

Niger

The Government of Niger supported limited vocational training and awareness raising programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor. However, these were not adequate to address Niger's child labor problem and failed to address the numerous children working in agriculture and domestic service. Significant gaps also exist in the enforcement of Niger's child labor laws.



Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	41.5*
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	30.4
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	15.8

* Population of working children: 2,077,634

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Niger are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture and domestic service. In the agriculture sector, some evidence suggests that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of peppers and rice.⁴³³⁷ Children's work in agriculture commonly involves hazardous activities, such as using dangerous machinery and tools, carrying heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides. Children in rural areas also herd livestock and are exposed to hazards such as working long hours and severe weather.⁴³³⁸

Children work in dangerous conditions in mines and quarries, including in the production of salt, gypsum and gold where they break rocks; extract, process and hoist ore; and transport heavy loads.⁴³³⁹ In Niger, many child miners and children working around the mines suffer from breathing problems and may be subject to cave-ins and mercury contamination when crossing dangerous terrain.⁴³⁴⁰ Interviews of approximately 400 children in mining sites, conducted in 2009, found

that 38 percent of these children reported having been the victim of an accident at the work site.⁴³⁴¹

Children, especially girls, working in domestic service and street vending are at risk of physical or sexual harassment.⁴³⁴² In urban areas, street children are prevalent; they are found begging or performing tasks such as dishwashing and portering.⁴³⁴³ Children working on the streets may be exposed to multiple dangers, including severe weather, vehicle accidents and criminal elements.

Children work in manufacturing and maintenance, including in tanneries, welding and metal work. Children also work in slaughterhouses, which exposes them to health and safety risks.⁴³⁴⁴ Children in these sectors engage in hazardous activities such as long hours of work and exposure to dangerous machinery and tools.

Some children in Niger work in conditions of forced labor. In some cases, this stems from the traditional practice of sending boys, called *talibes*, to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include vocational training or

apprenticeship.⁴³⁴⁵ Some of these boys are forced by their teachers to beg and surrender the money they have earned or perform labor.⁴³⁴⁶ In addition, among nomadic populations, traditional forms of caste-based servitude still exist in parts of Niger.⁴³⁴⁷ Slaves, including children, are often forced to work long hours as shepherds, agricultural workers or domestic servants.⁴³⁴⁸ Girls who work as domestic servants are sometimes coerced into prostitution. Commercial sexual exploitation of children also exists along the highway near the Nigerian border.⁴³⁴⁹

Niger serves as a source, transit and destination country for children trafficked for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.⁴³⁵⁰ Children are trafficked internally for forced labor in mines, agriculture, begging, domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation.⁴³⁵¹ Children from Benin, Nigeria, Togo and Ghana are trafficked to Niger for exploitative labor on the streets as menial laborers.⁴³⁵² Nigerien children are trafficked to work as beggars or manual laborers in Nigeria and Mali.⁴³⁵³

During the reporting period, the Government frequently failed to pay primary and secondary school teachers, which resulted in teacher strikes and the loss of education for children.⁴³⁵⁴ In addition, during the reporting period, food shortages in the south prompted many rural Nigerians to leave their villages to seek food and work, which increased the risk of rural children's involvement in the worst forms of child labor.⁴³⁵⁵ In Niger, children may also enter the workforce at a young age due to the limited number of schools.⁴³⁵⁶

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The 1996 Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14, including for apprenticeships. This law also requires that no child or apprentice be employed in work that exceeds his or her strength and that employers guarantee certain

minimum sanitary conditions.⁴³⁵⁷ However, Decree No. 67-126/MFP/T of September 1967, which establishes the minimum age for hazardous labor at 16, authorizes such children to work in certain hazardous activities and does not adequately address all categories of hazardous labor as well as related safety concerns such as requiring training, instruction, supervision and other necessary protections for this group of workers.⁴³⁵⁸ In addition, the Government lacks protections for children involved in domestic service and street work.⁴³⁵⁹

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	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	16
	Compulsory Education Age	12
	Free Public Education	Yes

Children in Niger are required to attend school only until age 12. The gap between the compulsory education age and minimum age for work makes children particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to attend school, but are not legally permitted to work either.⁴³⁶⁰ In addition, despite the legal guarantee for free education under the Law on the Orientation of the Educational System, some primary school fees continue to be charged, and the cost of books is prohibitive for many families.⁴³⁶¹

