

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

Liberian law prohibits forced and bonded labor and slavery.²²¹⁴ The law criminalizes human trafficking and establishes sentences for the trafficking of children ranging from 11 to 16 years in prison.²²¹⁵ The law also bans the procuring of girls under 16 years of age for immoral purposes and for prostitution.²²¹⁶ In addition, the law prohibits any person under 16 years from enlisting in the military.²²¹⁷ In practice, the minimum age of voluntary recruits for Liberia's restructured national army is 18 years.²²¹⁸

Liberia was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central African Regions.²²¹⁹ As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government of Liberia agreed to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders; to rehabilitate and reintegrate trafficking victims; and to assist fellow signatory countries to implement these measures under the Agreement.²²²⁰

According to USDOS, the Government of Liberia did not have the resources to effectively enforce existing labor laws. The Ministry of Labor's National Commission on Child Labor conducted two investigations in 2008, but neither of these investigations resulted in any prosecutions.²²²¹

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

The Government of Liberia's poverty reduction strategy, which was finalized in 2008, recognizes the links between household income and child labor; highlights the importance of protecting children from physical, psychological, and sexual abuse; and commits the Government to developing and launching a national youth employment action plan.²²²² The Government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission continues to investigate the individual and systematic use of child soldiers in Liberia from January 1979 to October 2003. The commission is authorized to recommend the amnesty or prosecution of individuals responsible for recruiting child soldiers.²²²³ The Government also conducted

awareness-raising campaigns against child labor, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.²²²⁴

The Government participated in a USDOL-funded USD 6 million Child Labor Education Initiative project in Sierra Leone and Liberia that was implemented by the International Rescue Committee. This 4-year project, which was launched in 2005, aimed to withdraw a total of 7,473 children and prevent a total of 22,417 children from exploitive child labor by improving access to and quality of education.²²²⁵ The Government is also participating in a program with IOM to train immigration officials on how to identify human trafficking victims.²²²⁶

²²⁰³ 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 Liberia, *Labor Law (Title 18 and 18A)*, (1956), chapter 2d, section 74; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.detail?s?p_lang=en&p_country=LBR&p_classification=01.02&p_origin=COUNTRY&p_sortby=SORTBY_COUNTR Y. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, January 20, 2009, para 2d. See also U.S. Department of State, "Liberia," 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/119009.htm>.

²²⁰⁴ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, January 20, 2009, paras 1 and 2e. See also UN Mission in Liberia, *Human Rights in Liberia's Rubber Plantations: Tapping into the Future*, Monrovia, May 2006, 44-46; available from http://unmil.org/documents/human_rights_liberiaru bber.pdf. See also International Crisis Group, *Liberia and Sierra Leone: Rebuilding Failed States*, 87, Dakar/Brussels, December 8, 2004, 16; available from <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3156&l=1>. See also UN Security Council, *Seventeenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia*, New York, August 15, 2008, para 19; available from <http://www.unmil.org/documents/sgreports/sg17pr.pdf>

²²⁰⁵ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting*, January 20, 2009, para 2e.

²²⁰⁶ ILO-IPEC and UNICEF, *Labour Market and Training Needs Assessment: Mapping of Reintegration Opportunities for Children Associated with Fighting Forces; A Report Covering Liberia*, Geneva, March, 2005, 13;

available from <http://www.ilo.org/ippecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=999>. See also International Rescue Committee official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also Government of Liberia Ministry of Gender and Development official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, Project Document, New York, August 2007, 9.

²²⁰⁷ International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, 9. See also Government of Liberia Ministry of Gender and Development official, Interview, June 26, 2006.

²²⁰⁸ Government of Liberia Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also Save the Children UK, *From Camp to Community: Liberia Study on exploitation of children*, Monrovia, May 8, 2006, 10; available from http://www.savethechildren.it/2003/download/pub_blicazioni/Liberia/Liberia_sexual_exploitation_edited_LB.pdf.

²²⁰⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Liberia," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

²²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹¹ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, January 20, 2009*, para 2e.

²²¹² Government of Liberia, *Labor Law (Title 18 and 18A)*, section 74.

²²¹³ *Ibid.*, 1506, para 11. See also U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, January 20, 2009*, para 2a.

²²¹⁴ Government of Liberia, *Constitution of the Republic of Liberia*, (January 6, 1986), article 12; available from http://www.moj.gov.lr/constitution_of_liberia.pdf.

²²¹⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Liberia."

²²¹⁶ The Protection Project, "Human Rights Reports of Africa: Liberia" [online] 2008 [cited April 6, 2009]; available from http://www.protectionproject.org/human_rights_reports/report_documents/liberia.doc.

²²¹⁷ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Liberia," in *Child Solidiers Global Report 2004*, London,

2004; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=120>.

²²¹⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Liberia," in *Child Solidiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=120>.

²²¹⁹ Catholic Relief Services official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, October 2, 2006. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA)*, Technical Progress Report, Washington, DC, September 1, 2006, 2.

²²²⁰ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 5-7.

²²²¹ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, January 20, 2009*, para 2b. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Liberia," section 6d.

²²²² Government of Liberia, *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC, July 2008, 185-187; available from <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2008/cr08219.pdf>.

²²²³ Government of Liberia, *An Act to Establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia*, (May 12, 2005), article IV (4a-4e), article VII (26h-26g); available from <https://www.trcofliberia.org/scholarly-resources/documents/an-act-establishing-the-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-trc-of-liberia>. See also Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia, *TRC Extends Duration of Public Hearings*, [online] 2009 [cited February 2, 2009]; available from <https://www.trcofliberia.org/news-1/press-releases/trc-extends-duration-of-public-hearings>.

²²²⁴ U.S. Embassy- Monrovia, *reporting, January 20, 2009*, para 2c. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Liberia."

²²²⁵ International Rescue Committee, *Countering Youth and Child Labour Through Education (CYCLE)*, 19-20.

²²²⁶ IOM, "Managing Migration and Combating Human Trafficking in Liberia" [online] March 24, 2009 [cited April 6, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/press-briefing-notes/pbnAF/cache/offonce?entryId=24125>.