

²¹⁶⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the National Policy and Programme Framework (NPPF) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Lebanon and Yemen*, Final Technical Progress Report, Beirut, August 2008, 6-7, 49.

²¹⁶⁹ CHF International, *Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Educational and Sustainable Services in the Middle*

East and North Africa Region (ACCESS-MENA) Final Report, Beirut, August 2008, 24.

²¹⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Beirut, *reporting*, January 9, 2009, para 17.

Lesotho

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²¹⁷¹</i>	
Population, children, 5-14 years, 2000:	443,297
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	28.1
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	31.3
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	25.0
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 (%), 2006:	114.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	72.4
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	80.7
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	73.7
ILO Convention 138:	6/14/2001
ILO Convention 182:	6/14/2001
CRC:	3/10/1992
CRCOPAC:	9/24/2003
CRCOPSC:	9/24/2003
Palermo:	9/24/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Lesotho, boys as young as 5 years of age herd livestock, either for their families or through an

arrangement in which they are hired out by their parents.²¹⁷² Boys also work as load bearers, car washers, and taxi fare collectors. Some girls also engage in herding. They are also employed as domestic servants, in some cases working up to 16 hours daily.²¹⁷³ According to a 2006 report jointly published by the ILO and the Government of Lesotho's Ministry of Employment and Labor, domestic servants are sexually exploited.²¹⁷⁴ Children work as street vendors, where they are exposed to inclement weather, long hours, and pressure to participate in illegal activities.²¹⁷⁵ Children are also involved in commercial sexual exploitation.²¹⁷⁶

Children in Lesotho are trafficked internationally to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia for sexual exploitation.²¹⁷⁷ Children are also trafficked internally to work as herders. Boys are trafficked internally to work as street vendors, and girls for domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation.²¹⁷⁸ South African boys are also trafficked to Lesotho to work as herders.²¹⁷⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, although children 13 to 15 years may perform light work in a home-based environment, technical school, or other institution approved by the Government. Children of any age may work for their family in a private undertaking, provided there are no more than five other employees and all are members of the child's family.²¹⁸⁰ Persons under 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. Working children,

with the exception of domestic laborers, have a right to return to their homes at night.²¹⁸¹ Each employer in an industrial undertaking is required to keep a register of all employees under 18 years of age.²¹⁸² The law identifies the protection of children and young persons as a principle of state policy.²¹⁸³ The law prohibits the employment of children in hazardous work.²¹⁸⁴ Work prohibited for children includes working in or with mines, quarries, underwater, dangerous heights, confined spaces, dangerous machinery, and heavy equipment.²¹⁸⁵

The law sets a penalty of up to 3 months in prison and/or a fine 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 under 18 years of age. The law also dictates imprisonment of up to 6 months and/or a fine for persons who employ a child 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. Violation of the minimum age for work carries a penalty of 3 months in prison and/or a fine.²¹⁸⁶

The Constitution defines and prohibits forced labor and slavery; punishment includes fines and 1 year of imprisonment.²¹⁸⁷ Lesotho does not have laws specifically prohibiting trafficking in children for either sexual exploitation or labor. However, violators can be prosecuted under the Child Protection Act of 1980, Sexual Offenses Act of 2003, kidnapping, which is an offense under Common Law, and the Labor Code Order of 1981 as amended.²¹⁸⁸ Military service is not compulsory, and the minimum age for voluntary enlistment is 18 years.²¹⁸⁹ The law defines and prohibits child prostitution.²¹⁹⁰ The procurement of a girl for prostitution is punishable by a maximum penalty of up to 6 years in prison.²¹⁹¹ 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.²¹⁹² Lesotho has an extradition treaty with South Africa so that Lesotho nationals committing crimes against Lesotho children in South Africa can be extradited to Lesotho for prosecution.²¹⁹³

The law provides broad powers for the Labor Commissioner and staff to perform workplace inspections, but only in the commercial sector.²¹⁹⁴ The Ministry of Employment and Labor has three inspectors for each district and seven for the capital to conduct randomly selected samples of enterprises each week for general inspection, including child labor code inspections.²¹⁹⁵ According to a 2007 ILO Committee of Experts session, the last such assessment year, government inspections are difficult to execute due to a lack of resources and absence in oversight in the informal sector.²¹⁹⁶ Current labor laws do not apply to child labor in the informal sector, subsistence agriculture, or self-employment.²¹⁹⁷ According to a 2007 UNESCO report, the last year for which such data are available, the Child and Gender Protection Unit lacks funding and trained personnel.²¹⁹⁸

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

In April 2008, the Government, with support from UNICEF, established a national, toll-free helpline for children. This helpline offers counseling and referral services to address a variety of issues, including child labor.²¹⁹⁹ The Ministry of Home Affairs, Child and Gender Protection Unit works with UNICEF to prevent children from involvement in prostitution.

The Government participated in a USDOL-funded 4-year USD 9 million regional project implemented by the American Institutes for Research that ended in August 2008. Over the life of the project, 2,247 children were withdrawn from exploitive labor and provided education or training opportunities in five countries.²²⁰⁰

In January 2009, several Government ministries, NGOs, and diplomats participated in a counter-trafficking and child sexual abuse seminar conducted by the U.S. Embassy in Maseru, which was also featured on local television.²²⁰¹ In collaboration with UNICEF, the Government established a toll-free helpline for children to report abuse, including child prostitution.²²⁰²

²¹⁷¹ 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 Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, 24, (1992), part IX, number 124; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/31536/64865/E92LSO01.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Lesotho," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119008.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 July 21, 2009], article 1; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

²¹⁷² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Lesotho," section 6d.

