a national unit to target programs to combat begging.³⁷⁷⁵

Additionally, the Government of Niger worked to combat child labor via a French-funded regional project, which ended in December 2009, and included vocational training and apprenticeship programs.³⁷⁷⁶ The Government is participating in a 4-year, USDOL-funded regional project that runs through January 2010, to withdraw 1,500 children and prevent 2,500 children from hazardous artisanal gold mining in Niger and Burkina Faso.³⁷⁷⁷

The National Commission for Human, Rights and Civil Liberties is gathering information related to customary slavery in Niger, including of children.³⁷⁷⁸

Across Niger, the scale of social protection programs and services aimed at preventing the worst forms of child labor does not match the scope of the problem, which has been heightened by deepening poverty during the reporting period.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Niger:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Revise the Labor Code to raise the minimum age for hazardous work to 18 and define the specific hazardous occupations that are illegal for children. Increase the minimum age for compulsory education to at least 14.
- Amend the Penal Code to provide stiffer penalties for all acts of forced labor, including forced begging.
- Enact legislation criminalizing all forms of commercial exploitation of children and providing appropriate penalties.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Increase resources to carry out inspections on the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt and implement the updated National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Child Labor and adopt other relevant draft NAPs, such as those addressing child survival and trafficking in persons.
- Conduct and make publicly available research on the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Expand programs and increase resources for social programs to prevent and withdraw children from the worst forms of child labor, particularly in agriculture.

³⁷²¹ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates, 2005-2010*. Data provided are from 2000. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics on children's work are reported here, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used for these statistics, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section.

³⁷²² Government of Niger: National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*, May, 2008, 13.

³⁷²³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Niger (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited February 5, 2010]; 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 ILO-IPEC, *Etude transfrontaliere sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur de l'orpaillage traditionnel au Burkina Faso, au Mali, et au Niger*, December 2009, 5, 11, and 31. See also ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour in Salt Mining: The Problem*, [online] June 2006 [cited February 5, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Miningandquarrying/MoreaboutCLInmining/lang--en/index.htm>. See also Ali Ramadan Sekou Maina, *Rapport Niger: Etude Transfrontaliere sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur de l'orpaillage traditionnel au Burkina, au Mali et au Niger*, ILO-IPEC Research Report, December 2009, 31. See also ILO-IPEC and Government of Niger: National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Base sur le Travail des Enfants sur les Sites d'Orpaillage de Komabangou et M'bangou*, October 2009, 20.

³⁷²⁴ Ali Ramadan Sekou Maina, *Etude Transfrontaliere: Rapport Niger*, 11, 31, and 35.

³⁷²⁵ Government of Niger- National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*, May 2008, 13. See also UNICEF, *Aichatou's story: New skills protect a former street vendor from exploitation in Niger*, [online] November 17, 2008 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/niger_46412.html?q=printme.

³⁷²⁶ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, section d, para 6. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, June 15, 2009, para 3.

³⁷²⁷ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, June 15, 2009, para 3.

³⁷²⁸ UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*, [online] June 15, 2007 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger_39997.html?q=printme. See also UNICEF, *Aichatou's story: New skills protect a former street vendor from exploitation in Niger*.

³⁷²⁹ U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting*, February 19, 2009, section b, para 4 and section c, para 4. 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>.

³⁷³⁰ Government of Niger, *Strategie de developement accelere et de reduction de la pauvreté 2008-2012*, Niamey, August 2007, 56. 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 C182: Niger (2008)*. 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.

³⁷³¹ U.S. Department of State, "Niger," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010, section 7c; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135969.htm>. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "NIGER: New slavery study welcomed by human rights experts", IRINnews.org, [online], May 31, 2007 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=72487>.

³⁷³² ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) Niger (ratification: 1961)*, [online] 2008 [cited February 5, 2010], 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.

³⁷³³ U.S. Department of State, "Niger (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/143188.pdf>. See also U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting*, February 19, 2009, para B(4) and C(5).

³⁷³⁴ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 26, 2009, section d, 11. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*.

³⁷³⁵ UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Niger (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/142761.htm>.

³⁷³⁶ U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 19, 2009*. See also UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*.

³⁷³⁷ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*, section d, 11.

³⁷³⁸ Integrated Regional Information Networks, “NIGER: When religious teachers traffic their students”, IRINnews.org, [online], August 26, 2009 [cited February 5, 2010]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85857>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*, para D. See also U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 19, 2009*. See also U.S. Department of State, “Burkina Faso (Tier 2),” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/142759.htm>.

³⁷³⁹ UNDP, *Statistics of the Human Development Report*, [online] 2009 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>. See also Reuters, “U.S. suspends aid to Niger over president’s term”, Reuters.com, [online], December 23, 2009 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2316856820091223>. See also BBC, “Massive win for Niger president”, BBC.co.uk, [online], August 7, 2009 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8189205.stm>.

³⁷⁴⁰ AllAfrica, “Niger: As Country Faces Severe Food Shortages, UN and Partners Appeal for Aid”, allafrica.com, [online], February 10, 2010 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://www.allafrica.com/stories/printable/201002100955>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, March 17, 2010, para 2(d).