The Minister of Mining reports that it sought to issue artisanal mining licenses only when there was an agreement not to use child labor.⁴³⁶² However, limited reports indicate that the Government of Niger has yet to adopt such legislation that makes the issuance of mining licenses contingent on an agreement to not use child labor.⁴³⁶³

The Labor Code prohibits and provides criminal penalties for forced and bonded labor.⁴³⁶⁴ The 2006 Penal Code criminalizes slavery and provides appropriate penalties (up to 30 years imprisonment) for such acts and includes specific reference to children under 18 who might be put into such a situation by parents or guardians.⁴³⁶⁵ The Penal Code also specifically prohibits inciting a person to beg; however, such acts are categorized as a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine and up to 1 year of imprisonment.⁴³⁶⁶ These restrictions and penalties do not appear sufficient to deter forced begging.

In October 2010, the Government of Niger adopted a new constitution that included a provision prohibiting slavery. However, additional information was not available at the time of research.⁴³⁶⁷

In 2010, the Government adopted the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons. This law aims to prevent and fight trafficking in persons, especially of women and children; protect, support and assist trafficking victims by ensuring that their rights are respected; and punish traffickers for trafficking offenses.⁴³⁶⁸ Traffickers of children may also be prosecuted under the Penal Code, which criminalizes kidnapping.⁴³⁶⁹ The Penal Code also defines and sets penalties for several components of commercial sexual exploitation but does not capture all such crimes. It criminalizes carnal knowledge of children under age 13, facilitating prostitution and owning a brothel, but it does not directly criminalize prostitution. Such crimes might be considered offenses under the prohibition against indecency, but this is

not clear from the law.⁴³⁷⁰ The lack of legislation criminalizing all forms of commercial sexual exploitation leaves children vulnerable and unprotected.⁴³⁷¹

According to Ordinance No. 96-033 (1996), military service is obligatory and does not establish a minimum age for voluntary or compulsory recruitment. However, as of 2007, the Government signed the Paris Commitments, which protects children from recruitment and use in armed forces.⁴³⁷²

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Niger established a national child labor steering committee, which coordinates efforts with the Child Labor Division, to reduce worst forms of child labor. This steering committee, established through the Ministry of Community Development in 2006, is responsible for screening proposals for child labor action plans and includes representatives from eight ministries as well as representatives from NGO and UN agencies.⁴³⁷³ The Child Labor Division is responsible for conducting child labor studies, raising awareness and drafting action plans on the worst forms of child labor.⁴³⁷⁴

The 2010 Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons established the National Commission to Coordinate Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CNLTTP).⁴³⁷⁵ The National Commission against Forced Labor and Discrimination with the Ministry of Civil Service and Labor (MCSL) coordinates efforts to eliminate slavery and forced labor. This commission includes representatives of the ILO, labor unions, civil society and traditional chiefs.⁴³⁷⁶ In Niger, regional committees—supported by vigilance committees in 30 localities—coordinate child trafficking initiatives. Members of the vigilance committees report suspected cases of child trafficking to law enforcement personnel.⁴³⁷⁷

The MCSL is also charged with enforcing labor laws, including those provisions governing hazardous labor for children under age 18. It has nine regional labor inspectorates and approximately 100 inspectors responsible for investigating and enforcing all elements of the Labor Code, including child labor.⁴³⁷⁸

Inspectors conduct both routine and complaint-based inspections in the formal sector. Limiting inspections to the formal sector may leave children working on the streets and as domestic servants unprotected.⁴³⁷⁹ According to the ILO Committee of Experts, the labor inspectorate acutely lacks both human and material resources, although each regional inspection service does have a vehicle to visit worksites.⁴³⁸⁰ As a result, during the reporting period, there were no child labor inspections.⁴³⁸¹ However, during the reporting period, a complaint was lodged by the Coalition of African NGOs Working with Children, which led to the conviction of two people for the trafficking of five girls. The penalty included a 6-month suspended sentence and a \$100 fine.⁴³⁸² Research indicates that the penalty for child trafficking was not commensurate with the crime and was not sufficient to deter future acts.⁴³⁸³

