

<sup>557</sup> Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006, ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 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>558</sup> ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons in West and Central Africa*, 5-7. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, Technical Progress Report, 10-11.

<sup>559</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 13. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 5.

<sup>560</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Burundi," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 14.

<sup>561</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 15.

<sup>562</sup> Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program, *MRDP Fact Sheet: Burundi*, [online] February 2008 [cited March 12, 2008]; available from

[http://www.mdrp.org/PDFs/MDRP\\_BUR\\_FS\\_0208.pdf](http://www.mdrp.org/PDFs/MDRP_BUR_FS_0208.pdf). See also Multi - Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program, *The Social and Economic Status of Beneficiaries of the Burundi Child Soldier Demobilization, Social Reintegration and Recruitment Prevention Special Project* 2007, 1; available from [http://www.mdrp.org/in\\_focus\\_right.htm](http://www.mdrp.org/in_focus_right.htm). See also Olalekan Ajia, *UN Special Representative Commends Demobilization of Child Soldiers in Burundi*, [online] March 27, 2007 [cited April 1, 2007]; available from [http://www.unicef.org/protection/burundi\\_39232.html?q=printme](http://www.unicef.org/protection/burundi_39232.html?q=printme).

<sup>563</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, October 5, 2007*, para 2. See also U.S. Embassy- Bujumbura, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 12.

<sup>564</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Program*, Project Document, ILO, Geneva, September 17, 2003. See also ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 14, 2008.

<sup>565</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

<sup>566</sup> Olalekan Ajia, *UN Special Representative Commends Demobilization of Child Soldiers in Burundi*, Bujumbura, March 27, 2007; available from [http://www.unicef.org/protection/burundi\\_39232.html](http://www.unicef.org/protection/burundi_39232.html).

## Cambodia

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Cambodia work in exploitive conditions, on commercial rubber and tobacco plantations, in salt production, in fish processing, in portering, in brick making, and as rubbish pickers.<sup>567</sup> They also work processing sea products; breaking, quarrying or collecting stones; in gem and coal mining; in garment factories; and in restaurants.<sup>568</sup> Children work in restaurants and as domestic servants. Most child domestics are girls 14 to 17 years old, though it is not uncommon to find workers as young as 6 or 7 years; they typically work 12 to 16 hour days, 7 days a week.<sup>569</sup>

Cambodia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking in children. Children are trafficked internally for purposes of commercial

sexual exploitation, work in garment factories, begging, in construction, as domestics, and porters. Cambodian children are trafficked to Thailand for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work, begging, street hawking, flower selling, and for work in the construction and agricultural sectors.<sup>570</sup> Children are also trafficked into Vietnam for begging.<sup>571</sup> Vietnamese girls are trafficked into Cambodia for the purpose of sexual exploitation.<sup>572</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Law sets the minimum age for wage employment at 15 years,<sup>573</sup> although a later 1999 ministerial decree sets the minimum age at 14 years.<sup>574</sup> The law allows children 12 to 15 years to perform light work that is not hazardous and does

***Selected Statistics and Indicators  
on Child Labor<sup>575</sup>***

Working children, 10-14 years (%), 2003-2004:	48.9
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 2003-2004:	49.6
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 2003-2004:	48.1
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 2003-2004:	
- Agriculture	82.3
- Manufacturing	4.2
- Services	12.9
- Other	0.6
Minimum age for work:	14/15*
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005	126
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	96
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2003-2004:	76.8
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	63
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
*Laws are inconsistent	

not affect regular school attendance or participation in other training programs.<sup>576</sup> A 2007 ministerial decree limits the working hours of children ages 12 to 14 years to 7 hours on non-school days and 4 hours on school days, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.<sup>577</sup> Cambodian law prohibits work that is hazardous to the mental or physical development of children under 18 years.<sup>578</sup> Employers who hire children less than 18 years to work in hazardous labor are liable to a fine of 31 to 60 days of the daily wage.<sup>579</sup> The law lists 38 types of hazardous work, such as tanning, logging, using chemicals in textile production, in which children under 18 years are not permitted to work. The law separately identifies domestic work as hazardous and states that children under 12 years shall not carry out domestic work; it also sets guidelines for children 12 to 14 years undertaking domestic work.<sup>580</sup> The law states that no one under 18 years

shall work in underground mines or quarries, or work from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Lists of working children must be kept by employers and must be submitted to labor inspectors, and children with parents or guardians must document their consent in order to work.<sup>581</sup> In December 2007, the Government adopted additional child labor protections through the passage of six ministerial decrees.<sup>582</sup>