²¹⁷³ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting*, January 7, 2009, para 6. See also U.S. Department of State, "Lesotho (Special Cases)." in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Lesotho*, Washington, D.C., June 4, 2008, 273; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105501.pdf>.

²¹⁷⁴ Itumeleng Kimane, *Protecting the rights of working children in Lesotho through legislation*, Ministry of Employment and Labor and ILO, Maseru, 2006, 5.

²¹⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Lesotho," section 6d. Also see U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, January 7, 2009*, para 5.

²¹⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Lesotho," sections 5 and 6d.

²¹⁷⁷ International Organization for Migration, *The Trafficking of Women and Children in the Southern African Region: Presentation of Research Findings*, International Organization for Migration, Pretoria, March 24, 2003, 1 and 11; available from http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/files/3606/10718385931SouthernAfrica_trafficking.pdf/SouthernAfrica_trafficking.pdf.

²¹⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Lesotho," 273.

²¹⁷⁹ UNESCO, *Human Trafficking in Lesotho: Root Causes and Recommendations*, Paris, 2007, 25; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001528/152824E.pdf>. See also 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, IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa, Pretoria, May 2003, 42; available from <http://www.iom.org.za/site/media/docs/TraffickingReport3rdEd.pdf>.

²¹⁸⁰ Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, sections 3 and 124. See also U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting*, November 30, 2007, para 3.

²¹⁸¹ Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, section 125.

²¹⁸² *Ibid.*, part IX, section 128.

²¹⁸³ Government of Lesotho, *The Constitution of Lesotho*, (1993), section 32; available from http://www.lesotho.gov.ls/documents/Lesotho_Constitution.pdf.

²¹⁸⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention*, 1973 (No. 138); *Lesotho (ratification: 2001)*; CEACR 2004/75th Session, [online] [cited July 21, 2009], article 3, para 2; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displayAllComments.cfm?conv=C138&ctry=1800&hdroff=1&lang=EN>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention*, 1999 (No. 182); *Lesotho (ratification: 2001)*; CEACR 2004/75th Session, [online] [cited July 21, 2009]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displayAllComments.cfm?conv=C138&ctry=1800&hdroff=1&lang=EN#2007>.

²¹⁸⁵ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, January 7, 2009*, para 9.

²¹⁸⁶ Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, part IX, sections 124, 126, 128.

²¹⁸⁷ Government of Lesotho, *The Constitution of Lesotho*, section 9. See also Government of Lesotho, *Labour Code Order*, part II, section 7.

²¹⁸⁸ U.S. Embassy -- Maseru, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 8, 2009.

²¹⁸⁹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Lesotho," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008, 210; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf.

²¹⁹⁰ 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>.

²¹⁹¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention*, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2007, 6.

²¹⁹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Lesotho," section 5. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention*, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2007, article 1, clause 1b.

²¹⁹³ UNESCO, *Human Trafficking in Lesotho*, 44.

²¹⁹⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention*, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2007, 4 and 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, November 30, 2007*, para 5.

²¹⁹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, January 7, 2009*, para 10.

²¹⁹⁶ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); CEACR 2007*, article 9, para 9.

²¹⁹⁷ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting, January 7, 2009*, para 11.

²¹⁹⁸ UNESCO, *Human Trafficking in Lesotho*, 12.

²¹⁹⁹ Clelia Barbadoro, *Toll-Free child helpline to support children in Lesotho*, [2008 [cited July 21, 2009]; available

from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lesotho_43771.html.

²²⁰⁰ American Institutes for Research, *Reducing Exploitive Child Labor in Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) through Education*, Technical Progress Report, December 8, 2008, 36.

²²⁰¹ U.S. Embassy- Maseru, *reporting*, February 17, 2009, paras 4-6.

²²⁰² U.S. Embassy -- Maseru, E-mail communication, July 8, 2009.

Liberia

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*²²⁰³

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
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:	16
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2008:	83.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2008:	30.9
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	No
ILO Convention 182:	6/2/2003
CRC:	6/4/1993
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	9/22/2004**
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Liberia work on family farms and in alluvial diamond and gold mines.²²⁰⁴ On commercial rubber plantations, children tap rubber trees, clear brush, and carry buckets.²²⁰⁵ Children are also engaged in scrap metal collection, charcoal production, foreign currency exchange, auto repair, stone crushing, and fishing.²²⁰⁶ Children also work in the construction and timber sectors and as porters, truck loaders, and sand baggers.²²⁰⁷ Some children, especially girls, engage in prostitution, in some cases to pay school fees or support their families.²²⁰⁸

Liberia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficked children.²²⁰⁹ Children are trafficked for domestic service, street vending, commercial sexual exploitation, and farm work from Liberia to Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria; and to Liberia from Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire.²²¹⁰ Some Liberian children are trafficked internally for domestic service.²²¹¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for work at 16 years. Children under 16 years are prohibited from working during the school day and may only work for wages if the employer can demonstrate that they are attending school regularly and have a basic education.²²¹² Labor recruiters are permitted to hire children between 16 and 18 years for occupations approved by the Ministry of Labor.²²¹³