Senegal

The Government of Senegal continues to participate in several large scale programs to combat the worst forms of child labor. There appears to be little inspection or enforcement activity, however, and children remain engaged in begging and dangerous work in agriculture, fishing, and mining.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	30.0%
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	47.9%
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs	16.9%



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor⁴³³⁴

Children in Senegal are exploited in the worst forms of child labor. Many working children are engaged in agriculture and fishing, which puts them at risk of occupational dangers.⁴³³⁵ Children's work in agriculture may involve unhealthy and unsafe activities, such as the use of potentially dangerous machinery and tools, carrying of heavy loads, and the application of harmful pesticides. Fishing in Senegal potentially exposes children to explosives, which are commonly used to kill large amounts of fish.⁴³³⁶

Children also work as domestic servants in Senegal, where they may be exposed to long hours of work and physical and sexual exploitation by their employer.⁴³³⁷ Some girls in Senegal begin work as domestic servants as young as age 6.⁴³³⁸ Children mine gold and salt.⁴³³⁹ They also work in rock quarries. They are exposed to unsafe and unhealthy working conditions such as carrying heavy loads, sifting through dirt using mercury to attract precious metals, and working without protective gear.⁴³⁴⁰

Other dangerous work performed by children takes place in the construction industry, at automobile repair shops, in metal and wood work, and at dumpsites.⁴³⁴¹

Child prostitution occurs in Dakar, in tourist areas, and in other urban areas.⁴³⁴² Children are recruited or trafficked into prostitution by pimps and private brothel and hotel owners. Some children are prostituted by their parents.⁴³⁴³ In addition, children displaced from the South of Senegal, where a 22 year rebellion has taken place often migrate to Dakar and Ziguinchor for prostitution, providing sexual services to soldiers near the Senegal-Gambia and Senegal-Guinea Bissau borders.⁴³⁴⁴

The practice of sending boys to Koranic teachers to receive education, which may include a vocational or apprenticeship component, is a tradition in Senegal.4345 These boys, called *talibes*, are sometimes forced by their teachers, to beg on the streets for food or money and to surrender their earnings.4346 Talibes are often trafficked from rural areas to major cities within Senegal, as well as from The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Guinea. Senegalese children are also trafficked to The Gambia and Mauritania for forced begging by religious teachers.⁴³⁴⁷ Many of these children beg in dangerous and unhealthy conditions, are physically abused, and are known to work from 6 a.m. until after dark.4348 Although evidence is limited, there is reason to believe that talibes in the Casamance region are used to gather cashews and mangos, and to harvest oranges. These children are exposed long working hours and to land mines left in the fields from a 27 year conflict in the region.⁴³⁴⁹ In Thies, *talibes* collect garbage from homes, sometimes carrying very heavy loads.4350

Other forms of trafficking in addition to trafficking of boys for forced begging occur in Senegal.⁴³⁵¹ Girls are trafficked to Senegal for the purpose of forced begging on behalf of the blind. These girls work in difficult conditions, and may be vulnerable to abuse.⁴³⁵² Young girls are trafficked from villages in Fatick, Louga, Kaolack, Kolda, Ziguichor, Thies, Saint Louis, and Djourbel to urban centers for domestic service, and are trafficked to many of the same cities for commercial sexual exploitation.⁴³⁵³ Girls are also trafficked to neighboring countries, Europe and the Middle East for sexual exploitation and from Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria into Senegal for the same purpose.⁴³⁵⁴

Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment, including apprenticeships, at 15.4355 Arrêté ministériel nº 3750 and 3751 prohibit children from working in hazardous conditions and identify circumstances in which children under age18 cannot work or can only work under certain conditions.4356 An exception within these laws allows boys under age 16 to work in underground mines and quarries if they are doing "light work."4357 Arrêté ministériel nº 3749 prohibits activities considered to be worst forms of child labor and includes, among others, forced labor, slavery, prostitution, begging for a third party, drug trafficking, scavenging garbage, slaughtering animals, work with dangerous products, and work that imperils the health, safety, or morality of children.4358 Senegalese laws require children to attend school through age 12, while the minimum age for children to work is 15. This standard makes children ages 13 to 15 particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to be in school and are below the minimum age for work.⁴³⁵⁹

