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¹⁹⁴² Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Kyrgyzstan," in *Child Soldiers Global Report- 2004*; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/>. See also U.S. Embassy- Bishkek, *reporting, December 21, 2007*.

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¹⁹⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 5.

¹⁹⁴⁵ U.S. Embassy- Bishkek, *reporting, December 21, 2007*.

¹⁹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Kyrgyz Republic (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>.

¹⁹⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic."

¹⁹⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 6d.

¹⁹⁵⁰ U.S. Embassy- Bishkek, *reporting, December 21, 2007*.

¹⁹⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 6d.

¹⁹⁵² UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record of the 987th Meeting: Kyrgyzstan*, September 29, 2004, para 38 and 47; available from <http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/Documentsfrset?OpenFrameSet>.

¹⁹⁵³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 6d.

¹⁹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵⁵ Ibid., section 5.

¹⁹⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic."

¹⁹⁵⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Bishkek, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 24, 2007.

¹⁹⁵⁸ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 8, 2008.

¹⁹⁵⁹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Kyrgyzstan: New Passport to Help Reduce Human Trafficking," August 4, 2004; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=42509&SelectRegion=Central_Asia&SelectCountry=KYRGYZS_TAN.

¹⁹⁶⁰ USAID, *USAID Programs in Kyrgyzstan in 2007*, Washington, DC; available from <http://centralasia/usa.gov/page.php?page=article-89>.

¹⁹⁶¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic."

¹⁹⁶² U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic."

¹⁹⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Kyrgyz Republic," section 5.

¹⁹⁶⁴ ILO-IPEC, *CAR Capacity Building Project: Regional Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, Project Document, RER/04/P54/USA, Geneva, September 2004.

¹⁹⁶⁵ U.S. Embassy- Bishkek, *reporting, December 21, 2007*.

Lebanon

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

According to a 2000 Government of Lebanon study supported by ILO-IPEC, there is a higher prevalence of working children in poor rural areas of the country.¹⁹⁶⁶ Children work under hazardous conditions in several sectors, including metal works, construction, automobile repair, equipment installation and maintenance, painting, street work, carpentry, construction, welding, and seasonal agriculture.¹⁹⁶⁷ The 2000 Government assessment estimated that of the 100,000 working children in Lebanon, 25,000 children were working in tobacco

cultivation; the majority of whom worked for family enterprises and were unpaid.¹⁹⁶⁸ Non-Lebanese children, particularly boys from Syria and Palestinian boys living in Lebanese refugee camps, constitute approximately 85 percent of children working on the street.¹⁹⁶⁹ The most common types of street work are selling goods, shoe polishing, and washing car windshields.¹⁹⁷⁰ 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.¹⁹⁷¹

Lebanese children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation.¹⁹⁷² Child prostitution, including situations in which girls have been forced into prostitution by their own families, as well as children involved in drug trafficking, have been reported by NGOs; however, no cases have been officially reported, according to Secretary General of the Higher Council for Childhood, Ministry of Social Affairs.¹⁹⁷³ Children have also been used in drug trafficking.¹⁹⁷⁴ While children are not known to participate in the armed forces, Palestinian children living in refugee camps in Lebanon are known to be involved with various Palestinian armed groups operating in the country.¹⁹⁷⁵

children ages 14 to 17 years 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.¹⁹⁷⁸ Additionally, the law requires an annual paid leave of 21 days.¹⁹⁷⁹ Penalties for non-compliance with provisions relating to child labor include fines and from 3 to 6 months of imprisonment.¹⁹⁸⁰ Vocational training establishments may be permitted to employ children who have reached 14 years by receiving approval from both the Ministry of Labor and the Public Health Services.¹⁹⁸¹

Youth under 17 years are prohibited from working in dangerous environments that threaten their life, health, or morals.¹⁹⁸² Industrial work 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; and domestic service, are not permitted for children under 16 years.¹⁹⁸³ There are no laws specifically prohibiting trafficking or forced labor; however, the laws are used to address such offenses.¹⁹⁸⁴ Prostitution is prohibited. Persons who threaten, intimidate, or force a child into prostitution may be sentenced with 3 to 15 years of imprisonment.¹⁹⁸⁵ The minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the Armed Forces is 18 years.¹⁹⁸⁶

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws.¹⁹⁸⁷ According to USDOS, enforcement of the laws has witnessed slight improvement in recent years.¹⁹⁸⁸ There is a Labor Inspection Team, composed of 60 labor inspectors nationwide. However, according to USDOS, the Ministry of Labor's Child Labor Unit lacked adequate personnel and resources, which limited its ability to enforce the law.¹⁹⁸⁹

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

A National Policy and Program Framework (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.¹⁹⁹⁰ The MOL is implementing the NPPF strategy to combat child labor, in cooperation with ILO-IPEC and the

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> ¹⁹⁷⁶	
Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
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:	94
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2006:	82
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	91
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
* Must pay for school supplies and related items	

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years.¹⁹⁷⁷ Children ages 14 to 17 years may not work more than 6 hours per day, require 1 hour of rest for work that is more than 4 hours, must have a 13-hour period of rest between workdays, and may not work between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. In addition,

National Council for Children.¹⁹⁹¹ The Government is also conducting programs to raise awareness on the worst forms of child labor.¹⁹⁹²

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 4,700 and prevent 3,400 children from engaging in the worst forms of child labor.¹⁹⁹³ The Government is also participating in a USD 8.4 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 4,530 children and prevent 4,195 children from entering exploitive labor.¹⁹⁹⁴ The Government of France is also supporting a project to prevent and eliminate child labor in Lebanon.¹⁹⁹⁵

¹⁹⁶⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Lebanon: Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment*, Geneva, May 2002, 8; available from <http://www-ilo-mirror.cornell.edu/public/english/standards/ipecc/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/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/gender_edu_lebanon_2004_en.pdf.

