

January 28, 2009; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm>.

<sup>633</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 10 and 12.

<sup>634</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>635</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, sections 12 and 14.

<sup>636</sup> *Ibid.*, section 14.

<sup>637</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>638</sup> *Ibid.*, section 17.

<sup>639</sup> *Ibid.*, section 25.

<sup>640</sup> U.S. Embassy-- Phnom Penh, *reporting, March 5, 2009*, section 1. See also U.S. Embassy--Phnom Penh, *reporting, March 9, 2009*, paras 2-6.

<sup>641</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 4.

<sup>642</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, section 19. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 9.

<sup>643</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 13.

<sup>644</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, section 26.

<sup>645</sup> *Ibid.*, para 3.

<sup>646</sup> *Ibid.*, para 26.

<sup>647</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 29.

<sup>648</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, section 17. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 9. See also U.S. Embassy -- Phnom Penh, *reporting, March 23, 2009*, para 2.

<sup>649</sup> ILO-IPEC, *To contribute to developing national capacities to achieve the 2015 national child labour reduction targets and the ILO global targets for ending the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cambodia by 2016*, Geneva, March 12, 2009, para 14.

<sup>650</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 9, 27, 31.

<sup>651</sup> UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP), *COMMIT Process*, [online] 2007 [cited March 23, 2009]; 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. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 18.

<sup>652</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 28, 2008*, section 2h. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 18.

<sup>653</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 27 and 31. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, paras 18 and 31.

<sup>654</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Towards Twenty Sixteen: Contributing towards Ending the WFCL in Cambodia, technical progress report, March 12, 2009*, para 13.

<sup>655</sup> Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), *Aid Activities in Cambodia*, [online] May 2008 [cited March 23, 2009]; 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).

<sup>656</sup> U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, section 23.

<sup>657</sup> *Ibid.*, section 24. See also U.S. Embassy- Phnom Penh, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, 8.

<sup>658</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, *OPTIONS: Combating Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Through Education, Technical Progress Report*, Washington, DC, 1 and 2.

<sup>659</sup> ILO-IPEC, *To Contribute to the Developing National Capacities to Achieve the 2015 National Child Labor Reduction Targets and the ILO Global Targets for Ending the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Cambodia by 2016*, ILAB Project Document, Washington, DC, September 2008.

<sup>660</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 2008.

<sup>661</sup> *Ibid.*, 24.

## Cameroon

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Cameroon work on family farms and on tea, banana, rubber, and palm oil plantations. Children also fish and raise livestock.<sup>662</sup> The majority of working children are found in the urban informal sector.<sup>663</sup> Some of these children are displaced or street children who live in cities such as Yaoundé and Douala.<sup>664</sup> These children work as street vendors (selling goods such as

tissues and water), car washers, luggage carriers, and domestic servants.<sup>665</sup>

Many children work in hazardous labor conditions on cocoa farms, including handling pesticides and sharp tools; tilling soil; and harvesting and transporting cocoa beans. These children report working long hours and illness due to the activities they perform.<sup>666</sup> Children also

work in mines and quarries, carrying sand and breaking stones.<sup>667</sup>

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> <sup>668</sup>	
Population, children, 10-14 years, 2001:	2,056,541
Working children, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	15.9
Working boys, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	14.5
Working girls, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	17.4
Working children by sector, 10-14 years (%), 2001:	
- Agriculture	88.2
- Manufacturing	2.1
- Services	7.1
- Other	2.6
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	14
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	109.6
Net primary enrollment rate (%):	-
School attendance, children 10-14 years (%), 2001:	84.6
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	84.3
ILO Convention 138:	8/13/2001
ILO Convention 182:	6/5/2002
CRC:	1/11/1993
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	2/6/2006
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

\*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

The practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include a vocational or apprenticeship component, is a tradition in various countries, including Cameroon and especially the north.<sup>669</sup> While some boys receive lessons, many are forced to beg and surrender the money that they have earned.<sup>670</sup> Girls are engaged in forced domestic labor and commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>671</sup> Some children are also exploited in the production of pornography or commercial sex tourism.<sup>672</sup> Reports indicate that hereditary servitude persists in Northern regions of Cameroon.<sup>673</sup>