The law prohibits all forced or compulsory labor.<sup>583</sup> The law also prohibits hiring people to work to pay debts.<sup>584</sup> The minimum age for conscription into military service is 18 years.<sup>585</sup>

The Constitution prohibits prostitution and the trafficking of human beings.<sup>586</sup> Penalties for brothel owners, operators, and individuals who prostitute others include prison terms of between 10 to 20 years, depending on the age of the victim.<sup>587</sup> The 2008 Suppression of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Law stipulates 15 to 20 years of imprisonment for traffickers if the victim is under 18 years old.<sup>588</sup> Acts of debauchery are outlawed, and although the legal definition of debauchery does not explicitly include pornography, the courts have prosecuted several cases of child pornography under the law.<sup>589</sup>

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT) is responsible for enforcing the child-related provisions of the Cambodian Labor Law.<sup>590</sup> However, the Labor Law only applies to formal employer-employee relationships and does not cover many areas of informal sector work such as family businesses and farms, begging, scavenging, hauling, and day labor, where the most serious child labor problems exist.<sup>591</sup> In 2007, no employer was prosecuted for violating child labor laws.<sup>592</sup> Local police are responsible for enforcing laws against child trafficking and prostitution.<sup>593</sup> According to USDOS, although the Government has increased arrests and prosecutions of traffickers, anti-trafficking efforts continue to be hampered by reported corruption and a weak judicial system.<sup>594</sup> From April 2007 to February 2008, the police arrested 57 offenders for cross border and domestic trafficking.<sup>595</sup> In 2007, six foreign nationals were convicted of the commercial sexual exploitation of Cambodian children.<sup>596</sup>

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

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSAVY) Action Program 2004-2008 includes specific goals to combat child labor and trafficking, develop national plans to address these issues, and improve enforcement mechanisms for violators of child labor and trafficking laws.<sup>597</sup> The MOLVT's Strategic Plan 2006-2010 makes the elimination of the worst forms of child labor a priority.<sup>598</sup>

Along with Burma, Laos, the People's Republic of China, Thailand, and Vietnam, Cambodia is signatory to the "Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT)," aimed at creating a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat human trafficking.<sup>599</sup> The Government of Cambodia has signed MOUs on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking with the Governments of Thailand and Vietnam.<sup>600</sup> In April 2007, the Government established a National Task Force to implement all agreements and MOUs between the Government of Cambodia and other countries on the elimination of trafficking in persons and assisting victims of trafficking.<sup>601</sup> In July 2007, the Government established a "Leading Task Force" on human trafficking activities as a support structure for the National Task Force.<sup>602</sup>

The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) conducted workshops for the hospitality industry on the commercial sexual exploitation of children.<sup>603</sup> The MOT continues to work with the ILO to promote "Child Safe" tourism policies to prevent trafficking of women and children for labor and sexual exploitation.<sup>604</sup> The Ministry of Interior operates an anti-trafficking hotline and MOSAVY operates temporary shelters for victims of trafficking.<sup>605</sup>

The Government of Cambodia is participating in a USD 4 million USDOL-funded program, implemented by Winrock International, to reduce the number of children in Cambodia engaged in exploitive child labor in subsistence and commercial agriculture. The project targets 3,750 children for withdrawal and 4,500 children for prevention from work in hazardous labor in

subsistence and commercial agriculture, including fresh water fishing in 150 villages in the provinces of Siem Reap, Pursat, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng.<sup>606</sup> The Government is also participating in a USD 4.75 million USDOL-funded Timebound Program, supported by ILO-IPEC, to eliminate child labor in specified worst forms and to create a platform for eliminating all forms of child labor. The program targets 4,260 children to be withdrawn and 5,650 to be prevented from work in brick-making, portering, rubber-making, domestic work, salt production, fish processing, and service sectors.<sup>607</sup> Cambodia is also part of a USDOL-funded global project, implemented by Winrock International, which aims to substantially reduce the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor.<sup>608</sup> The Government also participated in a 4-year USD 3 million USDOL-funded project which concluded in September 2007. The project, implemented by World Education, prevented 18,353 children from engaging in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking through the provision of educational opportunities in the provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng, as well as Phnom Penh.<sup>609</sup> USDOL also funded a Hagar International project through July 2007 that reintegrated trafficked women with the provision of counseling services and vocational training in the Phnom Penh area.<sup>610</sup>