The Ministry of Justice is the lead agency on trafficking in persons. With the adoption of the 2010 Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons, the Government will establish a National Agency to Combat Trafficking in Persons (ANLTP). The ANLTP will be charged with adopting and implementing policies and programs on trafficking in persons.⁴³⁸⁴

In 2010, the Government provided training to law enforcement officers, including the police, *gendarmes* (a military body charged with police duties among civilian populations) and the National Guard on child protection and trafficking in persons.⁴³⁸⁵ Law enforcement officials are also trained to ask for the regional ECOWAS-sanctioned Authorization Certificate when children are crossing borders without

their parents.⁴³⁸⁶ During the reporting period, the Government, with support from local and international NGOs, rescued and rehabilitated 89 child victims of trafficking.⁴³⁸⁷

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In March 2000, Niger adopted a National Action Policy (NAP) against Child Labor, which provided a framework for some actions but did not address child labor in the rural sector.⁴³⁸⁸ In July 2010, an updated NAP for the period of 2010-2015 was reviewed and validated by the MCSL; however, the Government has yet to adopt this policy.⁴³⁸⁹

In 2007, the Government developed an action plan to target the exploitation of children by religious instructors, but this has reportedly not been adopted or implemented due to a lack of funding.⁴³⁹⁰ The Government also adopted an NAP to combat the sexual exploitation of children in 2005.⁴³⁹¹ Although the Government has developed policies to address some of the worst forms of child labor, research found no evidence of a policy on trafficking.⁴³⁹²

Child labor concerns are also incorporated in the following national development agendas and policy documents: National Policy on Education, Vocational and Professional Training, Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan (2008–2012), Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2009–2013).⁴³⁹³ Niger's Education Sector Plan (2002–2012), which gives priority to basic education, has contributed to an increase in school attendance for girls and a reduction in the average number of hours children work per week.⁴³⁹⁴ However, Government policy dictates that in practice, children of any age who fail the same grade twice are expelled from public schools. This practice makes children particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they may not be permitted to be in school, but are not legally permitted to work either.⁴³⁹⁵

In 2010, the Government adopted the Regional Policy on Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa under ECOWAS. This agreement explicitly targets, among others, victims trafficked for the purpose of exploitative labor and hazardous child labor. Begging was included as a form of exploitation, reflecting the regional need to combat this growing problem.⁴³⁹⁶

In 2010, Niger also took steps to combat the use of child soldiers at a regional level, by signing the N'Djamena Declaration. This declaration notes the intent to eliminate the practice of child soldiers, provide services to victims, prosecute recruiters and establish national and cross-border monitoring mechanisms.⁴³⁹⁷ However, there have not been reports of the use of child soldiers since 2007.⁴³⁹⁸

The MCSL and National Institute of Statistics conduct surveys related to the worst forms of child labor with the support of partners such as UNICEF and ILO-IPEC. However, Niger does not appear to have published comprehensive data related to the worst forms of child labor since 2000.⁴³⁹⁹

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

In 2010, the MCSL, in partnership with ILO-IPEC, conducted a workshop for 22 performing artists on the worst forms of child labor so that they could raise public awareness.⁴⁴⁰⁰ The Government of Niger, in partnership with ILO-IPEC, also conducted a capacity-building workshop for labor unions, employers' organizations, government agencies and implementing agencies on the causes and consequences of domestic child labor. It is unknown if labor inspectors received training under this initiative.⁴⁴⁰¹ In addition, the Government organized a town hall meeting in Agadez to raise awareness of child labor among community leaders and law enforcement personnel.⁴⁴⁰²

During the reporting period, the Government concluded a 4-year, \$3 million, USDOL-funded regional project, which withdrew or prevented 4,682 children from hazardous artisanal gold mining in Niger and Burkina Faso.⁴⁴⁰³ Niger continues to participate in two other regional USDOL-funded projects, including a 4-year, \$7.9 million project and a 3-year, \$5 million project. These projects are designed to strengthen ECOWAS's Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action and to develop programs focusing on child trafficking as it pertains to the strategic plan.⁴⁴⁰⁴

In 2010, the Government removed children from the workforce and re-enrolled them in school and vocational training programs.⁴⁴⁰⁵ In line with this effort, the Government, in partnership with UNICEF, provided children with vocational training.⁴⁴⁰⁶ In addition, the Ministry of Basic Education provided training to teachers on educating child laborers.⁴⁴⁰⁷

