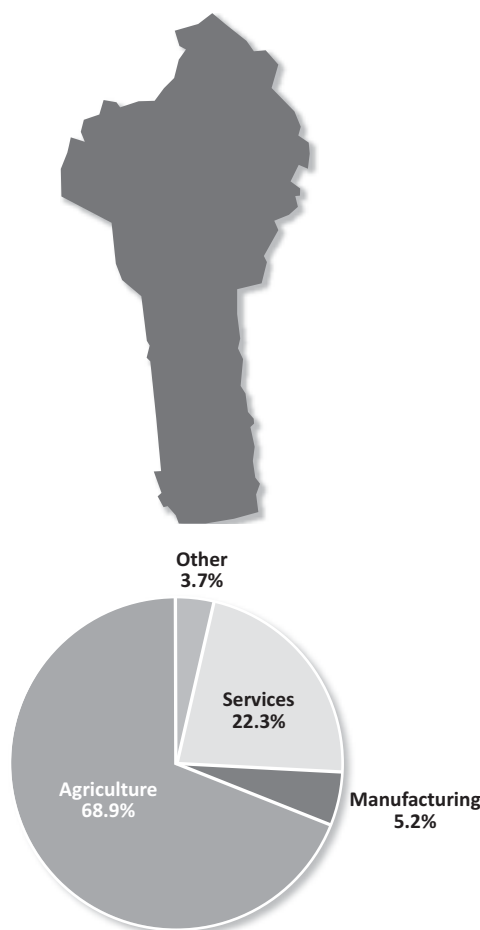


Benin

Benin has enacted comprehensive laws to protect children from trafficking and greatly increased funding for the enforcement of child labor laws; however, child trafficking and child domestic labor continue. Benin permits domestic work for children ages 12 to 13, allows children to stop attending school before they are old enough to work and lacks the capability to enforce laws and regulations necessary to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	13.2
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	59.2
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	1.4



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Benin are engaged in the worst forms of child labor,⁵¹² including in domestic service or as victims of trafficking for labor and commercial sexual exploitation.⁵¹³ Through the system of “vidomegon,” girls are sent to work as domestic servants in exchange for housing. These girls may be as young as age 7.⁵¹⁴ Income generated from these arrangements is shared between the children’s host and natural families.⁵¹⁵ While such arrangements are generally voluntary between the families, children frequently work long hours, receive insufficient food and are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.⁵¹⁶ Children, including those already working as child domestic servants, also work in markets.⁵¹⁷ Children in these circumstances may work up to 17-hour days. They are subject to verbal and physical abuse, including being beaten with sticks.⁵¹⁸

Although trafficking in Benin is primarily conducted internally, Benin is also a source, transit and destination country for trafficked children.⁵¹⁹ Children are trafficked within Benin for the purpose of domestic servitude, commercial sexual exploitation and labor on farms, in stone quarries and in markets.⁵²⁰ Children are trafficked from Benin to other West African countries to work in quarries, fishing and agriculture, including in the production of cocoa. Children are also trafficked from Benin for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic work.⁵²¹ Beninese children trafficked abroad are known to endure sexual and physical abuse, including flagellation, burns, malnourishment and abuse leading to death.⁵²² Children from Togo, Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger are trafficked to Benin for the purpose of exploitation in domestic servitude, commercial sexual exploitation and agriculture.⁵²³ Children work on farms producing cotton, where they often work long hours, are underpaid and

may be subject to physical abuse.⁵²⁴ Children also reportedly labor in the production of cashews.⁵²⁵ Some children working in agriculture are engaged in forced labor.⁵²⁶

Children, including street children, are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation.⁵²⁷ Children are sexually exploited by people from all strata of society, including bar owners, sailors, teachers and members of the defense forces.⁵²⁸ Reportedly, child sex-tourism also occurs in Benin.⁵²⁹






Children work in construction, the transportation industry and as street vendors.⁵³⁰ They also work in fishing.⁵³¹ Children's work in fishing may expose them to risks such as drowning. Children work in mines and quarries.⁵³² They also crush stone into gravel. Children who crush stone into gravel are subject to long hours, physical injuries and hazards, including exposure to dynamite and falling rocks.⁵³³