The Constitution bans forced labor.⁴³⁶⁰ Military recruits must be age 18 or older.⁴³⁶¹ The Penal Code prohibits the procurement of a person into prostitution, or acting as an intermediary for prostitution. If the crime involves a minor younger than age 13, sentences are more severe.⁴³⁶² Law n° 2005-06 prohibits all forms of trafficking and provides stringent penalties.⁴³⁶³ The Penal Code forbids third party begging, unless the begging is done on behalf of a family member, blind person, or for collecting alms per religious tradition.⁴³⁶⁴ The existence of these exceptions to the prohibition against third party begging provides a loophole that can be exploited by religious leaders and the blind who are using children for third party begging.⁴³⁶⁵

	C138, Minimum Age	Yes
WILLOW	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
۲	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	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	12
	Free Public Education	Yes

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The National Intersectoral Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Labor, coordinates efforts against child labor.⁴³⁶⁶ The committee is comprised of employers' organizations, 20 ministries, religious leaders, international agencies and governors from various regions.⁴³⁶⁷ The Ministry of Labor (MOL) also has a Child Labor Unit to maintain a database for child labor, and assure monitoring and evaluation of child labor activities. However, the Unit has no budget, no office space, and the Unit's work is carried out through part-time contributions of MOL staff whose primary responsibilities are elsewhere.⁴³⁶⁸ The Ministry of Family coordinates another national committee against child labor. This duplication of efforts leads to problems with the coordination of efforts.⁴³⁶⁹

The MOL is responsible for enforcing child labor laws through the Labor Inspections Office and the use of social security inspectors.⁴³⁷⁰ During the reporting period there were 67 inspectors and 80 controllers charged with carrying out labor inspections. Labor inspectors monitor and enforce minimum age and all other labor laws in the formal wage sector, which includes state-owned corporations, private enterprises, and cooperatives.⁴³⁷¹ If an incident of child labor is found during an inspection, the inspector informs the business owner that the child should be removed from work. If the child is not removed within the specified timeframe, the case is turned over to a local tribunal for adjudication.⁴³⁷² According to the MOL, there were no child labor violations in the formal wage sector in 2009. Labor inspectors reportedly lack transportation to undertake inspections.4373 As this process does not penalize violators on their first offense, it may not deter employers from exploiting children in the workplace.

The Ministry of Justice leads anti-trafficking and child begging enforcement efforts in Senegal.⁴³⁷⁴ Additionally, the Minors' Brigade under the Interior Ministry Special Commissariat, and the local police and gendarmerie work to combat -sex tourism. However, the Minors' Brigade only has a presence in Dakar, while, the commercial sexual exploitation of children is widespread throughout tourist areas outside of Dakar.⁴³⁷⁵

During the reporting period, a human trafficking network that sent girls from Senegal to Morocco for domestic work was dismantled. The alleged traffickers were released without charges.⁴³⁷⁶ Two religious teachers were arrested for the abuse and forced begging of *talibes*. One was jailed and the other awaits trial.⁴³⁷⁷ Although these arrests indicate positive steps towards addressing forced begging, the investigation into the issue of forced begging is lacking compared to the magnitude of the problem of exploited *talibes*.