Niger also conducted several anti-trafficking education campaigns and participated in a project to combat irregular migration and trafficking in persons with support from the IOM.⁴⁴⁰⁸ Niger also continued its campaign to raise awareness of the importance of civil registry documents, such as birth certificates and national identity cards, in an effort to combat human trafficking.⁴⁴⁰⁹

In 2010, the Government also launched programs to improve the Koranic school system and school attendance in mining areas.⁴⁴¹⁰ Since 2006, Niger's national monitoring unit has supported programs to combat begging.⁴⁴¹¹

Across Niger, the scale of social protection programs and services aimed at preventing the worst forms of child labor does not meet the needs, especially in sectors where the majority of children work, such as agriculture and domestic service.

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Revise the Labor Code to raise the minimum age for hazardous work to 18 and define the specific hazardous occupations that are illegal for children.
- Ensure protection for child domestic servants and children working on the street.
- Amend the Penal Code to provide stiffer penalties for all acts of forced labor, including forced begging.
- Enact legislation criminalizing all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children and provide appropriate penalties.
- Implement the Law on the Orientation of the Educational System in Niger, which establishes free education.
- Increase the minimum age for compulsory education to at least 14.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Increase resources to conduct systematic inspections on the worst forms of child labor in all sectors of the economy.
- Ensure penalties for violating child labor laws are commensurate with the crime and deter future acts.
- Gather and make publicly available information about child labor investigations and convictions.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt and implement the updated National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Child Labor.
- Adopt a comprehensive national policy that addresses all relevant worst forms of child labor, such as trafficking.
- Implement strategies to improve school retention by reducing the incidence of grade repetition.
- Conduct and make publicly available research on the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Expand and increase resources for social programs that prevent and withdraw children from the worst forms of child labor, particularly in agriculture and domestic service.
- Develop programs to lessen the impact food shortages may have on rural populations.
- Improve access to education by building more schools and ensure timely and consistent compensation for teachers.

⁴³³⁷ 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 on working children and school attendance and combining work and schooling are from 2006. 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. See also Government of Niger, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*, National Institute of Statistics, May 2008, 13. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*. See also Djibrilla Idrissa, *Rapport de l'Examen Periodique Universel du Niger*, Association pour la Defense des Enfants du Niger, Niamey, June 30, 2010, 3-4; available from http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session10/NE/ADENI_AssociationpourlaD%C3%A9fensesdesEnfantsduNiger_F.pdf.

⁴³³⁸ Idrissa, *Rapport de l'Examen Periodique Universel du Niger*, 4. See also U.S. Department of State, «Niger,» in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2010*, Washington, DC, April 8, 2011, 28; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160137.pdf>.

⁴³³⁹ Government of Niger, *Strategie de Developpement Accelere et de Reduction de la Pauvrete 2008-2012*, August, 2007, 56. See also Ali Ramadan Sekou Maina, *Etude transfrontaliere sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur de l'orpaillage traditionnel au Burkina Faso, au Mali, et au Niger*, ILO-IPEC, Geneva, December, 2009, 5, 31. See also ILO-IPEC, *Child Labour in Salt Mining: The Problem*, [online] June 2006 [cited March 18, 2011]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipsec/areas/Miningandquarrying/MoreaboutCLinmining/lang--en/index.htm>. See also Government of Niger, *Enquête de Base sur le Travail des Enfants sur les Sites d'Orpaillage de Komabangou et M'bangha (Niger)*, ILO-IPEC, October 2009, 20. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Niger (ratification: 2000) Published: 2008*, March 24, 2011; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=10394&chapter=6&query=Niger%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

⁴³⁴⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Girls in Mining: Research Findings from Ghana, Niger, Peru, and United Republic of Tanzania*, 2007, 4-6, 8; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipsecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=5304>.

⁴³⁴¹ Ali Ramadan Sekou Maina, *Etude transfrontaliere sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur de l'orpaillage traditionnel au Burkina Faso, au Mali, et au Niger*, 11.

⁴³⁴² Government of Niger, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*, 13. See also UNICEF, «Aichatou's story: New skills protect a former street vendor from exploitation in Niger», [unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/niger_46412.html?q=printme), [online], November 17, 2008 [cited May 6, 2011]; available from http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/niger_46412.html?q=printme.