Access to quality education is a critical component in preventing the economic exploitation of children.⁵³⁴ Access to education in Benin may be impeded by costs such as school-related construction, school books and uniforms.⁵³⁵ Additionally, school children are subjected to verbal, physical, psychological and sexual abuse at school. Abuses range from beatings with sticks, whips or belts, to sexual abuse by teachers who may demand sex for grades.⁵³⁶ School-based violence may discourage families from accessing education for their children.⁵³⁷ Access to education is also impeded by a lack of birth registration.⁵³⁸ Forty percent of Beninese children remain unregistered. Unable to prove citizenship, some children may be denied services such as education.⁵³⁹

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The minimum age for work in Benin is 14. Children between ages 12 and 14 may perform domestic work and temporary or seasonal light work if it does not interfere with their schooling.⁵⁴⁰ The law prohibits workers under

age 16 from performing certain types of work, including transporting heavy loads, working in slaughterhouses and operating certain types of machinery.⁵⁴¹ The law also sets limitations on work performed by youth ages 16–18.⁵⁴² An expanded list of hazardous work prohibited for children was passed in January 2011. The law prohibits children under age 18 from hazardous work in areas such as mining, domestic service, agriculture and stone crushing.⁵⁴³

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	11
	Free Public Education	Yes

Primary school is free and compulsory in Benin.⁵⁴⁴ However, some parents have to pay tuition if their schools have insufficient funds.⁵⁴⁵ Beninese children are only required to attend school through primary school (approximately age 11), while the minimum age for children to work is 14.⁵⁴⁶ This standard makes children ages 12 to 14 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to be in school but are below the minimum age to work.

The law expressly forbids the trafficking of children and provides penalties for those who are involved in the trafficking of children.⁵⁴⁷ The law also forbids movement of children within

Benin by prohibiting the separation of children from their parents without consent from local authorities.⁵⁴⁸ Benin also has three enabling decrees to regulate travel of minors within and across Benin's borders.⁵⁴⁹

The Penal Code prohibits the involvement with or facilitation of child prostitution, but child pornography is not prohibited in Benin.⁵⁵⁰ The use of children in armed conflicts is banned.⁵⁵¹

In 2009, the Government adopted the first volume of the Child Code, a compilation of existing legislation related to children's rights, education, protection, labor and health. The Code's second volume, containing a bill on child protection and amendments pertaining to offences committed regarding minors, is pending adoption by the National Assembly.⁵⁵²

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Government of Benin has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor. The Ministry of Family and National Solidarity (MFNS) implements the government's overall policy to improve children's welfare and leads government efforts to ensure children's rights.⁵⁵³ The MFNS chairs the National Monitoring and Coordination Working Group for Child Protection (CNSCPE), a technical agency that serves as a task force and comprises five technical committees, including a committee for trafficking and exploitation.⁵⁵⁴ The CNSCPE meets on a quarterly basis and is comprised of members from sector-based ministries, NGO networks, international technical and financial partners and bilateral partners. Each committee has an action plan and proposes activities to CNSCPE.⁵⁵⁵

The Ministry of Labor and Civil Service is responsible for enforcing labor laws in the formal sector.⁵⁵⁶ The Government of Benin employs 126 labor agents throughout 12 departments to regulate the formal labor sector, including child labor. Inspectors can impose sanctions and order

payment for labor violations.⁵⁵⁷ The number of inspections conducted during the reporting period is unavailable. The majority of labor inspectors work in urban areas. Focusing on urban areas may leave children in rural areas, such as those involved in agricultural labor, unprotected.⁵⁵⁸ The Government budgeted \$204,500 for the Ministry of Labor and Civil Services to conduct child labor inspections in its 2010 budget.⁵⁵⁹ This represents a budget increase of 230 percent from the previous reporting period.⁵⁶⁰

The Brigade of Protection of Minors (the Brigade), under the Criminal Police Department, is the lead agency responsible for the protection of minors, including child trafficking, child labor and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.⁵⁶¹ The Brigade collaborates with the Ministries of Family, Social Protection and Solidarity, Foreign Affairs and Labor.⁵⁶² A lack of resources, including a lack of office and transportation facilities, limits the Brigade's effective enforcement of child protection laws.⁵⁶³ During the reporting period, the police investigated 5 cases of child labor and 44 cases of trafficking; 14 of the trafficking cases were referred to court.⁵⁶⁴ Although the status of these cases is unknown, trafficking sentences handed down in the past have ranged from 3 months to 1 year. These sentences are well below the 20-year maximum provided for by law.⁵⁶⁵

