

Lebanon

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	14 ²⁴³⁴
Age to which education is compulsory:	12 ²⁴³⁵
Free public education:	Yes ^{2436*}
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2002:	103% ²⁴³⁷
Net primary enrollment rate in 2002:	91% ²⁴³⁸
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	92% ²⁴³⁹
Ratified Convention 138:	6/10/2003 ²⁴⁴⁰
Ratified Convention 182:	9/11/2001 ²⁴⁴¹
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes ²⁴⁴²
* In practice, must pay registration and other fees. ²⁴⁴³	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Working children are more prevalent in poor rural areas and are more likely to come from large families.²⁴⁴⁴ The proportion of working children 10 to 14 years has been found to be highest in North Lebanon.²⁴⁴⁵ Children work under hazardous conditions in several sectors, including metal works, construction, automobile repair, equipment installation and maintenance, painting, street work, and seasonal agriculture.²⁴⁴⁶ In 2000, a government assessment estimated that

²⁴³⁴ Government of Lebanon, *Code du travail- Travail des enfants*, Loi no 536, (July 24, 1996); available from <http://www.lebaneselaws.com/>.

²⁴³⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Lebanon," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006>.

²⁴³⁶ U. S. Department of State, "Lebanon," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006>.

²⁴³⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

²⁴³⁸ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

²⁴³⁹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

²⁴⁴⁰ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 19, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

²⁴⁴¹ Ibid.

²⁴⁴² ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, February 2007; available from <http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/public/english/standards/ipec/doc-view.cfm?id=3159>, ILO, *Member State of ILO*, [cited January 22, 2007]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/mstatese.htm>.

²⁴⁴³ UNDP- Lebanon, *Millennium Development Goals: Lebanon Report*, prepared by Council for Development and Reconstruction, September 2003, 10,11; available from <http://www.un.org.lb/un/awms/uploadedFiles/MDGR%20English.pdf>.

²⁴⁴⁴ ILO-IPEC, *Lebanon: Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment*, Geneva, May 2002, 38; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/simpoc/lebanon/ra/tobacco.pdf>. See also Partners for Development- Civil Group, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Lebanon*, ILO, Geneva, 2004, 38; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/publ/download/gender_edu_lebanon_2004_en.pdf.

²⁴⁴⁵ Partners for Development- Civil Group, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Lebanon*, 6.

²⁴⁴⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment*, 9. See also ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the National Policy and Programme Framework for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon*

25,000 children 7 to 14 were working in tobacco cultivation; the majority of whom worked on family enterprises and were unpaid.²⁴⁴⁷ Refugee children are often forced to leave school at an early age to go to work.²⁴⁴⁸ Non-Lebanese children, particularly boys from Palestine and Syria, constitute approximately 10 percent of children 10 to 14 years who work in the formal sector,²⁴⁴⁹ but they account for approximately 85 percent of children working on the street.²⁴⁵⁰ The most common types of street work are selling goods, shoe polishing, and washing car windshields.²⁴⁵¹

Child prostitution, including situations in which girls have been forced into prostitution by their own families, has been reported.²⁴⁵² Forty-seven percent of working street children who participated in a 2004 study conducted by the Ministry of Labor (MOL) were forced by adults to work long hours on the streets.²⁴⁵³ While children are not known to participate in armed militia attacks, they continue to be involved in militia training and rallies by groups such as Hizbollah and they are known to be involved with various armed groups operating in the country.²⁴⁵⁴

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years.²⁴⁵⁵ Youth may not work more than 6 hours per day, must have a 13-hour period of rest between workdays, and may not work between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. In addition, youth 14 to 18 must pass a medical examination to ensure that they can undertake the work in which they are to be engaged, and the prospective employer must request the child's identity card to verify his or her age.²⁴⁵⁶ Penalties for non-compliance with provisions of the Labor Code, including the prohibitions relating to child labor, include

and Yemen: Consolidating Action Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, project document, Geneva, September 3, 2004, 9, 10.

²⁴⁴⁷ The survey was conducted by the Consultation and Research Institute in Lebanon with the support of the ILO between July and September 2000. See ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment*, viii, 7-8.

²⁴⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Lebanon," Section 5. See also Lebanese NGO Forum, *The Migration Network: The Refugees*, October 18, 2006; available from <http://www.lnf.org.lb/migrationnetwork/ngo2.html>.

²⁴⁴⁹ Partners for Development, *Gender, Education & Child Labor in Lebanon: A Concept Paper*, Draft 4, submitted to ILO, Beirut, November 28, 2003, 7.

²⁴⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Lebanon," Section 6d.

²⁴⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Lebanon." See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting*, August 31, 2005.

²⁴⁵² United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, *Expert on Trafficking in Persons Ends Visit to Lebanon*, press release, Geneva, September 15, 2005; available from <http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/hurricane.nsf/0/5F43BE66EDB9D815C125707E00240837?opendocument>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Lebanon*, accessed October 19, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

²⁴⁵³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Lebanon," Section 6d.

²⁴⁵⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Lebanon," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=958. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *The Use of Child Soldiers in the Middle East and North Africa Region*, prepared by Ibrahim Al-Marashi, pursuant to the Amman Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers, April 8-10, 2001, 21-23; available from http://www.id.gov.jo/human/activities2000/middleeast_report.html.

