

## Colombia

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2001:	10.4% <sup>989</sup>
Minimum age for admission to work:	14 <sup>990</sup>
Age to which education is compulsory:	15 <sup>991</sup>
Free public education:	Yes <sup>992</sup> *
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	111% <sup>993</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	83% <sup>994</sup>
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2001:	90% <sup>995</sup>
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	77% <sup>996</sup>
Ratified Convention 138:	2/2/2001 <sup>997</sup>
Ratified Convention 182:	1/28/2005 <sup>998</sup>
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes <sup>999</sup>
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2001, approximately 14.1 percent of boys and 6.6 percent of girls ages 5 to 14 were working in Colombia. The majority of working children were found in the services sector (49.9 percent), followed by agriculture (35.6 percent), manufacturing (12.6 percent) and other sectors (1.9 percent).<sup>1000</sup> The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) estimates that about 80 percent of working children work in the informal sector.<sup>1001</sup> In urban areas, children work primarily in

<sup>989</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005.

<sup>990</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código del Menor*, Decree No. 2737, (November 27, 1989); available from <http://www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/normatividad2.asp>.

<sup>991</sup> Government of Colombia, *Constitución Política de Colombia de 1991, con reformas hasta marzo 2005*, Article 67; available from <http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/>.

<sup>992</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código de la Infancia y la Adolescencia*, Ley 1098 of 2006, (August 29, 2006), Article 28; available from [http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/compendio\\_legislativo.htm](http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/compendio_legislativo.htm). See also U.S. Department of State, "Colombia," in *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61721.htm>.

<sup>993</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>994</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>995</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

<sup>996</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

<sup>997</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed December 16, 2005; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

<sup>998</sup> ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labor- Highlights 2006*, [online] February 2007 [cited March 29, 2007]; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/20070228\\_Implementationreport\\_en\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf).

<sup>999</sup> ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labor- Highlights 2006*, [online] February, 2007 [cited March 29, 2007]; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/20070228\\_Implementationreport\\_en\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/20070228_Implementationreport_en_Web.pdf).

<sup>1000</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

<sup>1001</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia."

such sectors as commerce, industry, and services.<sup>1002</sup> In rural areas, children work primarily in agriculture and commerce.<sup>1003</sup> Many children work as domestic servants or in family businesses, often without pay.<sup>1004</sup> Children mine emeralds, gold, clay, and coal under dangerous conditions.<sup>1005</sup> According to the Colombia Department of National Statistics and the Colombian National Mining Company (MINERCOL), estimates of children working in illegal mines range from 10,000 to 200,000.<sup>1006</sup> Children are also used in the cultivation of coca and opium for illegal purposes and in the processing of illicit drugs using harsh chemicals.<sup>1007</sup>

Many children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including pornography, prostitution, and sexual tourism.<sup>1008</sup> An estimated 25,000 minors work in commercial sex trade in Colombia, according to a report by the Inspector General's Office, and Colombia is a major source of girls trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>1009</sup> Children are trafficked internally from rural to urban areas for sexual exploitation and forced labor.<sup>1010</sup>

Children in Colombia are recruited, sometimes forcibly, by insurgent and paramilitary groups to serve as combatants in the country's ongoing conflict. In fact, the average age for deserters from these armed groups has gone down, which suggests that younger children are being recruited.<sup>1011</sup> Some children have been required to perform forced labor by guerrillas and paramilitaries.<sup>1012</sup> Many are forced to participate in and are victims of human rights violations such as torture and

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<sup>1002</sup> National Administrative Department of Statistics, *Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil: Análisis de los resultados de la encuesta sobre caracterización de la población entre 5 y 17 años en Colombia*, Bogota, November 2001, 55; available from

[http://www.ilo.org/public/spanish/standards/ipecc/simpoc/colombia/report/co\\_rep\\_2001\\_sp.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/spanish/standards/ipecc/simpoc/colombia/report/co_rep_2001_sp.pdf).

<sup>1003</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1004</sup> Ibid., page 125.

<sup>1005</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Diagnóstico sobre el Trabajo Infantil en el Sector Minero Artesanal en Colombia*, Lima, 2001, 49, 50, 61 and 62; available from

[http://www.oit.org.pe/ipecc/documentos/http://www.oit.org.pe\\_ipecc\\_boletin\\_documentos\\_mineriacol.pdf](http://www.oit.org.pe/ipecc/documentos/http://www.oit.org.pe_ipecc_boletin_documentos_mineriacol.pdf).

<sup>1006</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 6d.

<sup>1007</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bogotá official, Email communication to USDOL official, July 31, 2007. See also, IOM, *Panorama sobre la trata de personas. Desafíos y Respuestas: Colombia, Estados Unidos y República Dominicana* (Bogota: IOM, 2006), 20; available from

<http://www.oim.org.co/modulos/contenido/default.asp?idmodulo=7&idlibro=115>. See also United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding Observations: Colombia*, CRC/COL.CO/3, Forty-second session, June 8 2006, para 82 and 88; available from

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/7ca95bbddb4f74c4125617b0052d960?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/7ca95bbddb4f74c4125617b0052d960?Opendocument).

<sup>1008</sup> IOM, *Panorama sobre la trata de personas.*, 18. See also Ministry of Social Protection, *Informe especial sobre violencia contra la infancia en Colombia*, Bogota, , 2006, 231; available from

<http://www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co/entornoambiental/library/documents/DocNewsNo15086DocumentNo1819>. PDF. See also U.S. Department of State, "Colombia," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, D.C., March 5, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/>.

<sup>1009</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 5.

<sup>1010</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Colombia (Tier 1)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 5.