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Benin has a National Policy and Action Plan for Child Protection.⁵⁶⁶ It also has a National Action Plan to Combat and Eradicate Child Trafficking and Labor. However, neither action plan has been funded.⁵⁶⁷

Under the coordination of the joint Benin and Nigeria Committee to Combat Child Trafficking, the governments of Nigeria and Benin developed a 2009–2010 Action Plan to reinforce border security measures and to repatriate the victims of trafficking.⁵⁶⁸ Child victims are not repatriated unless a safe reinsertion program, such as schooling, vocational training or an

apprenticeship, has been arranged in advance. Victims may not be incarcerated or fined for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.⁵⁶⁹

The Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction, launched in 2007 to meet the Millennium Development Goals, includes goals that would impact child labor such as free, universal primary education; better education quality and higher retention at the secondary level; and vocational training and microfinance for youth and women to help them transition into the labor market. It also calls for activities to protect children from abuse and to link them with appropriate social services.⁵⁷⁰ The Government outlined specific actions to be taken to achieve these goals and has initiated many of them.⁵⁷¹ The Government has also implemented the *Plan Decennal de Développement du Sector de l'Éducation*, a 10-year education strategy that started in 2006. The Plan includes components to combat poverty and to improve access to primary education, especially for females.⁵⁷² Nevertheless, the ILO Committee of Experts continues to express concern at the low school attendance rate at the primary and secondary levels. Higher participation in education would reduce the likelihood that children under 14 are engaged in exploitative work.⁵⁷³ Additionally, the impact of these plans and policies on the worst forms of child labor has not been assessed

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government has implemented a second anti-child trafficking project (2007–2011) that aims to improve children's living conditions and respect for children's rights.⁵⁷⁴ The Government runs a transit facility for trafficking victims that has the capacity to harbor 160 children.⁵⁷⁵ In addition, there is a system that refers trafficking victims to NGO shelters.⁵⁷⁶ Benin has 1,529 grassroots committees in 33 local governments to monitor for child trafficking networks and to provide community reintegration assistance for victims.⁵⁷⁷ It has made efforts to provide more comprehensive

access to birth registration by conducting a study to better understand constraints surrounding birth registration and by implementing a nationwide program to issue birth certificates and register births to all citizens.⁵⁷⁸

During the reporting period, the Government of Benin undertook periodic trafficking awareness campaigns and a nationwide child labor awareness campaign.⁵⁷⁹ The Government also conducted child protection capacity building and awareness trainings for officials and agencies responsible for enforcing child labor laws.⁵⁸⁰ Benin hosted information exchange conferences for Beninese child protection officers and parliamentarians to exchange information on enforcement efforts with surrounding countries.⁵⁸¹

Benin participated in two ILO-IPEC projects. One was a Francophone Africa project that provided education and safe apprenticeships as an alternative to the worst forms of child labor for children and youth.⁵⁸² The other was a global project that supported the global action plan to end child labor by 2016.⁵⁸³ Benin also partnered with UNICEF to implement community kindergartens in remote areas of Benin and to provide income-generating opportunities for parents, train teachers, build latrines and provide supplies for schools.⁵⁸⁴

During the reporting period, the Government participated in three USAID-funded projects to improve the education system, including a 4-year, \$6.3 million project to improve teacher training and performance; a 4-year, \$5.75 million project to improve access to girl's education; and the Ambassador's Scholarship Program, which provided 1,300 Beninese students with school scholarship funds.⁵⁸⁵

Benin also participated in two global USDOL-funded projects: the global projects consisted of a 5-year, \$1.5 million project that provided funds for SIMPOC national child labor surveys and a 4-year, \$4 million global project that provided training to government representatives, NGOs, trade unions and employer organizations in preparation for the launch of the National Action Plan for Child

