

Honduras and Nicaragua) and the Dominican Republic, Project Document, 2004, 5. See also ILO-IPEC, *Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Project Addendum, 22-23.*

<sup>1085</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

## East Timor

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> <sup>1086</sup>	
Working children, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	85.2
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	84.5
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	85.9
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	
- Agriculture	91.8
- Manufacturing	0
- Services	8.2
- Other	0
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	Not defined
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	99
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	68
School attendance, children 10-14 years (%), 2001:	86.3
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No
* Guaranteed by law, but no system has been established to ensure that education is available.	

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In East Timor, many children in rural areas work in agriculture, including on coffee farms.<sup>1087</sup> Children are also engaged in domestic work, primarily in adoptive family homes or in the homes of relatives of their adoptive families; a small percentage work for non-relatives. Most of these children work in return for school fees or shelter.<sup>1088</sup> In urban areas, children are found working in the streets, selling a variety of items and washing cars.<sup>1089</sup> Throughout

the country, children are found working in construction under hazardous conditions. In coastal areas, children work in fishing.<sup>1090</sup> Children are commercially exploited for sexual purposes, including prostitution.<sup>1091</sup>

Authorities have recognized that child trafficking is a problem, but there is little information about the nature of the trafficking. There have been reports of girls trafficked into East Timor in recent years.<sup>1092</sup> Although East Timor was not previously considered a source country, starting in 2006 there has been evidence that East Timorese girls are targeted for trafficking.<sup>1093</sup> There are also reports of internal trafficking of girls from rural areas to the capital, Dili, for commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>1094</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years and prohibits work by a child between 15 and 18 years that would jeopardize their health, safety, or morals. However, the official minimum age of 15 does not apply to family-owned businesses, and children working in vocational schools are exempted.<sup>1095</sup> Further, the law allows for light work for children older than 12 years.<sup>1096</sup> According to USDOS, enforcement of the labor code is limited due to a lack of resources and capacity, especially outside of Dili, the capital.<sup>1097</sup>

The law forbids compulsory work.<sup>1098</sup> Trafficking is prohibited, and the penalty for trafficking minors is imprisonment of 5 to 12 years.<sup>1099</sup> USDOS reports no enforcement efforts or prosecutions of traffickers between April 2006 and March 2007. In fact, USDOS has stated that credible reports suggest that police and customs officials have colluded with traffickers.<sup>1100</sup> The minimum age for conscription into military service is 18 years.<sup>1101</sup>

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

The Government has a program that provides funding to a local NGO to assist children working in the streets.<sup>1102</sup>

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<sup>1086</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 U.S. Department of State, "East Timor," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, 2008, sections 5, 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100519.htm>. See also Government of East Timor, *Constitution of the Democratic Republic of East Timor*, (2002), article 59; available from <http://www.eastimorlawjournal.org/LAWSINDEPENDENCE/ConstitutionofRDTLinEnglish.html>. See also USDOL consultant, Researcher's Comments on East Timor to USDOL official, August 15, 2007.

<sup>1087</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: East Timor," section 6d. See also ILO, "East Timor: A New Labour Code for the World's Newest Country," *World of Work* 43 (June 2002); available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/magazine/43/timor.htm>. See also ILO, *Rapid Assessment on Child Labor in Timor Leste*, Jakarta, December 2007, executive summary.

<sup>1088</sup> ILO, *Rapid Assessment on Child Labor in Timor Leste*, executive summary. See also U.S. Embassy-Dili, *reporting*, February 12, 2008. See also USDOL consultant, Researcher's Comments on East Timor.

<sup>1089</sup> ILO, "East Timor: A New Labour Code." See also ILO, *Rapid Assessment on Child Labor in Timor Leste*, executive summary. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by State Parties*, prepared by Timor-Leste, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention, June 28, 2007; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G07/42>

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6/99/PDF/G0742699.pdf?OpenElement.

<sup>1090</sup> ILO, *Rapid Assessment on Child Labor in Timor Leste*.

<sup>1091</sup> Cathleen Carson, *Trafficking in East Timor: A Look into the Newest Nation's Sex Industry*, ALOLA, 2004, 7, 32. See also ILO, *Rapid Assessment on Child Labor in Timor Leste*.

<sup>1092</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: East Timor," section 5.

<sup>1093</sup> Ibid. See also Carson, *Trafficking in East Timor*.

<sup>1094</sup> U.S. Department of State, "East Timor (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: East Timor*, Washington, DC, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>.

<sup>1095</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: East Timor," section 6d. See also Government of East Timor, *Labour Code*, (May 1, 2002), section 11.3; available from

<http://www.doingbusiness.org/Documents/LawLibrary/Timor-Leste-Labour-Code.pdf>. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 8, 2007.

<sup>1096</sup> Government of East Timor, *Labour Code*, section 11.

<sup>1097</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: East Timor," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy-Dili, *reporting*, February 12, 2008. See also USDOL consultant, Researcher's Comments on East Timor.

<sup>1098</sup> Government of East Timor, *Constitution of East Timor*, section 50.

<sup>1099</sup> Government of East Timor, *Immigration and Asylum Law No. 9*, (May 6, 2003), article 81; available from <http://www.eastimorlawjournal.org/LAWSINDEPENDENCE/9of2004immigrationasylum.html>.

<sup>1100</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: East Timor." See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: East Timor."

<sup>1101</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by State Parties* pursuant to Article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, February 1, 2008.

<sup>1102</sup> Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 8, 2007, 8. See also ILO, *Rapid Assessment on Child Labor in Timor Leste*, 55.