

<sup>889</sup> ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

<sup>890</sup> Ministry of Social Protection, *Informe de Rendición de Cuentas 2008*, 85-86.

<sup>891</sup> USAID, *Apoyo a la Estrategia Nacional para Combatir las Peores Formas de Trabajo Infantil en Colombia*, Bogotá, April 3, 2008.

<sup>892</sup> Save the Children, *Save the Children y el Ministerio de Protección Social*, 2009.

<sup>893</sup> Telefonica Foundation, *Fundación Telefónica Convoca a Alcaldías y Gobernaciones para ser Alidas del Programa de Proniño en Todo el País*, March 26, 2009; available from <http://buscar.telefonica.es/jsp/index.jsp>. See also Ministry of Social Protection, *Informe de Rendición de Cuentas 2008*, 85-86.

<sup>894</sup> Interagency Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, *Comités Departamentales de Lucha contra la Trata de Personas*, May 5, 2008; available from <http://www.tratadepersonas.gov.co/eContent/newsdetail.asp?id=52&IDCompany=2>. See also ICBF, *ICBF, Gobernación Cesar y Procuraduría Firman Convenio para Erradicar el Trabajo Infantil y la Explotación Sexual de Niños y Niñas*, 2008.

<sup>895</sup> Office of the Vice President, *Segundo Informe de Gestión de la Secretaría Técnica*, December 2008; available from [http://www.vicepresidencia.gov.co/entidad/informes\\_gestion/Comiprevrecluta\\_200801\\_Informegestion.pdf](http://www.vicepresidencia.gov.co/entidad/informes_gestion/Comiprevrecluta_200801_Informegestion.pdf). See also UNICEF, *Liderados por Gobierno Nacional, 47 municipios tienen hoy una Política para la Prevención del Reclutamiento*, February 11, 2009; available from [www.unicef.org/colombia/newsletter/febrero-09/pop-news-febrero-09-02.htm](http://www.unicef.org/colombia/newsletter/febrero-09/pop-news-febrero-09-02.htm).

<sup>896</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Colombia," section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Colombia."

<sup>897</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bogotá, *reporting*, February 24, 2009.

<sup>898</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>899</sup> Ombudsman Office, *Defensoría Lanza Campaña Humanitaria: "No más Niñez y Adolescencia Reclutada"*,

October 10, 2008; available from [http://www.defensoria.org.co/red/?\\_item=0303&\\_secc=03&ts=2&n=1351](http://www.defensoria.org.co/red/?_item=0303&_secc=03&ts=2&n=1351).

<sup>900</sup> ICBF, *ICBF y OIM Hacen Balance del trabajo en Beneficio de Niñez*, May 16, 2008 2008; available from [http://www.icbf.gov.co/Noticias/doc\\_noticias/doc-may-jun-08/Boletin%20ICBF-OIM.pdf](http://www.icbf.gov.co/Noticias/doc_noticias/doc-may-jun-08/Boletin%20ICBF-OIM.pdf). See also IOM, *Programa de Atención a Niños y Niñas Desvinculados y en Riesgo de Reclutamiento* online, 2009; available from <http://www.oim.org.co/Programas/paralareconciliaci%C3%B3nylareintegraci%C3%B3n/Atenci%C3%B3nNi%C3%B1ezDesvinculada/tabid/92/language/es-ES/Default.aspx>.

<sup>901</sup> UNICEF, *Liderados por Gobierno Nacional, 47 municipios tienen hoy una Política para la Prevención del Reclutamiento*.

<sup>902</sup> Argentine Ministry of Justice, Security, and Human Rights, *XII Reunión de Altas Autoridades Competentes en Derechos Humanos y Cancillerías del MERCOSUR y Estados Asociados*, [online] 2008 [cited March 19, 2009]; available from <http://www.derhuman.jus.gov.ar/mercosur/>. See also Argentine Committee of Pursuit and Application of the International Convention on the Rights of Child, *La Iniciativa Nin@Sur, una Instancia Regional que se Afirma*, April 2008; available from [http://www.casacidn.org.ar/news\\_abril/nota1.html](http://www.casacidn.org.ar/news_abril/nota1.html).

<sup>903</sup> U.S. Embassy- Port Spain, *reporting*, January 27, 2009.