Labor.⁵⁸⁶ Benin participated in a 4-year, \$7.95 million regional project and a 3-year, \$5 million regional project funded by USDOL, both of which assisted member countries of ECOWAS to combat the worst forms of child labor by strengthening and enforcing child labor laws and national action plans and by developing child labor monitoring systems. The projects target mining and quarrying in Benin as well as cross-border trafficking of Beninese children to Nigeria.⁵⁸⁷ The projects also assist the governments of Benin and Nigeria to implement the 2005 MOU on trafficking, working with the joint Benin/Nigeria Committee to Implement the Annual Action Plan called for under the MOU.⁵⁸⁸

The Government collects child labor data at the central and provincial levels on 14 areas pertaining to child welfare.⁵⁸⁹ The Government uses this data to issue a scoreboard on children's vulnerability in Benin and to provide information on child protection through a website and quarterly newsletters.⁵⁹⁰

Existing Government programs do not target some of the most common worst forms of child labor in Benin, particularly children engaged in domestic service, child sexual exploitation, quarrying and agriculture.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Benin:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Restrict domestic service for children under age 18.
- Raise the age of compulsory education so it is consistent with the minimum age for employment.
- Ensure all children have access to free primary education as guaranteed by law.
- Adopt the second volume of the Child Code to bring into force additional protections for children.
- Create and adopt laws to prohibit child pornography.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Collect, analyze and publish statistics on child labor inspections to better target enforcement efforts.
- Reconsider budgetary priorities with a view toward providing more resources to enforcement investigation, including by providing appropriate facilities and transportation assets.
- Ensure labor inspectors adequately monitor rural areas and the informal sector for child labor.
- Establish a specific coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.
- Ensure offenders of trafficking laws receive appropriate penalties for their crimes.

IN THE AREA OF POLICY:

- Implement the National Action Plan for Child Protection and the National Action Plan to Combat and Eradicate Child Trafficking and Labor.
- Take measures to ensure children have access to quality education and to ensure children's safety in schools.
- Assess the impact that existing policies may have on addressing the worst forms of child labor in Benin.

IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Institute programs to address the worst forms of child labor in domestic service, commercial sexual exploitation, stone quarries and agriculture, and monitor progress through the use of the ChildPro database.
- Implement birth registration campaigns to increase children's access to education.

⁵¹² Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2011. Data provided is from 2003. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

⁵¹³ Confédération Syndicale Internationale, *Normes Fondamentales du Travail Internationalement Reconnues au Bénin, au Burkina Faso, et au Mali*, Geneva, October 4-6, 2010, 8. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Benin*, 2007, 12; available from http://www.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/AF/Global_Monitoring_Report-BENIN.pdf. See also UNODC, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, September 2006, 11, 12, 29, 52; available from http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/ht_research_report_nigeria.pdf. See also ILO, *La Traite des Enfants a des fins d'exploitation de leur Travail au Benin (Lutrena)*, Geneva, 2006, 23, 24, 30.

⁵¹⁴ Jonathan Blagbrough, *They Respect their Animals More: Voices of Child Domestic Workers*, Anti-Slavery, 2007, 2, 3, 9; available from http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/t/they_respect_their_animals_more_08.pdf. See also UN Economic and Social Council, *Summary Record of the 10th Meeting*, Fortieth session, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva, May 5, 2008, 5, 8; available from <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/Documentsfrset?OpenFrameSet>. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of reports submitted by states parties under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding observations: Benin*, 43rd session, October 20, 2006, 19; available from <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/Documentsfrset?OpenFrameSet>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention*, 1999 (No. 182) *Benin (ratification: 2001) Submitted: 2009*, January 20, 2011; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=23476&chapter=9&query=Benin%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Benin," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2010*, Washington, DC, April 8, 2011, sections 6, 7; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010>. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report*, 12.

⁵¹⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2010: Benin."

⁵¹⁶ Ibid. See also Blagbrough, *They Respect their Animals More*, 16, 21. See also ECPAT and The Body Shop, *Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People*, 2009, 23; available from http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/Trafficking/Full_Report_Global_Child_Trafficking_for_Sexual_Purposes.pdf. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report*, 12.

⁵¹⁷ Blagbrough, *They Respect their Animals More*, 14, 16, 21. See also France 24, *Reportage-Benin: Exploitation Enfants* (2007), YouTube Video. See also Swiss Contact, *Vocational Training as a Tool Against Trafficking*, [online] [cited April 1, 2011]; available from http://www.swisscontact.ch/english/pages/PR_Dn/PR/Dn/102.php.

