
Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Programme, final performance report, Geneva, September 2007, section II.B, sub-indicator1a2(i)A.

⁸⁸⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Programme*, project document, Geneva, September 17, 2003, 1.

⁸⁸⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Children Involved in Armed Conflict: September 2007, final performance report*.

⁸⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 4.

⁸⁸⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Children Involved in Armed Conflict: September 2006, technical progress report*, 2. See also ILO-IPEC, *Children Involved in Armed Conflict: September 2007, final performance report*, section II.B, sub-indicator1a2(i)B.

⁸⁸⁹ World Bank, *Technical Annex for a Program of USD 17 Million from the MDRP Multi-Donor Trust Fund to the Republic of Congo for an Emergency Reintegration Program*, World Bank, December 14, 2005, 7, 18-9; available from http://www.mdrp.org/PDFs/Country_PDFs/ROC-MDRP-TechAnnex_0506.pdf. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Congo: Interview with Madeleine Yila Bompoto, Coordinator of Efforts to Reintegrate Ex-Child Soldiers", IRINnews.org, [online],

March 31, 2006 [cited December 11, 2007]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?reportid=52536&selectregion=great_lakes.

⁸⁹⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention*, para 4.

⁸⁹¹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Compte Rendu Analytique de la 1177e SÉANCE (Chambre A), Examen des Rapports Présentés par les États Parties: Rapport Initial de la République du Congo*, CRC/C/SR.1177, November 21, 2006, 8; available from <http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx?country=cg>. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Congo: New bid to stop child trafficking", IRINnews.org, [online], July 20, 2007 [cited December 10, 2007]; available from

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73335>. See also UNICEF, *Congo- Background*, [online] [cited December 10, 2007]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/congo.html>.

⁸⁹² U.S. Embassy- Brazzaville, *reporting, February 21, 2008*, section 1, para C.

Costa Rica

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Costa Rica, the rate of child work is higher in rural areas (91 percent) than in urban areas (9 percent). In rural areas, children work principally in agriculture, forestry, and service activities while in urban areas, children work mainly in trade and repair activities and construction.⁸⁹³

According to the National Institute for Children (PANI), commercial sexual exploitation of children is a problem in Costa Rica, with an unknown but significant number of children involved. Children in San José, Limón, and Puntarenas are at high risk. From January to March 2007, 34 sexual exploited minors were assisted.⁸⁹⁴ Children are trafficked within the country for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The Costa Rican Government identified child sex tourism as a serious problem, and girls are trafficked into the country from other countries for commercial sexual exploitation.⁸⁹⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years. Minors under 18 years are prohibited from working at night; in mines, quarries, and other dangerous places; where alcohol is sold; and in activities where they are responsible for their own or other's safety. They are also not allowed to work with dangerous equipment, contaminated substances, or excessive noise.⁸⁹⁶ Employers of youth ages 15-17 must maintain a child labor registry. Violations of minimum age and child labor standards are punishable by fines.⁸⁹⁷

Costa Rican laws on work hours for children state that adolescents ages 15 to 17 are prohibited from working for more than 6 hours a day or 36 hours a week.⁸⁹⁸ Children may work longer hours in agriculture and ranching.⁸⁹⁹ When PANI determines that child labor is performed to meet the family's basic needs, economic assistance must be provided to the family.⁹⁰⁰

***Selected Statistics and Indicators
on Child Labor⁹⁰¹***

Working children, 12-14 years (%), 2004:	5.7
Working boys, 12-14 years (%), 2004:	8.1
Working girls, 12-14 years (%), 2004:	3.5
Working children by sector, 12-14 years (%), 2004:	
- Agriculture	40.3
- Manufacturing	9.5
- Services	49
- Other	1.3
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	110
Net primary enrollment rate (%):	-
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2004:	91.2
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	87
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
* Must pay for miscellaneous school expenses.	