<sup>904</sup> Ecuadorean Ministry of Tourism, *Ecuador Asume Liderazgo en Suramérica para la Protección de Menores Jóvenes*, November 18, 2008; available from [http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=885&Itemid=43](http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=885&Itemid=43). See also Brazilian Ministry of Tourism, *Equador Assume Direção de Grupo Latino-Americano para a Proteção Infanto-Juvenil*, November 26, 2008; available from <http://www.turismo.gov.br/>.

## Comoros

### **Incidence and Nature of Child Labor**

The majority of working children in Comoros are engaged in agriculture and other activities in the informal sector.<sup>905</sup> The greatest proportion of children work in rural areas and on the Island of Ndzuwani.<sup>906</sup> Children work in subsistence farming, such as cultivating cloves, vanilla, and *ylang ylang* (a flower); animal husbandry; and

fishing.<sup>907</sup> Children also sell goods (such as peanuts, fish, and vegetables) along roadsides and extract and sell marine sand.<sup>908</sup> In urban areas, some children work as domestic servants in exchange for food, shelter, or educational opportunities; these children often carry heavy loads for long distances, are not paid for their work, and are subject to abuse.<sup>909</sup>

*Selected Statistics and Indicators  
on Child Labor*<sup>910</sup>

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2000:	159,810
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	35.6
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	35.0
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	36.2
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	12
Free public education:	No
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	85.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2000:	55.1
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	44.2
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	80.3
ILO Convention 138:	3/17/2004
ILO Convention 182:	3/17/2004
CRC:	6/22/1993
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	2/23/07*
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

\*Accession

Some children work under forced labor conditions, including in agriculture and domestic service.<sup>911</sup> 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 Comoros. While some boys receive lessons, many are engaged in forced labor, including carrying produce, selling items in markets, and performing various domestic activities.<sup>912</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for admission to work and apprenticeship in Comoros is 15 years.<sup>913</sup> Children in apprenticeships must be paid and the duration cannot be longer than 3 years.<sup>914</sup> Children must be at least 17 years of age to enter into a formal professional school.<sup>915</sup> Enterprises, such as stores and banks, are required to maintain a list of children they employ who are under 18

years.<sup>916</sup> The law requires that children work no more than 40 hours per week and receive a break of a minimum of 12 consecutive hours per day.<sup>917</sup> A labor inspector can require a medical examination of a child to confirm that the work does not exceed his or her strength. The punishment for a third-time offense of employing a child under the age of 15 is imprisonment.<sup>918</sup>

The law prohibits pornography and sexual exploitation of children under the age of 18 years.<sup>919</sup> Punishment for involvement with the prostitution of a minor ranges from 2 to 5 years of imprisonment, and penalties are doubled in cases of reoccurrence of the offense within 10 years.<sup>920</sup> These penalties also apply if the crime is committed in a different country.<sup>921</sup>

The law prohibits forced and bonded labor, except in instances of obligatory military service; work that is considered a civic duty to the community; and work that is required in times of accidents, fires, and calamities. The punishment for exacting forced labor is 3 months to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine.<sup>922</sup> The minimum age for voluntary military recruitment is 18 years.<sup>923</sup> The Tribunal for Minors at the national level includes several judges who are responsible for protecting children before a court.<sup>924</sup> The Government has three labor inspectors, one for each main island.<sup>925</sup> One inspector reports averaging 10 labor inspections per year.<sup>926</sup> According to USDOS, the Government has not enforced laws to protect children.<sup>927</sup>

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

Research has not identified any policies or programs by the Government of Comoros to address exploitive child labor.

<sup>905</sup> Union des Comores, Commissariat Général au Plan, and Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement, *Pauvreté, Inégalité et Marché du travail dans l'Union des Comores: Eléments d'analyse Fondés sur l'Enquête Intégrale Auprès des Ménages de 2004*, Moroni, December 2005, XX.

<sup>906</sup> Ministère du Plan Union des Comores, de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Energie et de l'urbanisme, *Enfants et Adolescents aux Comores: Analyse*

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*des Données du Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat 2003*, Moroni, September 2005, 27.