The Government of Cambodia is participating in a USD 4.5 million USAID funded project to combat trafficking.<sup>611</sup> In 2007, USAID began to fund the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Project (CTIP). The CTIP project brings together nine government ministries to collaborate on counter-trafficking issues.<sup>612</sup> The Government is also participating in several Australian Aid Agency supported activities in Cambodia. The *Mobilizing Communities for Child Protection* project and *A Child Safe Cambodia* project work to protect the rights of children against commercial sexual exploitation and abuse. These projects total almost USD 3 million and will last through 2010.<sup>613</sup>

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<sup>567</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Support to the Cambodian National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour: A Timebound Approach*, Project Document, Geneva, September 2004, vi.

<sup>568</sup> ILO, UNICEF, and World Bank, *Children's Work in Cambodia: A Challenge for Growth and Poverty Reduction*, December 2006, 19, 20; available from [http://www.crin.org/docs/WB\\_Child\\_labour.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/WB_Child_labour.pdf).

<sup>569</sup> Eleanor Brown, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Child Domestic Workers and Patterns of Trafficking in Cambodia*, IOM, January 2007, 19, 47; available from [http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/published\\_docs/books/CDW%20report.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/books/CDW%20report.pdf). See also ILO, UNICEF, and World Bank, *Children's Work in Cambodia*, 22. See also ILO, *Child Domestic Labour in Cambodia: Why It Has to Stop and How We Can Stop It*, Phnom Penh, 2004, 5, 9; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/download/pub04-12.pdf>.

<sup>570</sup> ILO, UNICEF, and World Bank, *Children's Work in Cambodia*, 19. See also U.S. Department of State, "Cambodia (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82805.htm>. See also ECPAT International, *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Cambodia*, Bangkok, 2006, 11; available from [http://www.ecpat.net/eng/A4A\\_2005/PDF/EAP/Global\\_Monitoring\\_Report-CAMBODIA.pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/eng/A4A_2005/PDF/EAP/Global_Monitoring_Report-CAMBODIA.pdf).

<sup>571</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting* February 28, 2008, 3.

<sup>572</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>573</sup> Government of Cambodia, *Cambodian Labor Law*, article 177(1). See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, January 7, 2008, para 4.

<sup>574</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, January 7, 2008, para 3, 4.

<sup>575</sup> For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Cambodia, *Cambodian Labor Law*, (March 13, 1997), article 177(1); available from [http://www.bigpond.com.kh/Council\\_of\\_Jurists/Travel/trv001g.htm](http://www.bigpond.com.kh/Council_of_Jurists/Travel/trv001g.htm). See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting* January 7, 2008, para 3-4. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, January 7, 2008, para 6. See also U.S. Department of State, "Cambodia," 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/2007/100516.htm>.

<sup>576</sup> Government of Cambodia, *Cambodian Labor Law*, article 177(4).

<sup>577</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, January 7, 2008, para 5.

<sup>578</sup> Government of Cambodia, *Cambodian Labor Law*, article 177(2).

<sup>579</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting* March 5, 2007, para 3c. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, February 28, 2008, 8.

<sup>580</sup> Government of Cambodia, *Prakas on the Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labor*, Prakas No. 106, (April 28, 2004).

<sup>581</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>582</sup> ILO- IPEC, *Support to the Cambodia National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor: A TimeBound Approach Technical Progress Report*, Geneva, March 2008.

<sup>583</sup> Government of Cambodia, *Cambodian Labor Law*, articles 15-16.

<sup>584</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>585</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Cambodia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/document\\_get.php?id=848](http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=848).

<sup>586</sup> Government of Cambodia, *Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia*, (September 21, 1993), article 46; available from [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/cb00000\\_.html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/cb00000_.html). See also ILO, *C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973*, accessed November 19, 2007; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/applyConvYear.cfm?hdroff=1&ang=EN&conv=C138>.

<sup>587</sup> ILO, *C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973*, article 3.

<sup>588</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, February 28, 2008, 7, 8. See also U.S. Embassy - Phnom Penh, *reporting* February 19, 2008, para 2.

