

⁷²⁷ U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1b.

⁷²⁸ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 394. See also U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1b. See also U.S. Department of State, "Cape Verde," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/118991.htm>.

⁷²⁹ Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 14. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Cape Verde," section 6c.

⁷³⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request C182: Cape Verde*. See also U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 1a.

⁷³¹ U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, February 23, 2009*.

⁷³² *Ibid.*

⁷³³ Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008, section III. See also International Regional Information Networks, "Cape Verde: Sex tourism".

⁷³⁴ U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting, February 29, 2008*, para 28e.

⁷³⁵ Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008, section IV.

⁷³⁶ 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.

⁷³⁷ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 7-13.

⁷³⁸ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

Central African Republic

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Working children in the Central African Republic may be found particularly in rural areas, where they are involved in agriculture, including on coffee plantations.⁷³⁹ Children also work in domestic service, fishing, hunting, and mining.⁷⁴⁰ Children work in the diamond industry, transporting and washing gravel, and in gold mining, digging holes and carrying heavy loads.⁷⁴¹ It has been reported that children are also employed in public works projects.⁷⁴²

Children from some indigenous groups are forced into agricultural, domestic, and other forms of labor by other ethnic groups.⁷⁴³ Street children, particularly in the capital Bangui, are engaged in various economic activities, including vending and begging.⁷⁴⁴ Some children, including street children, abandoned children, and those dwelling in urban areas, are involved in prostitution.⁷⁴⁵

Displaced children work in fields for long hours in conditions of extreme heat, harvesting peanuts and cassava, and helping gather items that are sold at markets, such as mushrooms, hay, firewood, and caterpillars.⁷⁴⁶ Displaced children

have also been forced to work as porters, carrying stolen goods for bandit groups.⁷⁴⁷ Children, including displaced children, have been recruited as child soldiers into armed forces by rebel groups, self-defense militias, and government forces.⁷⁴⁸ Children have also been reportedly trafficked to Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for purposes of child soldiering by the Lord's Resistance Army.⁷⁴⁹ Most trafficking of children in the Central African Republic is internal, with children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation; domestic service; and work in agriculture, restaurants or markets, and mining, including diamond mines.⁷⁵⁰ Children are also trafficked to and from Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁷⁵¹ Children from Rwanda are also reportedly trafficked to the Central African Republic.⁷⁵²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years,⁷⁵³ including for apprenticeships.⁷⁵⁴ However, children who are at least 12 years may engage in light work, such as traditional agriculture or domestic services.⁷⁵⁵ Children of

less than 18 years are prohibited from working between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. or performing certain kinds of work—including work in mines—that involves carrying heavy loads.⁷⁵⁶ The law permits a labor inspector to require young workers to undergo a medical examination to determine whether the work in which they are employed exceeds their physical strength.⁷⁵⁷ The Mining Code prohibits a company or parent from employing children in mining. Violators of this law are subject to imprisonment of 6 months to 3 years and/or a fine.⁷⁵⁸

The Penal Code prohibits procurement for sexual purposes or profiting from prostitution. Those found guilty face sentences from 1 month and a day to 1 year and/or a fine. If the victim was under 15 years, the sentence is from 1 to 5 years with a higher fine.⁷⁶² The law also establishes a higher penalty if a school official commits a sex offense involving a female student; this penalty includes imprisonment from 2 to 5 years and a fine.⁷⁶³ The law also prohibits promoting or encouraging the debauchery or corruption of young persons, which the law defines as persons under 15 years of age. Those found guilty of violating this law face penalties of imprisonment from 1 to 5 years and/or a fine.⁷⁶⁴

The law does not specifically prohibit trafficking, but traffickers can be prosecuted under anti-slavery laws, laws against sexual exploitation, mandatory school-age laws, the labor code, and laws against prostitution.⁷⁶⁵ In addition, the law establishes a penalty of imprisonment from 5 to 10 years for any person who abducts or causes the abduction of a child younger than 15 years, with forced labor as part of the sentence if the child was 12 years or younger.⁷⁶⁶

The Central African Republic was 1 of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperative 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.⁷⁶⁷ As part of the regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Government of the Central African Republic 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.⁷⁶⁸

Labor Inspection, a unit of the Ministry of Civil Service, Labor, and Social Security, has the authority to implement and enforce child labor laws.⁷⁶⁹ However, according to USDOS, the Ministry did not enforce these laws.⁷⁷⁰

***Selected Statistics and Indicators
on Child Labor⁷⁵⁹***

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2000:	1,330,919
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	61.1
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	60.4
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	61.7
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	70.7
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	53.8
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	38.5
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2005:	49.8
ILO Convention 138:	6/28/2000
ILO Convention 182:	6/28/2000
CRC:	4/23/1992
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	10/6/2006**
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Forced labor is prohibited under the law.⁷⁶⁰ The minimum age for compulsory or voluntary recruitment into the Armed Forces is 18 years.⁷⁶¹

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

During 2008, the Central African Republic reported that it piloted a Youth Development Program for street children in Boda, a sub-prefecture.⁷⁷¹ The Government, assisted by the Central African Human Rights Observatory, conducted a trafficking awareness seminar for NGOs, women's organizations, and government ministries.⁷⁷²

The Government of the Central African Republic has made efforts to demobilize child soldiers with the support of international agencies.⁷⁷³

⁷³⁹ Julia Spry-Leverton, *A Cry from the Heart: Central African Republic*, pdf, UNICEF, March 22, 2007, 23; available from www.unicef.org/uk/publications/pub_detail.asp?pub_id=125.