Government Policies on Child Labor

The Government has been developing a national action plan on child labor since 2003. However, the plan has not yet been adopted by the Government of Senegal.⁴³⁷⁸ The Government developed a National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons which implements trafficking prevention and awareness campaigns, and aims to enhance law enforcement and victim protection. However, the action plan is still awaiting cabinet approval.⁴³⁷⁹

The Government has integrated child labor issues into several relevant development policies, including its United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2007-2011);⁴³⁸⁰ the Ten-Year Education and Training Program (2000-2015), which aims to provide universal quality primary education to all children by 2015;⁴³⁸¹ the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2006-2010), which promotes better conditions for *talibes* and focuses on social protection and risk management for vulnerable groups, including children;⁴³⁸² and its National Social Protection Strategy (2005-2015), which classifies children as a specific vulnerable group and includes provisions for their protection against harmful practices, exploitation, and violence.⁴³⁸³

In 2006, the Government adopted 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.⁴³⁸⁴ Commitments under the Multilateral Cooperative Agreement include investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenders; rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficking victims; and assisting fellow signatory countries to implement these measures.⁴³⁸⁵ During the reporting period, 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 of exploitative labor and hazardous child labor. The Policy identifies begging as a possible outcome of trafficking, reflecting the need to combat this growing problem with regional strategies.⁴³⁸⁶

Social Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

From 2003 to 2007, the Government participated in a USDOL funded project to implement the National Timebound Program to Combat Child Labor that withdrew and prevented children from exploitation in the worst forms of child labor in agriculture, fishing, and domestic work.⁴³⁸⁷

The Government continues to operate its toll-free child protection hotline, which received 9,545 calls during the reporting period.⁴³⁸⁸ The Government also runs the Ginndi Center, a shelter for destitute children.⁴³⁸⁹ The Ginndi Center, in collaboration with the IOM, repatriated or reintegrated 223 child trafficking victims. The Government assisted 108 street children through their Open Center for Education (AEMO) office branch in Mbour and in partnership with UNICEF, started a pilot project in the departments of Guédiawaye and Ziguinchor focused on the social protection of street children.⁴³⁹⁰

In 2009, the Government carried out 43 micro-projects to sensitize the Senegalese people on the existence of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and trained border security forces, journalists, and government agents on human trafficking issues.⁴³⁹¹

The Government of Senegal currently participates in three multi-million dollar projects to eliminate the worst forms of child labor: a 4-year \$5.1million regional Spanish-funded project, a 2-year \$2.8 million Denmark-funded project that targets trafficked children in West Africa, and a 3-year \$1.78 million UN-funded project to ameliorate the conditions of atrisk children in Senegal.⁴³⁹²

The Government coordinates several programs targeting *talibes*, including projects which provide awareness raising, training for Koranic teachers, and shelter for *talibes*.⁴³⁹³ Two prominent efforts are two

pilot projects which provide food and educational services to *talibes*, and an \$8.0 million Japan- funded project to withdraw and prevent *talibes* from forced work.⁴³⁹⁴

The Government is currently participating in a 3 year \$7.9 million USDOL-funded regional project designed to strengthen ECOWAS' Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action and develop programs focusing on child trafficking as it pertains to the strategic plan.⁴³⁹⁵

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend the law to prohibit all instances of children forced to beg.
- Amend the law to ensure that the minimum age for hazardous work, including admission to work in underground mines, quarries, and other mineral extraction plants is 18 years for both girls and boys.
- Raise the compulsory schooling age to align it with the minimum age for admission in employment

IN THE AREA OF MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Clarify responsibilities of key government agencies in coordinating efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor to avoid duplication of effort.
- Fund, staff and provide sufficient resources to the Child Labor Unit.
- Amend the enforcement process to allow for the prosecution of first-time offenders of child labor laws.
- Expand specialized police units such as the Minors Brigade and the police unit dedicated to sex tourism to extend outside of Dakar.
- Expand efforts to investigate forced begging and take action on abuses performed by religious teachers
- Consider the adequacy of existing inspection and enforcement activities, particularly with regard to coverage of those areas where child labor is most prevalent.

IN AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt the Child Labor Policy National Action Plan.
- Approve and adopt the National Action Plan for Trafficking in Persons.