Cameroon is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked children for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Most of the trafficking in Cameroon occurs

internally.<sup>674</sup> Children are trafficked from northern regions to central, southwestern, and other regions to work on cocoa farms and work on the streets.<sup>675</sup> Children are also trafficked internally for forced labor in restaurants and bars and on tea plantations.<sup>676</sup> Girls are trafficked from the provinces of Adamawa, North, Far North, and Northwest to the cities of Yaoundé and Douala for domestic labor and commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>677</sup>

Children are also trafficked to Cameroon from Benin, Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, Congo, and Niger, for forced labor in agriculture, fishing, street vending, and spare-parts shops. Cameroon also serves as a transit country for children trafficked between Gabon and Nigeria, and from Nigeria to Saudi Arabia.<sup>678</sup>

### **Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The minimum age for admission to work in Cameroon is 14 years, which is the same minimum age for entering into an apprenticeship.<sup>679</sup> Children are prohibited from working longer than 8 hours a day in the industrial sector.<sup>680</sup> The Labor Code specifies that children cannot work in any job that exceeds their physical capacity, and the labor inspectors can require child laborers to take a medical exam to determine if such a situation exists.<sup>681</sup> Further, the law stipulates the weight a child can carry by age and by activity. Children are prohibited from working underground, including in mines and quarries.<sup>682</sup> Work in restaurants, hotels, and bars is also forbidden.<sup>683</sup> Violations of child labor provisions are punishable by fines.<sup>684</sup>

Cameroonian law prohibits procuring prostitutes or sharing the profits from another person's prostitution and sets the penalty as a fine and imprisonment for 6 months to 5 years, which may double if the crime involves a person less than 21 years.<sup>685</sup>

The law also prohibits slavery and servitude.<sup>686</sup> The penalty for a person who subjects a child to debt bondage is 5 to 10 years in prison and a fine.<sup>687</sup> Cameroon's anti-trafficking law defines child trafficking as the act of moving or helping to move a child within or outside Cameroon to reap financial or material benefit.<sup>688</sup> The law requires

authorization from a parent in order for a child to travel.<sup>689</sup> Under the law, individuals who traffic or enslave a child are subject to a prison sentence of 10 to 20 years and a fine; if the child is under 15 years or if the offender is the victim's parent, the penalty increases to 15 to 20 years of imprisonment.<sup>690</sup> Military service is not compulsory in Cameroon. While the minimum age for voluntary recruitment is 18 years, children under 18 years can participate in military service with parental consent.<sup>691</sup>

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Ministry of Social Insurance are responsible for enforcing the child labor laws, through their 58 labor inspectors. However, according to USDOS, resources were insufficient to carry out effective inspections.<sup>692</sup> The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms is charged with investigating human rights abuses and the Minors Brigade is responsible for investigating child trafficking cases.<sup>693</sup> During the reporting period, the police arrested three traffickers attempting to traffic seven children for the purpose of labor exploitation.<sup>694</sup> According to USDOS, the Government of Cameroon has made an effort to monitor its borders for trafficking.<sup>695</sup>

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

During the reporting period, the Government of Cameroon cooperated with other governments, including the Governments of Gabon, Nigeria, Togo, and Benin to combat trafficking.<sup>696</sup> For the first time, the Government granted the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms a budget of its own, worth USD 1 million.<sup>697</sup> In September 2008, a prefecture passed a law forbidding the production, sale, and distribution of literature, film and other pornographic materials.<sup>698</sup> The Government appoints Child Parliamentarians to provide recommendations on issues related to children. While resolutions by the Child Parliamentarians are not legally binding, during the reporting period the Child Parliamentarians passed resolutions to protect children from trafficking.<sup>699</sup>

The Government of Cameroon and UNICEF continued to implement their 2008 to 2012

cooperation agreement that includes the protection and provision of services to child trafficking victims.<sup>700</sup> In addition, the Government continued to support shelters that received trafficked children.<sup>701</sup> With support from the Red Cross, the Government also provided assistance to victims of commercial sexual exploitation, focusing its efforts on the cities of Yaoundé and Douala.<sup>702</sup>

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Social Affairs expanded a program that provided shelter, psycho-social care, and other services to street children. The Ministry opened additional programs for street children in the Far North and South West Provinces.<sup>703</sup>

During the reporting period, 600 Cameroonian peacekeeping soldiers participated in a USG-funded training that included topics on combating commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.<sup>704</sup> Government law enforcement officers and magistrates also participated in training sessions on how to investigate and prosecute traffickers. The training sessions were held by the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms and American Bar Association.<sup>705</sup> In addition, the Minors Brigade continued to maintain a 24-hour hotline service.<sup>706</sup>

