

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

settings of clubs and brothels.¹⁹⁹⁹ According to a 2003 report from the IOM, Lesotho children are trafficked into South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia for sexual exploitation.²⁰⁰⁰

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²⁰⁰¹</i>	
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	28.1
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	31.3
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	25
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	114
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	75
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	80.7
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	73
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses	

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, although children between 13 and 15 years may perform light work in a home-based environment, technical school, or other institution approved by the Government. Also exempt from the minimum age is work performed by a child of any age in a private undertaking for their own family, so long as there are no more than five other employees and each is a member of the child's family.²⁰⁰² Although there is no specific list of work that is likely to jeopardize the health, safety, or morals of children, the law in general prohibits employment of children in work that is harmful to their health or development.²⁰⁰³

In addition, the labor law sets restrictions on night work by children, and also restricts work by children in mines and quarries. Persons under the age of 16 years may not work for more than 4 consecutive hours without a break of at least 1 hour, and may not work more than 8 hours in any 1 day. Each employer in an industrial undertaking is required to keep a register of all its employees, including those under the age of 18 years.²⁰⁰⁴ The law identifies the "protection of children and young persons" as a principle of State policy.²⁰⁰⁵

The law sets a penalty of up to 3 months in prison for an employer in the industrial sector who employs an underage child, or for an employer who fails to keep a register of all employees who are children and young persons (under age 18). The law also dictates imprisonment of up to 6 months for persons who employ a child or young person in violation of restrictions related to dangerous work, required rest periods, parental rights to refuse work for their children, and children's rights to return each night to the home of their parents or guardians.²⁰⁰⁶

The law identifies freedom from forced labor and slavery as a fundamental right available to all people.²⁰⁰⁷ The law further defines forced labor as non-voluntary work or service under duress of punishment and makes it illegal. The use of forced labor—adult or child—may result in a fine and up to 1 year in prison.²⁰⁰⁸ The law states that there is no compulsory military service, and the minimum age for voluntary enlistment is 18.²⁰⁰⁹ A 2003 law concerning sexual offenses defines and explicitly prohibits child prostitution.²⁰¹⁰ The procurement of a girl for prostitution is punishable by a maximum penalty of up to 6 years in prison.²⁰¹¹ Although there are no specific laws that prohibit trafficking in persons, it is illegal to procure or attempt to procure a woman or girl to become a prostitute within Lesotho, or to leave Lesotho so that she may be a prostitute elsewhere.²⁰¹²

The law provides broad powers for the Labor Commissioner and subordinates to perform workplace inspections, but only in the commercial sector.²⁰¹³ Current labor laws do not apply to child labor in the informal sector.²⁰¹⁴ The Ministry of Employment and Labor has 24 trained inspectors who are responsible for enforcement of the Labor

Code, including child labor provisions.²⁰¹⁵ Each quarter a random sample of employers is inspected.²⁰¹⁶ According to the CEACR, Government inspections are difficult to execute due to a lack of resources and the absence of oversight in the informal sector.²⁰¹⁷

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

The Government of Lesotho (GOL) is working with ILO-IPEC to implement a USDOL-funded, USD 5 million regional child labor project in Southern Africa. Activities in Lesotho include research on the nature and incidence of exploitive child labor and efforts to build the capacity of the Government to address child labor issues.²⁰¹⁸

With the participation of the GOL, the American Institutes for Research is implementing another regional, USDOL-funded project. This USD 9 million project intends to prevent 10,000 children from engaging in exploitive labor in five countries, including Lesotho, by improving quality of and access to basic education.²⁰¹⁹

The GOL's Ministry of Home Affairs, Child and Gender Protection Unit and UNICEF are working together on children in prostitution.²⁰²⁰ Government officials, including the Prime Minister of Lesotho, have participated in awareness-raising activities, espousing the need to protect children from hazardous work and appealing to adults for children to attend school instead of working.²⁰²¹

¹⁹⁹⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lesotho," section 6d. See also UNICEF, *Lesotho- Real Lives*, [online] [cited December 10, 2007]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lesotho_20016.html.

¹⁹⁹⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lesotho," sections 5, 6d. See also U.S. Embassy - Maseru, *reporting*, November 30, 2007, section 1(2).

¹⁹⁹⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Lesotho (Special Cases)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, D.C., June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/86204.htm>.