⁵¹⁸ Blagbrough, *They Respect their Animals More*, 14, 16, 21. See also France 24, *Reportage-Benin: Exploitation Enfants*.

⁵¹⁹ Karin Brown, "Child Trafficking in Benin, West Africa," *Beyond Intractability*, March 2010. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report*, 11. See also USAID, *Trafficking in Persons: USAID's Response*, March 2006, 10; available from http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACH052.pdf. See also Republique de Benin and Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Creation, *Etude Sur la Traite des Enfants a des Fins d'Exploitation Sexuelle*, May 2009, xii-1, 22, 23, 29; available from <http://www.cnsce.net/documents/EtudesRapports/Rapport%20final%20Etude%20sur%20la%20traite%20des%20enfants%20Version%20Finale.pdf>. See also UNODC, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, 11-12. See also ILO, *La Traite des Enfants a des fins d'exploitation de leur Travail au Benin (Lutrena)*, 23, 24, 30, 31.

⁵²⁰ ECPAT and The Body Shop, *Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People*, 20. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report*, 12. See also Brown, "Child Trafficking in Benin, West Africa." See also Ministère de la Famille et d'Enfant et UNICEF, *Etude Nationale sur la Traite des Enfants*, November 2007, 33. See also France 24, *Reportage-Benin: Exploitation Enfants*. See also UNODC, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, 11, 52. See also U.S. Department of State, "Benin," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/>.

⁵²¹ Ministère de la Famille et d'Enfant et UNICEF, *Etude Nationale sur la Traite des Enfants*, 5, 35, 37. See also Michael Fleshman, "How Scourge of Human Trafficking Ensnared Hundreds of Thousands from Poor Nations," *Business Daily*, December 7, 2009; available from <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/-/539546/818350/-/item/2/-/a9idexz/-/index.html>. See also Republique de Benin and Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Creation, *Etude Sur la Traite des Enfants a des Fins d'Exploitation Sexuelle*, xiii, xiv, 22. See also Michael Fleshman, "Africa Fights the 'People Trade': Scourge of Human Trafficking Ensnared

Hundreds of Thousands,» *Africa Renewal Online*, October 2009; available from <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:3AQOZLR44ewJ:www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol23no3/233-people-trade.html+%22Benin%22+and+%22gravel%22+and+%22trafficking%22&cd=8&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>. See also Terre des Hommes, *Little Hands of the Stone Quarries*, 2005, 7, 8, 10, 11; available from www.tdh.ch. See also UNODC, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, 12. See also Blagbrough, *They Respect their Animals More*, 3, 10, 11. See also U.S. Department of State, “Benin (Tier 2),” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 16, 2009; available from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,ANNUALREPORT,BEN,,,4a4214cd28,0.html>.

⁵²² Republique de Benin and Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Creation, *Etude Sur la Traite des Enfants a des Fins d'Exploitation Sexuelle*, xiv, 39. See also AFP, «Benin's Child Slaves Working Nigeria's Quarries,» *Agence France-Presse* (Abeokuta), December 11, 2007; available from <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5h8Vu3tVLkIcdHpsij-Qk5Rw2sBRw>. See also Fleshman, “Africa Fights the ‘People Trade’: Scourge of Human Trafficking Ensnarers Hundreds of Thousands.” See also UNODC, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, 12, 48. See also Terre des Hommes, *Little Hands of the Stone Quarries*.

⁵²³ Ministère de la Famille et d'Enfant et UNICEF, *Etude Nationale sur la Traite des Enfants*, 24-25. See also Blagbrough, *They Respect their Animals More*, 3. See also Republique de Benin and Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Creation, *Etude Sur la Traite des Enfants a des Fins d'Exploitation Sexuelle*, 22. See also UNODC, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, 11. See also U.S. Department of State, “Benin,” in *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119016.htm>. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations*, para 71.

⁵²⁴ Albertine de Lange, *Going to Kompienga- A Study on Child Labour Migration and Trafficking in Burkina Faso's South-Eastern Cotton Sector*, August 2006, 23-81.

⁵²⁵ U.S. Embassy- Cotonou official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 8, 2011.

⁵²⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Tackling Hazardous Child Labour in Agriculture: Guidance on Policy and Practice*, 2009; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/viewProduct.do?productId=2799>.