With support from UNICEF, Plan International, and the ILO, the Government of Cameroon continued its awareness-raising activities to prevent child labor and trafficking, which included broadcasting messages on the radio and television.<sup>707</sup> For example, the Government, with support from ILO continued its "Red Card" campaign against child labor, which included advertisements by popular soccer players.<sup>708</sup>

The Government of Cameroon continues to participate in the 4-year Phase II Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP), funded by USAID, the World Cocoa Foundation, and the international cocoa industry. The STCP is a public-private partnership that promotes sustainable tree crop systems including coffee, cocoa, and cashews, and contains a component to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor on farms.<sup>709</sup> During the reporting period, the Government also

distributed vocational tool kits to children who had been withdrawn from exploitive labor in the cocoa sector and placed in rehabilitation centers.<sup>710</sup>

The Government participates in a 2-year regional project funded by Italy at USD 1 million and implemented by ILO-IPEC. The project aims to support the development of national action plans.<sup>711</sup> The Government of Cameroon is also participating in a 4-year USDOL-funded USD 6.8 million ILO-IPEC project to conduct data collection on child labor.<sup>712</sup>

<sup>662</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting*, June 16, 2008, para 1, 6-11.

<sup>663</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 6d. See also Mengue M. Therese, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cameroon*, July 2006, 8. U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting*, January 16, 2009, para 25. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, September 15 and 25, 2008. See also Nkumu Fed Fed official, Interview with USDOL consultant, September 18, 2008.

<sup>664</sup> International Trade Union Confederation, *Internationally-Recognized Core Labour Standards in Gabon and Cameroon: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Gabon and Cameroon*, Geneva, October 2 and 4, 2007, 8. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 5.

<sup>665</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 6d. See also Therese, *Sexual Exploitation of Children*, 8. U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting*, January 16, 2009, para 25. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview, September 15 and 25, 2008. See also Nkumu Fed Fed official, Interview, September 18, 2008.

<sup>666</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Rapport: Enquete de base sur le Travail des Enfants dans l'agriculture Commerciale/Cacao au Cameroun*, WACAP, February 2004, 14-18, 29.

<sup>667</sup> Ministry of Labor official, Interview, September 15 and 25, 2008.

<sup>668</sup> For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Cameroon, *Labour Code*, Law no. 92/007, (August 14, 1992), section 86(1); available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/31629/64867/E92CMR01.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Department of State, "Cameroon," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/index.htm>. For free public education,

see U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 5.

<sup>669</sup> Peter Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," *IK Notes*, no. 11 (August 1999), 1, 3; available from <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt11.pdf>. See also Peter Easton, Mark Peach, Ibrahim Lalya Bah, ElHadj Bella Doumboula, and Mohammed Lamine Barry, *Research Studies Series no. 8*, [previously online] May 1997; available from <http://www.adeanet.org/wgnfe/publications/abel/a-bel2.html> [hard copy on file]. See also U.S. Embassy- Yaounde official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 1, 2009.

<sup>670</sup> Ministry of Labor official, Interview, September 15 and 25, 2008. See also Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir official, Interview with USDOL consultant, September 22, 2008. See also IOM, *Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa*, Warns IOM, [online] 2006 [cited January 29, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleAF/cache/offonce?entryId=12007>.

<sup>671</sup> Marie Therese Mengue, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cameroon*, Association Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir (ASSEJA), n.d., 29. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview, September 15 and 25, 2008.

<sup>672</sup> Boursin Frédérique and Séverin Cécile Abega, *L'exploitation Sexuelle Des Enfants Au Cameroun, Etude Prospective Dans Cinq Villes: Yaoundé, Douala, Kribi, Limbé, Ngaoundéré*, UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Yaounde, 2004, 4-5. See also Didier Essola, *Présentation MINAS a l'Atelier de Réflexion sur la Traite, le Trafic et l'exploitation du Travail Domestique des Enfants au Cameroun*, Ministry of Social Affairs, Yaounde, April 2008, 4. See also Ministry of Tourism- Yaounde official, Interview with USDOL consultant, January 30, 2009, 66.

<sup>673</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 5 and 6c.

<sup>674</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Cameroon (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008>.

<sup>675</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting*, February 17, 2009, para 2.b.