¹⁹⁹⁹ Jonathan Martens, Maciej "Mac" Pieczkowski, and Bernadette van Vuuren-Smyth, *Seduction, Sale and Slavery: Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa, 3rd edition*, International Organization for Migration Regional Office for Southern

Africa, Pretoria, May 2003, 42; available from <http://www.iom.org.za/site/media/docs/TraffickingReport3rdEd.pdf>.

²⁰⁰⁰ International Organization for Migration, *The Trafficking of Women and Children in the Southern African Region*, Pretoria, March 24, 2003, 12; available from <http://www.iom.int/documents/publication/en/southafrica%5Ftrafficking.pdf>.

²⁰⁰¹ 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 Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, 24, (1992), parts II(3), IX(124); available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/31536/64865/E92LSO01.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Lesotho," 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/2007/100488.htm>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); CEACR 2007*, [online] [cited December 11, 2007], article 1; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

²⁰⁰² Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, sections 3, 124. See also U.S. Embassy - Maseru, *reporting*, November 30, 2007.

²⁰⁰³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, [online] [cited January 22, 2007], 3; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displayAllComments.cfm?conv=C138&ctry=1800&hdrof=f=1&lang=EN>.

²⁰⁰⁴ Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, sections 3, 7.

²⁰⁰⁵ Government of Lesotho, *The Constitution of Lesotho*, (1993), section 32; available from <http://www.parliament.ls/documents/constitution.php#NOTE>.

²⁰⁰⁶ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Lesotho (ratification: 2001); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, [online] [cited January 22, 2007], 6; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

²⁰⁰⁷ Government of Lesotho, *The Constitution of Lesotho*, section 9.

²⁰⁰⁸ Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, sections 3, 7, 124-129.

²⁰⁰⁹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Global Report 2004 - Lesotho*, [online] 2004 [cited March 17, 2008]; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=119>.

²⁰¹⁰ Julia Sloth-Nielsen, *Harmonisation of laws relating to children: Lesotho*, African Child Policy Forum, 2007, 14; available from <http://www.africanchild.info/documents/Lesotho%20Reportfinal%20Sarah.doc>.

²⁰¹¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, 6.

²⁰¹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Lesotho," section 5. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, 2, 3.

²⁰¹³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2004/75th Session*, 4, 5. See also U.S. Embassy - Maseru, *reporting, November 30, 2007*, para 5.

²⁰¹⁴ Sloth-Nielsen, *Harmonisation of laws relating to children: Lesotho*, 17.

²⁰¹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, September 2, 2003*, para 7.

²⁰¹⁶ U.S. Embassy - Maseru, *reporting, November 30, 2007*, para 5.

²⁰¹⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2007*, para 9.

²⁰¹⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Timebound Programme to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in South Africa's Child Labour Action Programme and Laying the Basis for Concerted Action Against Worst Forms of Child Labour in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland*, project document, Geneva,, September 30, 2003, 38-39.

²⁰¹⁹ *Notice of Award: Cooperative Agreement*
U.S. Department of Labor / American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC, August 16, 2004, 1-2. See also American Institutes for Research, *Reducing Exploitive Child Labor Southern Africa (RECLISA)*, project document, Washington September 8, 2005, 21.

²⁰²⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Lesotho (Special Cases)."

²⁰²¹ American Institutes for Research (AIR), *Reducing Exploitive Child Labor in Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) through Education, Technical Progress Report to USDOL International Child Labor Program*, September, 2007, 5.

Liberia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Liberia work in subsistence agriculture and rubber tapping.²⁰²² Children also work in street vending, domestic service, rock crushing, mining, and fishing.²⁰²³ Children work in construction and as truck loaders, and there are reports that girls engage in prostitution to pay school fees or support their families.²⁰²⁴

Liberia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for regionally trafficked children.²⁰²⁵

Children are reportedly trafficked to Liberia from Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire; and from Liberia to The Gambia, Guinea, and Nigeria for domestic servitude, street vending, sexual exploitation, and agricultural labor.²⁰²⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law prohibits children under the age of 16 from working during school hours and allows labor recruiters to hire children between the ages of 16 and 18 years for occupations approved by the Ministry of Labor.²⁰²⁷ The law does not establish an absolute minimum age for employment. Children under the age of 16 may work for wages if the employer can demonstrate that they are attending school regularly and have a basic education.²⁰²⁸

Liberian law prohibits forced and bonded labor and slavery.²⁰²⁹ The law criminalizes human trafficking and establishes sentences for traffickers ranging from 1 year to life in prison.²⁰³⁰ Liberian law also prohibits any person under 16 years from enlisting in the Armed Forces.²⁰³¹