Slave labor is prohibited under the law.⁹⁰² Costa Rica does not have armed forces, and the minimum age for recruitment to the police force is 18 years.⁹⁰³ The penalty for paid sexual relations with a minor under 13 years is 4 to 10 years in prison; if the victim is 13 to 15 years, it is 3 to 8 years imprisonment; and if the victim is 15 to 18 years, then it is 2 to 6 years incarceration.⁹⁰⁴ The penalty for profiting economically from the prostitution of a minor under 13 years is 4 to 10 years in prison, and 3 to 9 years if the victim is 13 to 18 years old.⁹⁰⁵ The production of pornographic materials with minors is punishable by 3 to 8 years in prison. The penalty for possession of pornography involving minors is 6 months to 2 years.⁹⁰⁶ The penalty for promoting, facilitating, or aiding the trafficking of minors for commercial sexual exploitation or slave labor is 4 to 10 years in prison.⁹⁰⁷

The Inspections Directorate of the Ministry of Labor is responsible for investigating child labor violations and enforcing child labor laws.⁹⁰⁸ According to USDOS, informal sector enforcement of child labor laws is limited by a lack of resources.⁹⁰⁹

PANI, the Special Prosecutor for Domestic Violence and Sexual Crimes, and various ministries are responsible for preventing and prosecuting crimes involving commercial sexual exploitation of children. PANI leads public awareness campaigns and provides assistance to minors involved in commercial sexual exploitation.⁹¹⁰ Several investigations into commercial sexual exploitation of children have been started by various agencies, although there have been few successful prosecutions.⁹¹¹

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

The National Agenda for Children and Adolescents 2000-2010 includes strategies to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor.⁹¹² In addition, the Government of Costa Rica has launched the Second National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Special Protection of Adolescent Workers 2005-2010.⁹¹³ It has also approved its third National Plan to Eradicate Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which aims to raise awareness; increase institutional capacity to address risk factors in target regions and populations; develop mechanisms to guarantee victims' access to psycho-social services; strengthen the judicial system to defend victims' rights; and create mechanisms to strengthen the National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.⁹¹⁴ In May 2007, the Costa Rican judicial system also implemented a database system for tracking cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children.⁹¹⁵

Since 2006, the Costa Rican Government has been carrying out "Avancemos" (Let's Get Ahead), a conditional cash transfer program (CCT) that encourages low-income children to remain in school or return to school. In 2007, 94,621 children benefited from the program.

The Government of Costa Rica continues to participate in a USD 8.8 million regional project implemented by ILO-IPEC, which seeks to combat commercial sexual exploitation through a variety of activities including capacity building and legal reform. In addition, the project aims to withdraw 713 children and prevent 657 children from commercial sexual exploitation in the region.⁹¹⁶ In

coordination with the Government, CARE-USA is implementing a USD 5.5 million regional project funded by USDOL to combat exploitive child labor through the provision of quality basic education. The project aims to withdraw and prevent 2,984 children and adolescents from exploitive child labor in the region.⁹¹⁷ The Government of Costa Rica also participates in a USD 1.2 million regional project funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by ILO-IPEC in support of the Timebound Program. In addition, it participates in a USD 0.5 million regional project funded by the Government of Canada to combat the worst forms of child labor through the strengthening of labor ministries and workers.⁹¹⁸ The Government of Costa Rica participated in a Phase II USD 2.6 million regional project and a Phase III USD 3 million regional project to eradicate child labor in Latin America, funded by the Government of Spain and implemented by ILO-IPEC.⁹¹⁹

⁸⁹³ ILO-IPEC, *In-depth analysis of child labour and education in Costa Rica*, 2004, 21-26; available from http://white.oit.org.pe/ippec/documentos/cr__in_dept_h.pdf.

⁸⁹⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Costa Rica," section 5. See also Melissa A. Lépez and Doris G. Mosquera, *Persiste Impunidad ante Explotación Sexual de Nuestra Niñez*, [online] May 17-23, 2007 [cited December 12, 2007]; available from http://www.primera.plana.or.cr/version2006/articulos_x_id.php?id_tipo_articulo=1&id_edicion=29&id_articulo=223.

⁸⁹⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Costa Rica (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82805.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Costa Rica," section 5.

⁸⁹⁶ Government of Costa Rica, *Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia*, articles 2, 78, 92, 94, 95. See also, Government of Costa Rica, *Código de Trabajo*, Ley No. 2, (1943), articles 88 and 89; available from <http://www.ministrabajo.go.cr/Codigo/Indice.htm>.

⁸⁹⁷ Government of Costa Rica, *Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia*, 1998, articles 98, 101.

⁸⁹⁸ Government of Costa Rica, *Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia*, article 95.