<sup>676</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon." See also ILO-IPEC, *La Traite des Enfants aux Fins d'Exploitation de leur Travail au Cameroun*, Geneva, 2005, section 2.2.2; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/viewProduct.do?productId=5170>. See also International Trade Union Confederation, *Review of the Trade Policies of Gabon and Cameroon*, 10.

<sup>677</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon." See also ILO-IPEC, *La Traite des Enfants*, section 2.2.2. See also International Trade Union Confederation, *Review of the Trade Policies of Gabon and Cameroon*, 10.

<sup>678</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon." See also ILO-IPEC, *La Traite des Enfants*, section 2.2.2.

<sup>679</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Labor Code*, section 86(1).

<sup>680</sup> Ministre du Travail et des Lois Sociales, *Relatif au Travail des Enfants*, Arrête No 17, (May 27, 1969), article 4.

<sup>681</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Labor Code*, section 87.

<sup>682</sup> Ministre du Travail et des Lois Sociales, *Relatif au Travail des Enfants*, Arrête No 17, 1969, article 9-10.

<sup>683</sup> *Ibid.*, article 17.

<sup>684</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Labor Code*, section 167.

<sup>685</sup> The Protection Project, "Cameroon," in *2005 Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*, Washington, DC, 2005; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org>.

<sup>686</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon*, Law no. 96-06, (January 18, 1996), article 4. See also Government of Cameroon, *Labor Code*, section 2(3).

<sup>687</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Law relating to the Fight against Child Trafficking and Slavery*, Law No. 2005/015, (December 29, 2005), chapter II, section 3.

<sup>688</sup> *Ibid.*, chapter I, section 2.

<sup>689</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Document d'Information sur les Mesures de lutte contre les Pires Formes de Travail des Enfants au Cameroon*, 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", April 30, 2008.

<sup>690</sup> Government of Cameroon, *Law relating to the Fight against Child Trafficking and Slavery*, chapter II, sections 4-5.

<sup>691</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Cameroon," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/home>.

<sup>692</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 6d.

<sup>693</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, para 12. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon."

<sup>694</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon."

<sup>695</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, February 17, 2009, 27.b.*

<sup>696</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cameroon," section 5.

<sup>697</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, para 12.

<sup>698</sup> Joseph Beti Assomo, "Arrête Portant Interdiction de la Production, la Vente et la Diffusion de la Littérature, Filmographie et autres Supports Erratiques et Pornographiques dans les lieux Autorisés par les Pouvoirs Publics dans le Département du Mfoundi: Arrête Préfectoral No 01490/AP/J06/BASC," *The National Daily, Cameroon Tribune* (Yaounde), September 23, 2008.

<sup>699</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon." See also U.S. Embassy- Yaounde official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, June 13, 2008.

<sup>700</sup> Ministry of Social Affairs, *Atelier de Reflexion sur la Traite*, 9. See also Ministry of Social Affairs official, Interview with USDOL consultant, January 30, February 3 and 5, 2009, 77.

<sup>701</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon." See also Government of Cameroon, *Response to FRN, April 30, 2008*.

<sup>702</sup> Red Cross Cameroon official, Interview with USDOL consultant, September 12, 2008.

<sup>703</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, para 29.

<sup>704</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, December 19, 2008*, para 4.

<sup>705</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, para 11.

<sup>706</sup> Ministry of Labor official, Interview, September 15 and 25, 2008.

<sup>707</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Cameroon." See also U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, para 13.

<sup>708</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, February 17, 2009, 27.a.*

<sup>709</sup> USAID, *Chocolate Companies Help West African Farmers Improve Harvest*, Washington, DC, September 2005; available from [http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl\\_sep05/pillars.htm](http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_sep05/pillars.htm). See also International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, *Sustainable Tree Crops Program*, [online] [cited December 12, 2008]; available from <http://www.treecrops.org/index.htm>. See also World Cocoa Foundation, *Sustainable Tree Crops Program - Cameroon*, [online] [cited December 12, 2008]; available from [http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/difference/STCPCameroon\\_Summary.asp](http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/difference/STCPCameroon_Summary.asp).

<sup>710</sup> U.S. Embassy- Yaounde, *reporting, January 16, 2009*, para 27. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview, September 15 and 25, 2008.

<sup>711</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 26, 2009.

<sup>712</sup> ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 31, 2009.