⁴³⁴³ UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*, [online] June 15, 2007 [cited March 6, 2011]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger_39997.html?q=printme. See also UNICEF, «Aichatou's story: New skills protect a former street vendor from exploitation in Niger». See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, «Niger: Youths are demographic time bomb», [IRINnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org), [online], September 12, 2008 [cited March 6, 2011]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=80323>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 1.1.

⁴³⁴⁴ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 1.1.

⁴³⁴⁵ IOM, «Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit

Children in West Africa, Warns IOM», iom.int, [online], November 26, 2006 [cited March 6, 2011]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleAF/cache/offonce?entryId=12007>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 1.1. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*.

⁴³⁴⁶ IOM, «Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa, Warns IOM». See also Government of Niger, ANDDH, and UNICEF, *Rapport de l'etude nationale sur le trafic des personnes au Niger*, March 2005, 10, 12. See also U.S. Department of State, «Country Reports- 2010: Niger», 24.

⁴³⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, «Country Reports- 2010: Niger», 26, 27. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, «Niger: New slavery study welcomed by human rights experts», [IRINnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org), [online], May 31, 2007 [cited March 6, 2011]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=72487>. See also Anti-Slavery International, «Niger slavery: Background», [guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk), [online], October 27, 2008 [cited April 20, 2011]; available from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/oct/27/humanrights1>.

⁴³⁴⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) Niger (ratification: 1961) Published: 2008*, February 5, 2010, article 1(1), 2(1); available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=9685&chapter=6&query=Niger%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also Anti-Slavery International, «Niger slavery: Background».

⁴³⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State, «Country Reports- 2010: Niger», 23.

⁴³⁵⁰ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 2.b.

⁴³⁵¹ UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 2.b.

⁴³⁵² U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 2.b. See also UNICEF, *UNICEF and partners aid child labourers and fight trafficking in Niger*.

⁴³⁵³ Integrated Regional Information Networks, «Niger: When religious teachers traffic their students», [IRINnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org), [online], August 26, 2009 [cited March 5, 2011]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85857>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 2.b.

⁴³⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State, «Country Reports- 2010: Niger».

⁴³⁵⁵ allAfrica, «Niger: As Country Faces Severe Food Shortages, UN and Partners Appeal for Aid», allafrica.com, [online], February 10, 2010 [cited March 6,

2011]; available from <http://www.allafrica.com/stories/printable/201002100955>. See also AFP, “Famine closes schools in Niger”, *news24.com*, [online], April 3, 2010 [cited March 11, 2011]; available from <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Famine-closes-schools-in-Niger-20100402>. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, “Mali-Niger: Good early warning, slow response”, *IRINnews.org*, [online], October 22, 2010 [cited March 09, 2011]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=90845>.

⁴³⁵⁶ Will Bartholomew, “Rescuing a Child From a Gold Mine”, *crs-blog.org*, [online], 2007 [cited March 22, 2011]; available from <http://crs-blog.org/rescuing-a-child-from-a-gold-mine/>. See also Ali Ramadan Sekou Maina, *Etude transfrontalière sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur de l’orpaillage traditionnel au Burkina Faso, au Mali, et au Niger*, 37.

⁴³⁵⁷ Government of Niger, *Code du travail*, Public Law Number 96-039, (June 29, 1996), articles 99-100; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WBTEXT/44750/66561/F96NER01.htm#a095>.

⁴³⁵⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Niger (ratification: 1978) Submitted: 2008, February 5, 2010*; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=21619&chapter=9&query=Niger%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

⁴³⁵⁹ Government of Niger, *Code du travail*, articles 99-100. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Niger (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2008, February 5, 2010*; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=21887&chapter=9&query=Niger%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

⁴³⁶⁰ Laetitia Antonowicz, Frédéric Lesné, Stéphane Stassen, and John Wood, *Africa Education Watch: Good Governance Lessons for Primary Education*, Transparency International February, 2010, 6; available from http://www.transparency.org/news_room/in_focus/2010/african_education_watch#5. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 2.2. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 12, 2011.