<sup>589</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, August 30, 2005, 8.

<sup>590</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>591</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, November 6, 2003, 8. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Cambodia," section 6d.

<sup>592</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Cambodia," section 6d.

<sup>593</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Cambodia," 27. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Cambodia," section 5.

<sup>594</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Cambodia," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, March 5, 2007.

<sup>595</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting*, February 28, 2008, 2.

<sup>596</sup> *Ibid.*, 8.

<sup>597</sup> Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSAVY) Kingdom of Cambodia's Ministry of Social Affairs, *Action Program 2004-2008*.

<sup>598</sup> Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOLVT), *Strategic Plan 2006-2010*, 10. See also ILO-IPEC, *Support to the Cambodia National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor: A Timebound Approach* Technical Progress Report, Geneva, March 2007, 16.

<sup>599</sup> UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP), *COMMIT Process*, [online] 2007 [cited December 13 2007]; available from [http://no-trafficking.org/content/COMMIT\\_Process/commit\\_background.html#01](http://no-trafficking.org/content/COMMIT_Process/commit_background.html#01). See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Cambodia," section 5.

<sup>600</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 28, 2008*, 11.

<sup>601</sup> U.S. Embassy - Phnom Penh, *reporting* November 20, 2007, para 3.

<sup>602</sup> World Education, *OPTIONS: Combating Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation through Education in Cambodia*, Technical Progress Report, September 2007, 3.

<sup>603</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 28, 2008*, 17.

<sup>604</sup> Ministry of Tourism and ILO, *Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia and ILO Team Up to Advocate Promotion of "Child Safe" Tourism Policies to Prevent Trafficking in Children and Women*, September 22, 2005; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/camtourismnews.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Cambodia."

<sup>605</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, March 5, 2007*, para 4a. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, August 30, 2005*, para 27. See also Human Trafficking.org, *Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs (MWVA) Profile*, [online] 2007 [cited December 13, 2007]; available from <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/44>.

<sup>606</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, *Children's Empowerment through Education Services: Eliminating the Worst Forms of*

*Child Labor in Cambodia*, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary, Washington, DC, 2007.

<sup>607</sup> ILO -IPEC, *Support to the Cambodian National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour: A Timebound Approach*, Project Document, Geneva, September 2004.

<sup>608</sup> Winrock International, *Child Labor Reduction through Community Based Education*, [online] 2007 [cited December 13, 2007]; available from [.](http://www.winrock.org/fact/facts.asp?CC=5519&bu=)

<sup>609</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, *OPTIONS: Combating Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation through Education*, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary, Washington, DC, 2007.

<sup>610</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, *Reintegration of Trafficked Women*, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary, Washington, DC, 2007.

<sup>611</sup> HumanTrafficking.org, *U.S. Promises Funding to Counter Human Trafficking in Cambodia*, [online] October 27, 2006 [cited December 13, 2007]; available from <http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/442>.

<sup>612</sup> World Education, *OPTIONS: Combating Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation through Education in Cambodia*, Technical Progress Report, March 2007, 3. See also USAID, *USAID Counter Trafficking in Persons Project Summary*, August 2005; available from [http://www.usaid.gov/kh/One\\_Pager/counter\\_trafficking\\_in\\_persons.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/kh/One_Pager/counter_trafficking_in_persons.pdf). See also Asia Foundation, *In Cambodia: Ending Violence against Women*, [online] 2007 [cited December 13, 2007]; available from <http://asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2007/11/21/in-cambodia-ending-violence-against-women/>.

<sup>613</sup> Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), *Aid Activities in Cambodia*, [online] 2007 [cited December 13, 2007]; available from [http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/cbrief.cfm?DCon=1061\\_5593\\_8716\\_8236\\_8498&CountryID=34&Region=EastAsia](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/cbrief.cfm?DCon=1061_5593_8716_8236_8498&CountryID=34&Region=EastAsia).

## Cameroon

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Cameroon work in agriculture and the informal sector. Children work in fisheries, raising livestock, and on family cocoa farms.<sup>614</sup> In urban areas, children work in the informal sector as street vendors (selling goods such as tissues and water),

car washers, and domestic servants.<sup>615</sup> A large number of displaced children reside in urban areas, including Yaoundé, and Douala, and perform work in the informal sector.<sup>616</sup> Children may also work in mines, and a number of girls are forced into commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>617</sup>