IN AREA OF PROGRAMS:

Expand existing social programs to target more children involved in or at risk of entering the worst forms
of child labor.

⁴³³⁴ The statistics in the chart to the left 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*, 2005-2010. 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 on children's work are reported in this chart, 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.

⁴³³⁵ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, *reporting*, March 10, 2010, 2a. See also Government of Senegal, *Enquete Nationale sur le Travail des Enfants - ENTES - 2005: Rapport National d'analyses*, August, 2007, 75-76, 79.

⁴³³⁶ U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting*, February 23, 2009, para 6.

⁴³³⁷ USAID, *Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal*, USAID, 2004; available from http://www. childtrafficking.com/Docs/moens_2004_study_practice_trafficking_senegal_4.pdf. See also, ILO-IPEC, *Project of Support for the Implementation of the Timebound Programme in Senegal*, IPEC Evaluation, Geneva, December 2007.

⁴³³⁸ USAID, *Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal*, 26.

⁴³³⁹ ILO, "In their own words...Senegal: Famara regrets leaving school to mine gold", ILO.org, [online], June 2006 [cited January 23, 2009]; available from http://www.ilo. org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=4175.
See also ILO, "In their own words...How Awa dreads salt season", ILO.org, [online], June 2006 [cited January 23, 2009]; available from http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/ viewProduct.do?productId=4170. See also ILO, *Child labour in salt mining: The problem*, June 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do;jsess ionid=0a038009ce955b2d1476aae475d8e07d5a095d4550f.
See also U.S. Embassy - Dakar, *reporting, March 10, 2010*, para 1a, 1d. See also, U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting, February 23, 2009*.

⁴³⁴⁰ The Global Fund for Children, *The Global Fund for Children: Annual Report 2005-2006*, Washington, DC, 2006, 53; available from http://www.globalfundforchildren. org/pdfs/GFC_AnnualReport_2005-06.pdf. See also ILO, "In their own words...Senegal: Crushing stones from age 7", ILO.org, [online], June 2006 [cited January 23, 2009]; available from http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/ product/viewProduct.do?productId=4171. See also U.S. Department of State, "Senegal," in *Country Reports on*

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⁴³⁴¹U.S. Embassy- Dakar, reporting, February 23, 2009, para. 3. See also CONAFE, Rapport complementaire elabore par la CONAFE-SENEGAL au Comite des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Enfant, Dakar, February 2006, 19-21. See also Kristoffel Lieten Godefroid Nimbona, Child Labour Unions: AEJT Senegal, 2007, 23, 38. See also U.S. Embassy- Dakar, reporting, March 08, 2010, para 27c. See also Government of Senegal, Rapport National d'analyses, 75-76. See also, ILO-IPEC, Support to the Timebound Programme Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Project Document, Geneva, September 12, 2003, v-vi and 24. See also, Hamadou Tidiane SY, "Dakar's Mbeubeuss Landfill: More Than Meets the Eye", idrc.ca, [online], June 2008 [cited February 25, 2010]; available from http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-126835-201-1-DO TOPIC. html.

⁴³⁴² USAID, Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal, 21-23.

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⁴³⁴⁵ Peter Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," *IK Notes* no. 11 (August 1999); available from http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt11.pdf. Easton, "Education and Koranic Literacy in West Africa," 1, 3. See also International Trade Union confederation (ITUC), *Internationally Recognized Core Labour Standards in Niger and Senegal: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Niger and Senegal*, Geneva, November 11, 2009, 11; available from http://www.ituc-csi. org/IMG/pdf/WTO_report_Niger_Senegal_en_200911101. pdf.