⁵²⁷ Confédération Syndicale Internationale, *Normes Fondamentale du Travail Internationalement Reconnues au Bénin, au Burkina Faso, et au Mali*, 8. See also ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report*, 11-15. See also UNODC, *Measures to*

Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo, 11-12. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin,” section 6. See also Republique de Benin and Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Creation, *Etude Sur la Traite des Enfants a des Fins d'Exploitation Sexuelle*, 29.

⁵²⁸ ECPAT, *Global Monitoring Report*, 11-12.

⁵²⁹ Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009: Benin.” See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2008: Benin.”

⁵³⁰ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin,” section 7d.

⁵³¹ Ibid.

⁵³² Confédération Syndicale Internationale, *Normes Fondamentale du Travail Internationalement Reconnues au Bénin, au Burkina Faso, et au Mali*, 7. See also U.S. Embassy- Cotonou, *reporting*, July 29, 2008.

⁵³³ Integrated Regional Information Networks, “Benin: Children Crushing Stones into Gravel to Get Through School,” IRINnews.org, [online], June 29, 2005 [cited August 9, 2011]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=55173>.

⁵³⁴ UNESCO, *Education: Child Workers*, [online] [cited March 10, 2011]; available from <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/strengthening-education-systems/inclusive-education/child-workers>.

⁵³⁵ Jakob Engel, Edmond Magloire Cossou, and Pauline Rose, *Benin's Progress in Education: Expanding Access and Narrowing the Gender Gap*, 2011; available from http://www.developmentprogress.org/sites/default/files/benin_education_progress.pdf.

⁵³⁶ Save the Children Sweden, Plan International, Act!onaid, and UNICEF, *Too Often in Silence: A Report on School-Based Violence in West and Central Africa*, 2010, 5, 7, 19, 20, 30, 37, 42, 43; available from <http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/publications/campaigns/too-often-in-silence-a-report-on-school-based-violence-in-west-and-central-africa>. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin,” section 6.

⁵³⁷ Save the Children Sweden, Plan International, Act!onaid, and UNICEF, *Too Often in Silence: A Report on School-Based Violence in West and Central Africa*, 36.

⁵³⁸ UNICEF, *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection*, 2009, 5; available from http://www.childinfo.org/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN.pdf. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin,” section 6.

⁵³⁹ UNICEF, *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection*. See also UNICEF, *Benin Statistics*, [online] 2011 [cited February 11, 2011]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/benin_statistics.html. See also

U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin,” section 6.

⁵⁴⁰ Government of Benin, *Code du Travail*, (January 27, 1998), articles 66, 166; available from ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/49604/65115/F98BEN01.htm. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Benin (ratification: 2001) Submitted: 2009*, March 12, 2010, articles 2, 7; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

⁵⁴¹ Inter-Ministerial Order No. 132 of 2000 as noted in ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C138: Benin (2009)*, article 3.

⁵⁴² U.S. Embassy- Cotonou official, Letter to USDOL official, March 25, 2010.

⁵⁴³ Government of Benin, *Decret No 2011-029 de Janvier 2011*, (2011).

⁵⁴⁴ UN Economic and Social Council, *Summary Record of the 10th Meeting*. See also Government of Benin, *Constitution de la Republique du Benin*, (December 11, 1990); available from http://www.chr.up.ac.za/images/files/documents/ahrdd/benin/benin_constitution_english.pdf.

⁵⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin,” section 6.

⁵⁴⁶ Government of Benin, *Code du Travail*, articles 66, 166. See also UNESCO, *The Hidden Crisis: Armed Conflict and Education*, March 1, 2011; available from <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/efareport/reports/2011-conflict/>.

⁵⁴⁷ Government of Benin, *Loi portant conditions de déplacement des mineurs et répression de la traite d'enfants en République du Benin*, *Loi no 2006-04*, (2006), articles 6-8, 17-22; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/SERIAL/73266/74783/F1933999553/BEN73266.pdf>.

⁵⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, articles 7-8.

⁵⁴⁹ U.S. Embassy- Cotonou, *reporting, December 6, 2010*, section 2.5.

⁵⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, section 2.4. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Benin.”

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⁵⁵² U.S. Embassy- Cotonou, *reporting, April 22, 2009*.

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