<sup>907</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Comoros," section 6d. See also Ministère de la Santé Direction Generale de la Condition feminine/Protection de l'enfant official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 24, 2007. See also Ministère de la Justice de l'île d'Anjouan official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 25, 2007. See also Ministère de la Fonction Publique et du Travail de l'Union des Comores official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 1, 2007.

<sup>908</sup> Ministère de l'Economie de l'Union des Comores official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 21, 2007. See also Ministère de la Justice de l'île d'Anjouan official, Interview, April 25, 2007. See also Ministère de l'Economie de l'Emploi et du travail official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 21, 2007.

<sup>909</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Comoros," section 6d. See also SOS ESPOIR official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 25, 2007. See also Bureau de Réseau Femme et Développement official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 1, 2007. See also Ministère de l'Economie de l'Union des Comores official, Interview, April 21, 2007.

<sup>910</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 Comoros, *Code du Travail*, Loi No. 84 -018/PR portant Code du Travail, (1984), article 123; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/1515/64795/F84COM01.htm>. For age to which education is compulsory, see Government of Comoros, *Portant orientation sur l'éducation Decret de promulgation N.95-012/PR*, Loi No. 94-035/AF, (January 20, 1995), article 1. For free public education, see Government of Comoros, *Loi orientation sur l'éducation*, article 1. See also U.S. Department of State, "Comoros," 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>.

<sup>911</sup> Ministère de l'Economie de l'Union des Comores official, Interview, April 21, 2007. See also Ministère de l'Economie de l'Emploi et du travail official, Interview, April 21, 2007.

<sup>912</sup> Union Internationale des Droits de l'Homme official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 24, 2007. See also Ministère de l'Economie de l'Union des Comores official, Interview, April 21, 2007.

<sup>913</sup> Government of Comoros, *Relative à l'apprentissage*, Loi No. 88-014/AF, (December 10, 1980), articles 5. See

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also Government of Comoros, *Code du Travail*, Loi No. 84 -018/PR portant Code du Travail, (1984), article 123; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/1515/64795/F84COM01.htm>.

<sup>914</sup> Government of Comoros, *Loi relative à l'apprentissage*, articles 5, 10 and 16. See also Government of Comoros, *Code du Travail*, article 123.

<sup>915</sup> Government of Comoros, *Fixant statut de la Formation Professionnelle et précisant ses modalités et son cadre d'exécution*, Loi No. 83-010/PR, (November 4, 1983), article 2.

<sup>916</sup> Le Président du Conseil de Gouvernement, *Fixant un registre d'employeur pour les jeunes gens de moins de 18 ans qui travaillent dans les entreprises des Comores*, Arrête No. 67-18/IT/C, (January 5, 1967), article 1 and 3.

<sup>917</sup> Government of Comoros, *Code du Travail*, article 119. See also Government of Comoros, *Fixant les Modalités d'application de la Durée du Travail et les Majorations de Salaire pour les heures Effectuées au delà de la Durée Legale de 40 heures par Semaine*, Arrête No. 01-386, (December 27, 2001), article 1.

<sup>918</sup> Government of Comoros, *Code du Travail*, articles 124, 252.

<sup>919</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Comoros," section 5.

<sup>920</sup> Riziki Djabir, *Harmonization of laws relating to children: Comoros*, The Africa Policy Forum, Addis Ababa, 27; available from <http://www.africanchild.info/documents/Comoros%20report%20Sarah.doc>. See also Government of Comoros, *Portant Code Pénal*, Loi No. 82/PAF - Loi 95-012/AF, (November 19, 1982), article 323.

<sup>921</sup> The Protection Project, *Criminal Code of Comoros*, [previously online] [cited December 14, 2007], articles 322, 323, and 324; available from <http://www.protectionproject.org> [hard copy on file].

<sup>922</sup> Government of Comoros, *Code du Travail*, articles 2, 237.

<sup>923</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Comoros," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/home>.

<sup>924</sup> Union des Comores, *Loi Relative à l'Organisation Transitoire des Juridictions pour Mineurs*, (December 31, 2005), article 1.

<sup>925</sup> Ministère de l'Economie de l'Union des Comores official, Interview, April 21, 2007. See also Ministère de la Santé official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 24, 2007.

<sup>926</sup> Ministère de la Fonction Publique et du Travail de l'Union des Comores official, Interview, May 1, 2007.

<sup>927</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Comoros," section 5.