¹⁹⁶⁷ 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 and Yemen: Consolidating Action Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, Project Document, Geneva, September 3, 2004, 9, 10. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 6.

¹⁹⁶⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour on Tobacco Plantations: A Rapid Assessment*, viii, 7-8.

¹⁹⁶⁹ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 8.

¹⁹⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lebanon," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, August 31, 2005*, E(3).

¹⁹⁷¹ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 8.

¹⁹⁷² U.S. Department of State, "Lebanon (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82806.htm>.

¹⁹⁷³ UNHCR, *Expert on Trafficking in Persons Ends Visit to Lebanon*, Press Release, Geneva, September 15, 2005; available from <http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/0/5F43BE66EDB9D815C125707E00240837?opendocument>. See also EPCAT International CSEC Database, *Lebanon*, accessed December 14, 2007; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

¹⁹⁷⁴ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 7.

¹⁹⁷⁵ UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict* New York, December 21, 2007, 14, 15; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/656/04/PDF/N0765604.pdf?OpenElement>.

¹⁹⁷⁶ 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 Lebanon, *Code du travail- Travail des enfants*, Loi no 536, (July 24, 1996); available from <http://www.lebaneselaws.com/>. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para. 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Lebanon," 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/2007/100600.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, E-mail communication USDOL official, July 24, 2008.

¹⁹⁷⁷ Government of Lebanon, *Code du travail*, article 22. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 5.

¹⁹⁷⁸ Government of Lebanon, *Code du travail*, article 21-24. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 5.

¹⁹⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 5. See also Government of Sri Lanka, *Report of the Government of Lebanon on Efforts by GSP Beneficiary Countries to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (November 8, 2007) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Beirut, December 21, 2007, 9.

¹⁹⁸⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *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>.

¹⁹⁸¹ Government of Lebanon, *Modifiant les dispositions des articles 23 et 25 du Code du travail*, Loi no 91, (July 24, 1996); available from <http://www.lebaneselaws.com>.

¹⁹⁸² Government of Lebanon, *Code du travail*, article 23.

¹⁹⁸³ *Ibid.* See also 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, *Report of the Committee of Experts on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182): Lebanon (ratification: 2001)*, Geneva, 2004; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>.

¹⁹⁸⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lebanon," section 6c.

¹⁹⁸⁵ EPCAT International CSEC Database, *Lebanon*.

¹⁹⁸⁶ 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.

¹⁹⁸⁷ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 10. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lebanon," section 6d.

¹⁹⁸⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lebanon," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 10. See also Government of Sri Lanka, *Report of Lebanon on Efforts to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour*, 1.

¹⁹⁸⁹ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 10.

¹⁹⁹⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Consolidating Action Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Project Document*, 8.

¹⁹⁹¹ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 3. See also U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, August 31, 2005*.

¹⁹⁹² U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting, November 23, 2007*, para 12. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Written Replies by the Government of Lebanon Concerning the List of Issues Received by the Committee on the Rights of the Child Relating to the Consideration of the Third Periodic Report of Lebanon* April 26, 2006, 21; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G06/415/14/PDF/G0641514.pdf?OpenElement>.

¹⁹⁹³ ILO-IPEC, *Consolidating Action Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Project Document*, 28, 35-38, 49.

¹⁹⁹⁴ U.S. Department of Labor, *Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa (ACCESS-MENA) ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary*, Washington, DC, 2007.

¹⁹⁹⁵ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, January 4, 2008.

Lesotho

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Available information on the occupations in which children work is anecdotal, but suggests that jobs performed by children tend to be gender specific. Boys as young as 5 years herd livestock in the highlands, either for their families or through an arrangement where they are hired out by their parents. Boys also work as load bearers, car washers, taxi fare collectors, and street vendors. Girls are often employed as domestic servants.¹⁹⁹⁶ Some teenage children, primarily girls, are also involved in prostitution. UNICEF and the

Government of Lesotho (GOL) believe that the number of individuals under the age of 18 who are involved in prostitution is small, but increasing.¹⁹⁹⁷

Anecdotal evidence indicates that children are trafficked within Lesotho for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Boys may be trafficked, sometimes with the permission of their families, for cattle herding as well as street vending. Girls may be trafficked internally for domestic labor, commercial sexual exploitation, and cattle herding.¹⁹⁹⁸ Children who are trafficked for sexual exploitation in South Africa are often abused in private residences rather than the traditional