²⁴⁵⁵ *Code du travail*, Article 22.

²⁴⁵⁶ *Loi no. 91, Modifiant les dispositions des articles 23 et 25 du Code du travail*, (June 14, 1999), Articles 21-24; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org/scripts/natlexcgi.exe?lang=E>.

finer and up to 1 to 3 months of imprisonment.²⁴⁵⁷ Vocational training establishments may be permitted to employ children who have reached 13 years by receiving approval from both the Ministry of Labor and the Public Health Services.²⁴⁵⁸

Youth under 17 are prohibited from working in dangerous environments that threaten their life, health, or morals.²⁴⁵⁹ Industrial work²⁴⁶⁰ and work, such as, mining and quarrying, manufacturing or selling alcohol; work with chemicals or explosives; demolition work; work in tanneries or with machinery; street vending; begging; domestic service; and pornography, is not permitted for children under 16.²⁴⁶¹ There are no laws specifically prohibiting trafficking or forced labor; however, other laws are used to address such offenses. The Penal Code prohibits deprivation of personal freedom.²⁴⁶² The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the armed forces is 18 years.²⁴⁶³ Prostitution is prohibited. Persons who threaten, intimidate or force a child into prostitution may be sentenced to 3 to 15 years' imprisonment.²⁴⁶⁴

The MOL is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws, but, according to the U.S. Department of State, the Ministry does not apply these laws rigorously.²⁴⁶⁵ In 2005, the most recent date for which information is available, the MOL had a Labor Inspection Team composed of 97 labor inspectors nationwide, but the Child Labor Unit lacked adequate personnel and resources, which limited its ability to investigate conditions in small or informal establishments.²⁴⁶⁶ In 2006, the Ministry of Justice, the agency responsible for migrant workers, trained 32 officers in effective strategies for combating trafficking during a 2-week course that was held in conjunction with the IOM.²⁴⁶⁷

²⁴⁵⁷ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182): Lebanon (ratification: 2001)*, Geneva, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/countrylist.pl?country=Lebanon>.

²⁴⁵⁸ *Modifiant les dispositions des articles 23 et 25 du Code du travail*, Loi no 91, (July 24, 1996); available from <http://www.lebaneselaws.com>.

²⁴⁵⁹ *Code du travail*, Article 23.

²⁴⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁶¹ Government of Lebanon, *Decree No. 700, Prohibiting Employment of Young Persons under the Age of 16 or 17 in Occupations That Are Hazardous by Nature or Which Endanger Life, Health or Morals*, (June 3, 1999); available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/SERIAL/71934/72963/F1415871086/LBN71934.pdf>. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "Report of the Committee of Experts on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182): Lebanon (ratification: 2001)" (paper presented at the 75th Session, Geneva, 2004); available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>.

²⁴⁶² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Lebanon," Sections 5, 6c.

²⁴⁶³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Global Report 2004."

²⁴⁶⁴ EPCAT International CSEC Database, *Lebanon*, accessed June 7, 2007; available from <http://www.epcat.net>.

²⁴⁶⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Lebanon," Section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting*, August 11, 2003. See also Ministry of Labour, *Unit for Combat of Child Labour in Lebanon*, [online] [cited October 19, 2006]; available from <http://www.clu.gov.lb>.

²⁴⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting*, August 31, 2005.

²⁴⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Lebanon," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006 (Tier 2 Watch List); available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65989.htm>.

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

A National Policy and Program Framework (NPPF) to eliminate child labor in Lebanon has been developed by the Child Labor Unit of the MOL in collaboration with the National Steering Committee on Child Labor. The NPPF outlines effective strategies to eliminate child labor in priority sectors within an established timeframe, using common measures of progress and a plan for coordination among all actors.²⁴⁶⁸ The MOL is implementing the NPPF strategy to combat child labor in cooperation with ILO-IPEC and the National Council for Children.²⁴⁶⁹ The government is continuing efforts to counter trafficking in persons, including signing a Protocol of Understanding with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Labor to create centers to educate domestic workers destined for Lebanon on workers' rights and protections under Lebanese law.²⁴⁷⁰

The Government of Lebanon is participating in a USDOL-funded USD 3 million regional project implemented by ILO-IPEC that aims to promote the collection and analysis of child labor information; strengthen enforcement and monitoring mechanisms; build capacity; raise awareness on the negative consequences of child labor; and withdraw 3,400 children and prevent 3,500 from engaging in the worst forms of child labor.²⁴⁷¹ The government is also participating in a USD 8 million sub-regional project funded by USDOL and implemented by CHF International to combat child labor through education in Lebanon and Yemen. The project aims to withdraw 4,305 children and prevent 3,195 children from entering exploitive labor.²⁴⁷²

²⁴⁶⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Consolidating Action against the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, project document, 8.

²⁴⁶⁹ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting*, August 31, 2005.

²⁴⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Lebanon."

²⁴⁷¹ ILO-IPEC, *Consolidating Action against the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, project document, 28, 35-38, 49.

²⁴⁷² CHF International, *Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa (ACCESS-MENA)* project document, Silver Spring, MD, January, 2007, cover page, 12.