⁴³⁶¹ UNESCO, *EFA Global Monitoring Report: Reaching the marginalized*, Oxford University Press, Paris, 2010, 338; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001866/186606E.pdf>. See also Laetitia Antonowicz, Frédéric Lesné, Stéphane Stassen, and John Wood, *Africa Education Watch: Good Governance Lessons for Primary Education*, 21. See also Government of Niger, *Law on the Orientation of the Educational System in Niger*, Public Law Number 98-12, (June 1, 1998), articles 2, 6-9; available from <http://www.men.ne/titre1.html>.

⁴³⁶² ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, May 24, 2011.

⁴³⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, E-mail communication, May 24, 2011.

⁴³⁶⁴ Government of Niger, *Code du travail*, article 4.

⁴³⁶⁵ Government of Niger, *Code pénal*, Public Law Number 2003-025, (June 13, 2003), articles 270.1-270.5; available from <http://juriniger.lexum.umontreal.ca/juriniger/displayDocument.do?id=5090>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C29: Niger (2008)*.

⁴³⁶⁶ Government of Niger, *Code pénal*, articles 179-181. See also Government of Niger, *Initial Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, May 2008, 55. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*.

⁴³⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, “Niger,” in *Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment*, Washington, DC, April 5, 2011; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/reports/2011/160017.htm>.

⁴³⁶⁸ Government of Niger, *Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons*, Public Law Number 2010-86, (December 16, 2010), article 3.

⁴³⁶⁹ Government of Niger, *Code pénal*, articles 248-249, 255-258.

⁴³⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, articles 278-279, 282, 291-293.

⁴³⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁴³⁷² Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “Sierra Leone,” in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/home>.

⁴³⁷³ Government of Niger, *Initial Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, 52. See also Government of Niger, *Establishment of the Steering Committee of the ‘Fight against Child Labor’ Project*, Public Law Number 00003/MAT/DC, (May 30, 2006). See also Catholic Relief Services, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Niger*, Technical Progress Report, September 27, 2006, 3.

⁴³⁷⁴ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 3.1.

⁴³⁷⁵ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 2.a. See also Government of Niger, *Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons*, articles 2, 4.

⁴³⁷⁶ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 3.1.

⁴³⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, para 3.1.

⁴³⁷⁸ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, February 25, 2010*, para 2c.2. See also Government of Niger, *Code du travail*, articles

248-264. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 2.4.

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⁴³⁸⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C81: Niger (2008)*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*, article 5.

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⁴³⁸² U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, paras 4.7, 4.9. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2010: Niger," 29. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment."

⁴³⁸³ U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, E-mail communication, May 24, 2011.

⁴³⁸⁴ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 3.b. See also Government of Niger, *Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons*, articles 2, 4.

⁴³⁸⁵ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 7.1. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 4.f.

⁴³⁸⁶ U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 3.d.

⁴³⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, para 5.f.

⁴³⁸⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Mining in West Africa*, Technical Progress Report, Geneva, September 15, 2009, 62.

⁴³⁸⁹ *Ibid.* See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, January 12, 2011*, para 2.1.

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⁴³⁹⁷ Regional Conference- Ending Recruitment and Use of Children by Armed Forces and Groups Contributing to Peace Justice and Development, *N'Djamena Declaration*, N'Djamena, June 9, 2010. See also Salma Zulfiqar and Hector Calderon, "N'Djamena Declaration adopted", [unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/chad_53966.html?q=printme), [online], June 11, 2010 [cited March 22, 2011]; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/chad_53966.html?q=printme.

⁴³⁹⁸ U.S. Embassy- Niamey official, E-mail communication, May 24, 2011.

⁴³⁹⁹ Ali Ramadan Sekou Maina, *Etude transfrontaliere sur le travail des enfants dans le secteur de l'orpaillage traditionnel au Burkina Faso, au Mali, et au Niger*. See also Government of Niger, *Enquête Pilote sur le Travail des Enfants*. See also Government of Niger, ANDDH, and UNICEF, *Rapport de l'étude nationale sur le trafic des personnes au Niger*. See also data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report, which is 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.

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⁴⁴⁰⁸ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C182: Niger (2008)*. See also IOM, *Regulating Migration*, [online] [cited March 9, 2011]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/niger>. See also U.S. Embassy- Niamey, *reporting, March 5, 2011*, para 3.e, 6.1.

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