⁴³⁴⁶ Delap Emily, *Begging for Change: Research findings and recommendations on forced child begging in Albania/ Greece, India and Senegal*, 2009, 7, 10, 11, 12; available from http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/ cm_docs/2009/b/beggingforchange09.pdf. See also, IOM, "Traditional Practices being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa, warns IOM", IOM, [online], November 22, 2006 [cited December 2, 2010]; available from http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleAF/cache/ offonce?entryId=12007. ⁴³⁴⁷ U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting, March 08, 2010*, para 25b. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Guinea-Bissau - Senegal: Child trafficking on the decline say local authorities", IRINnews.org, [online], October 15, 2008 [cited December 2, 2010]; available from http:// www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80928. See also Delap Emily, *Begging for Change*, 9. See also, U.S. Department of State, "Senegal," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm. See also, U.S. Department of State, "Mauritania (Tier 3)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 16, 2009; available from http://www.state.gov/documents/ organization/123357.pdf. See also, USAID, *Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal*, 34.

⁴³⁴⁸ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, *reporting*, March 10, 2010. See also IOM, *Traditional Practices Being Abused to Exploit Children in West Africa, Warns IOM*, [online] 2006 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from http://www.iom.int/jahia/ Jahia/newsArticleAF/cache/offonce?entryId=12007. See also Delap Emily, *Begging for Change*, 10, 12. See also, USAID, *Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal*, 28.

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⁴³⁵³ U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting, March 08, 2010*, para 25b. See also, USAID, *Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal*, 22-24.

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⁴³⁶⁵ USAID, Study on the Practice of Trafficking in Persons in Senegal.

⁴³⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, *reporting, March 10, 2010*, para 2b and 2c. See also ILO-IPEC, *Senegal IPEC Evaluation - December 2007*.

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⁴³⁸⁷ U.S. Embassy- Dakar official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 30, 2009. See also U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting, February 19, 2009*, para 24b. See also, ILO-IPEC, *Support to the Timebound Programme Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour: Projet d'amélioration des conditions d'apprentisage dans le secteur informel et lutte contre la pauvreté, Bonnes Pratiques*, Annex to Technical Progress Report, Geneva, September 2006. See also, ILO-IPEC, "Project Support for the Implementation of a Time Bound Programme (TBP) in *Senegal.*

⁴³⁸⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Senegal," 288.

⁴³⁸⁹ U.S. Embassy - Dakar, *reporting, March 10, 2010*, para 2d.

4390 Ibid., para 2d, 2f.

4391 U.S. Embassy- Dakar, reporting, March 08, 2010, para

26b. See also U.S. Embassy - Dakar, *reporting, March 10, 2010*, para 2f.

⁴³⁹² ILO-IPEC, E-mail Communication, July 17, 2010.

⁴³⁹³ U.S. Department of State, "Senegal," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 16, 2009, 253; available from http://www.state.gov/documents/ organization/123357.pdf. See also U.S. Embassy- Dakar, *reporting, March 08, 2010*, para 26b, 27g.

⁴³⁹⁴ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Retrait et réinsertion des enfants de la rue: Le Parrer dévoile son plan d'action", IRINnews.org, [online], October 15, 2009 [cited February 5, 2010]; available from http://fr.allafrica. com/stories/200910150718.html. See also Rewmi.com, "Amelioration de la situation des enfants de la rue: Le Parrer beneficie de 800 millions du Japon", rewmi.com, [online], June 6, 2008 [cited December 2, 2010]; available from http://www.rewmi.com/Amelioration-de-la-situationdes-enfants-de-la-rue-Le-Parrer-beneficie-de-800-millionsdu-Japon a10608.html. See also, Terre des hommes, INFOSENEGAL, [online] [cited February 24, 2010]; available from http://www.tdh.ch/website/doc dnld.nsf/ bf25ab0f47ba5dd785256499006b15a4/df1baf758180c16ac1 25714c004e1f1c/\$FILE/tdh info senegal 2009 fr.pdf. See also. Government of Senegal, Rapport Final, 56.

⁴³⁹⁵ USDOL-ILAB, *Technical Cooperation Project Summary*, Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.