⁸⁹⁹ Government of Costa Rica, *Código de Trabajo*, article 89.

⁹⁰⁰ Government of Costa Rica, *Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia*, article 92.

⁹⁰¹ 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 Costa Rica, *Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia*, (1998), article 78; available from <http://www.asamblea.go.cr/ley/leyes/7000/7739.doc>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Costa Rica," in *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/>. See also Government of Costa Rica, *Constitución Política*, (1949), article 78; available from <http://www.cesdepu.com/nbdp/copol2.htm>.

⁹⁰² Government of Costa Rica, *Constitution*, articles 20, 56.

⁹⁰³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Costa Rica," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=821.

⁹⁰⁴ Government of Costa Rica, *La Reforma y Adición de Varios Artículos al Código Penal*, 4573, (August 30, 2007), article 160; available from http://ministeriopublico.poder-judicial.go.cr/publicaciones/legislacion_dia/2007/02-2007.pdf.

⁹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, article 171.

⁹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, article 173.

⁹⁰⁷ Government of Costa Rica, *Código Penal de Costa Rica*, (1970), article 172; available from <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/legislacion/cr/cpcr5.htm>.

⁹⁰⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Costa Rica," section 6d. See also Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, *Poder Ejecutivo Directriz: Manual de Procedimientos de la Dirección Nacional de Inspección*, San José, 2-3; available from http://www.ministrabajo.go.cr/Documentos/Inspeccion_manual.doc.

⁹⁰⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Costa Rica," section 6d.

⁹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, section 5.

⁹¹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹¹² Government of Costa Rica, *Agenda Nacional para la Niñez y la Adolescencia: Metas y Compromisos, 2000-2010*, San José, September 2000, 21.

⁹¹³ Government of Costa Rica, *Segundo Plan Nacional de Acción para la Prevención, Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil y Para la Protección Especial de las Personas Adolescentes Trabajadoras, Costa Rica, 2005-2010*, San José, 2005; available from http://www.oit.org.pe/ippec/documentos/plan_eti_costa_rica.pdf.

⁹¹⁴ Government of Costa Rica, *Plan Nacional para la*

Erradicacion de la Explotacion Sexual Comercial de Ninos, Ninas, y Adolescentes 2008-2010, San José, 2007; available from

http://white.oit.org.pe/ipecc/documentos/plan_nac_esc_costa_rica.pdf.

⁹¹⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Stop the Exploitation: Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*, Technical Progress Report, San José, September 30, 2007, 16.

⁹¹⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central*

America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, Project Document, RLA/02/P51/USA, San José, 2005.

⁹¹⁷ CARE USA, *APRENDO Project. Combating Exploitive Child Labor Through Education in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and the Dominican Republic*, Project Document, 2004.

⁹¹⁸ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

⁹¹⁹ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 4, 2008.

Côte d'Ivoire

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*⁹²⁰

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	39.8
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	41.5
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	38.0
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2003:	70
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2003:	55
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2002:	55.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2000:	88
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes
* Must pay miscellaneous school expenses.	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Côte d'Ivoire, many children work in agriculture on family farms.⁹²¹ Children also work in the informal sector, mainly in urban centers, including as street vendors, shoe shiners, errand runners, car washers and watchers, as food sellers in street restaurants, and in public works construction.⁹²² Children also work in small workshops and in small-scale family-operated gold and diamond mines.⁹²³ Children working in Ivorian mines perform activities such as digging holes, clearing out water from holes, and carrying and washing gravel. Many children that work in mines report illness due to the activities they perform.⁹²⁴ Ivorian girls as young as 9 years old work as domestic servants, and some are subject to mistreatment including sexual abuse.⁹²⁵

According to a 2002 study carried out by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) carried out in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, and Nigeria, the majority of children in the cocoa sector work alongside their families on farms owned either by immediate or extended relatives. Many of the working children in Côte d'Ivoire come from outside the country's cocoa zone, either from other regions within the country or from neighboring countries such as Burkina Faso.⁹²⁶ There are also credible reports of children being trafficked from Burkina Faso, Mali, and Togo to work on Ivorian cocoa and coffee farms.⁹²⁷ According to the IITA study, approximately one-third of children who live in cocoa-producing households have never attended school.⁹²⁸ Children