⁷⁴⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," sections 5 and 6d. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 26, 2005.

⁷⁴¹ Ministry of Mining official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 27, 2005. ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Central African Republic (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 16, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

⁷⁴² ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 6d.

⁷⁴³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 5.

⁷⁴⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Central African Republic (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 16, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also UNICEF, *Central African Republic: Our lives - Street children pick up cameras in CAR*, Press Release, June 16, 2008; available from http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009_2402.html.

⁷⁴⁵ Julia Spry-Leverton, *A Cry from the Heart*, 25. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting*, October 1, 2008, para. 5b. See also Ministry of Family and Social Affairs official, Interview with USDOL consultant, July 1, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, "Central African Republic," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008,

section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100472.htm>.

⁷⁴⁶ Laura Perez, *State of Neglect: Displaced Children in the Central African Republic*, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva, November 2008, 4, 17, 18; available from [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/9A2DBF7DA45DF1E4C125750D002FB289/\\$file/CAR_SCR_Nov08.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/9A2DBF7DA45DF1E4C125750D002FB289/$file/CAR_SCR_Nov08.pdf).

⁷⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 4, 19, 20. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Grim Outlook for Central African Republic's Children", IRINnews.org [online] November 27, 2008 [cited January 22, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81694>.

⁷⁴⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention*. See also Laura Perez, *Displaced Children in the Central African Republic*, 23 and 24. See also United Nations General Assembly, *Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict A/63/227*, August 6, 2008, 4; available from <http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/reports.html>.

⁷⁴⁹ United Nations Security Council, *Additional report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Uganda, S/2008/409*, June 23, 2008, para 6; available from <http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/securitycouncilwgroupdoc.html>.

⁷⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Central African Republic (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/index.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 5.

⁷⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Central African Republic." See also 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/index.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Cotonou, *reporting*, January 13, 2009, para. 17.

⁷⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Central African Republic."

⁷⁵³ Government of the Central African Republic, *Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine*, Loi N° 61/221, (June 15, 1961), article 125. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*.

⁷⁵⁴ Government of the Central African Republic, *Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine*, article 125. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*. See also

ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention*, section 2.

⁷⁵⁵ ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 6d.

⁷⁵⁶ Government of the Central African Republic, *Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine*, article 121. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6) Central African Republic (ratification: 1960)*, [online] [cited January 16, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframe.E.htm>. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*.

⁷⁵⁷ Government of the Central African Republic, *Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine*, article 126.

⁷⁵⁸ Government of the Central African Republic, *Le Code Miner*, (February 1, 2004), article 153; available from <http://www.droit-afrique.com/index.php/content/view/93/193/>.

⁷⁵⁹ 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 ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*, January 22, 2009; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see Government of the Central African Republic, *Constitution*, (December 27, 2004), article 7; available from <http://www.fodem.org/fodeminfo/CONSTITUTION%20FINAL.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Central African Republic," 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/118992.htm>.

⁷⁶⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 6c.

⁷⁶¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Central African Republic," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=41>.

⁷⁶² U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, December 3, 2007*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 5.

⁷⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, December 3, 2007*.

⁷⁶⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention*, clause 2b.

⁷⁶⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 5.

⁷⁶⁶ Government of the Central African Republic, *Code Pénal de la République Centrafricaine*, (2000), articles 212-214.

⁷⁶⁷ 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.

⁷⁶⁸ ECOWAS and ECCAS, *Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa*, Abuja, July 7, 2006, 5-13.

⁷⁶⁹ U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, December 3, 2007*.

⁷⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Central African Republic," section 6d.

⁷⁷¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention*, clause 2d.

⁷⁷² U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, December 2, 2008*, para d.

⁷⁷³ Laura Perez, *Displaced Children in the Central African Republic*, 23.

Chad

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children work in agriculture throughout Chad. In the urban informal sector, children work as domestic servants, street vendors, servers at bars, solderers, forgers, and manual laborers.⁷⁷⁴ Herding is a traditional activity in which children

work,⁷⁷⁵ including children as young as 6 years who have been reportedly contracted by their parents to work for nomadic herders or trafficked into herding.⁷⁷⁶ In some towns and the capital, N'Djamena, street children number in the thousands, and some may have been conscripted by the Government into its armed forces.⁷⁷⁷