³⁷⁴¹ Government of Niger, *Ordonnance no 96-039 du 29 juin 1996 portant Code du travail*, (1996), articles 99, 100 and 30; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WBTEXT/44750/66561/F96NER01.htm#a095>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Niger (ratification: 1978)*, [online] 2008 [cited February 5, 2010]; 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>.

³⁷⁴² ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C138: Niger (2008)*.

³⁷⁴³ Ibid.]. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Niger,” section 6.

³⁷⁴⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*.

³⁷⁴⁵ Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, article 4.

³⁷⁴⁶ 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 C29: Niger (2008)*.

³⁷⁴⁷ Government of Niger, *Code Penal*, articles 179-181; available from <http://juriniger.lexum.umontreal.ca/juriniger/publication.do?publicationId=814>. See also Government of Niger: Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, *Initial Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, May, 2008. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*, article 3(2). See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting*, January 3, 2007.

³⁷⁴⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*. See also U.S. Embassy -Niamey, *reporting*, June 12, 2009.

³⁷⁴⁹ Government of Niger, *Code Penal*, articles 248-249 and 255-258.

³⁷⁵⁰ Ibid., articles 278-279, 282, and 291-293. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Niger,” section 6.

³⁷⁵¹ Government of Niger, *Loi n° 2003-025 du 13 juin 2003 modifiant le Code pénal*. See also U.S. Embassy -Niamey, *reporting June 12, 2009*. See also Government of Niger, *Code Penal*.

³⁷⁵² Boureima Hama, “African Union suspends Niger as junta tightens control”, GlobalTV.com, [online], February 19, 2010 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://news.globaltv.com/money/African+Union+suspends+Niger+junta+tightens+control/2586081/story.html>. See also Cable News Network, “Niger military halts nation’s constitution”, CNN.com, [online], February 18, 2010 [cited February 22, 2010]; available from <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/02/18/niger.coup/index.html?iref=allsearch>.

³⁷⁵³ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Mining in West Africa*, Technical Progress Report, Geneva, September 12, 2007, 13.

³⁷⁵⁴ Government of Niger: Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, *Initial Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, 52. See also Government of Niger: Ministry of Town Country Planning and Community Development, *Ministerial Order no 00003/MAT/DC dated May 30, 2006 relating to the establishment of the Steering Committee of the ‘Fight against Child Labor’ Project*, (2006). See also Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger*, Technical Progress Report, September 26, 2006, 3.

- ³⁷⁵⁵ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*, para B. See also U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 25, 2010*, section 2(c), para 2. See also Government of Niger, *Code du Travail*, articles 248-264.
- ³⁷⁵⁶ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81) Niger (ratification: 1979)*, [online] 2008 [cited February 5, 2010]; 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>.
- ³⁷⁵⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C81: Niger (2008)*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*, article 5.
- ³⁷⁵⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Niger," section 7.
- ³⁷⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 19, 2009*.
- ³⁷⁶⁰ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 17, 2010*, section e.
- ³⁷⁶¹ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Mining in West Africa*, Technical Progress Report: Response to Donor Comments (Annex B), Geneva, September 15, 2009, 62.
- ³⁷⁶² Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 25, 2010*, section 2(E), para 2.
- ³⁷⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Niger (Tier 3)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 16, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105658.pdf>.
- ³⁷⁶⁴ ILO-IPEC, *West Africa Mining, September 2007 Technical Progress Report*, 3 and 11. See also ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Mining in West Africa*, Technical Progress Report, Geneva, March 10, 2008, 11, U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*, para D. See also U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 25, 2010*, section 4(E), para 3.
- ³⁷⁶⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Etude transfrontaliere sur le travail des enfants dans les sites d'orpillage*. See also Government of Niger- National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*. See also Government of Niger, ANDDH, and UNICEF, *Rapport de l'etude nationale sur le trafic des personnes au Niger*.
- ³⁷⁶⁶ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C29: Niger (2008)*. See also Government of Niger, *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, 56-57.
- ³⁷⁶⁷ U.S. Embassy - Niamey, *reporting, February 19, 2009*.
- ³⁷⁶⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*.
- ³⁷⁶⁹ ECOWAS, *Regional Policy on Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa*, Accra, April 3, 2009.
- ³⁷⁷⁰ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006.
- ³⁷⁷¹ African Union, *Launch of the AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking*, Press Release, June 16, 2009; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/afpro/addisababa/pdf/advisoryaucommit.pdf>.
- ³⁷⁷² Integrated Regional Information Networks, "NIGER: Youths are 'demographic time bomb' ", IRINnews.org, [online], September 12, 2008 [cited February 5, 2010]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=80323>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Niger (2008)*, article 7, para 2.
- ³⁷⁷³ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 26, 2009*, para C.
- ³⁷⁷⁴ UNICEF, *Aichatou's story: New skills protect a former street vendor from exploitation in Niger*.
- ³⁷⁷⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*.
- ³⁷⁷⁶ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 27, 2008. See also ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December, 2008.
- ³⁷⁷⁷ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Mining in West Africa*, Project Document, Geneva, September 30, 2005, 36.
- ³⁷⁷⁸ Government of Niger- National Institute of Statistics, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, «New slavery study welcomed». See also Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger*, Technical Progress Report, September 15, 2008, 8.