<sup>1011</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 5, 6d. See also United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations: Colombia*, para. 80. See also Ministry of Social Protection, *Informe especial sobre violencia contra la infancia en Colombia*, 187-228. See also U.S. Embassy- Bogotá official, Email communication, July 31, 2007.

<sup>1012</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 5c.

murder.<sup>1013</sup> Many girl combatants are subject to sexual exploitation by other group members.<sup>1014</sup> Reportedly, children have been used by government armed forces as informants.<sup>1015</sup>

## Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum employment age in Colombia was 14 years in 2006; however, ICBF may make exceptions for 12 and 13 year-olds under special circumstances.<sup>1016</sup> Authorization from a labor inspector or other designated authority is required for minors to work.<sup>1017</sup> The law limits children's working hours. Children between 12 and 14 may only work 4 hours per day; those between 14 and 16 may work 6 hours per day; and those between 16 and 18 may work 8 hours per day.<sup>1018</sup> While night work is prohibited, 16- and 17-year-olds can work until 8 p.m. if authorized.<sup>1019</sup> The law also prohibits minors from work that may harm their morality as well as work that is exploitive or hazardous.<sup>1020</sup> A new law regulating conditions under which children can work was being developed as this report was being developed.

The 2005 Ministry of Social Protection (MSP) Resolution #4448 identifies the worst forms of child labor that are prohibited for all minors under 18. Minors are not permitted to perform most work related to: agricultural work destined for market, such as coffee, flowers, sugarcane, cereals, vegetables, fruits, tobacco, and livestock; fisheries; lumber; mining or work underground; industrial manufacturing and bakeries; utilities; construction, painting, and heavy equipment; transportation or warehousing; healthcare; defense and private security; and unskilled labor such as shoe-shining, domestic service, trash collection, messenger service, doormen, gardening, work in clubs and bars, and street sales.<sup>1021</sup> Minors must also not work in conditions where there are loud noises, strong vibrations, rigorous environments, dangerous substances, poor lighting or ventilation, activities underground or underwater, biological or chemical materials, safety risks, or problems due to posture or excessive physical activity.<sup>1022</sup> Also, minors may not work under conditions that may harm their psychosocial development, such as work without pay; work that interferes with schooling; work that keeps them separated from their families; work under despotic or abusive conditions; in illegal or immoral situations; or between

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<sup>1013</sup> Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry: Child Combatants in Colombia*, Washington, DC, September 2003, 68-77 and 88-98; available from <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/colombia0903/>.

<sup>1014</sup> United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations: Colombia*, para. 80. See also Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry*, 53-59.

<sup>1015</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Colombia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004. See also Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry*, 102-103. See also United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations: Colombia*, para 80.

<sup>1016</sup> *Código del Menor*, (November 27, 1989), Article 237-238; available from [www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/normatividad2.asp](http://www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/normatividad2.asp).

<sup>1017</sup> *Ibid.*, Articles 238-239.

<sup>1018</sup> *Ibid.*, Article 242.

<sup>1019</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1020</sup> *Ibid.*, Articles 245 and 246.

<sup>1021</sup> Ministry of Social Protection, *Resolución No 004448: por la cual se desarrolla la facultad contenida en el Código del Menor* (December 2, 2005); available from <http://www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co/MseContent/images/news/DocNewsNo648901.doc>.

<sup>1022</sup> Government of Colombia, *Resolución No 4448: por la cual se desarrolla la facultad contenida en el numeral 23 del artículo 245 del Decreto 2737 de 1989 o Código del Menor*, (December 2, 2005); available from <http://www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co/MseContent/images/news/DocNewsNo648901.doc>.

8 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for minors over age 16 (this exception is contrary to provisions in other laws).<sup>1023</sup> Individuals must report child labor law violations to MSP.<sup>1024</sup> Penalties for violating child labor laws can include fines and the temporary or permanent closure of violating establishments.<sup>1025</sup> The ILO CEACR has requested clarification on exceptions in Resolution #4448 that allow adolescents ages 16 and 17 to work at night.<sup>1026</sup>

The Constitution prohibits slavery and servitude.<sup>1027</sup> Human trafficking is prohibited, and trafficking of children under 18 is punishable by fines and 17 to 35 years incarceration. Trafficking of children under 12 years is punishable by 20 to 35 years imprisonment.<sup>1028</sup> Inducing prostitution is punishable by 2.7 to 6 years incarceration and fines. Penalties for forced prostitution range from 6.7 to 13.5 years incarceration and fines. Penalties increase by one-third to one-half for both induced and forced prostitution if the victim is under 14 or if the crime involved international trafficking.<sup>1029</sup> Crimes involving child pornography or the operation of an establishment in which minors practice sexual acts are punishable by 8 to 12 years incarceration and fines.<sup>1030</sup> The use of the mail or the Internet to obtain or offer sexual contact with a minor is punishable by 6.7 to 15 years incarceration and a fine, with increased penalties if the victim is under 12.<sup>1031</sup> Posting child pornography on the Internet is punishable by fines and the cancellation or suspension of the Web site.<sup>1032</sup> Tourist agencies can be penalized for involvement in child sex tourism by fines and the suspension or cancellation of their registration.<sup>1033</sup> Forced prostitution and sexual slavery related to the country's ongoing conflict are punishable by imprisonment from 13.3 to 27 years and fines.<sup>1034</sup>

Minors may not serve in the government armed forces or perform defense-related or intelligence activities.<sup>1035</sup> The recruitment of minors by armed groups in relation to the ongoing conflict is punishable by 8 to 15 years in prison and fines.<sup>1036</sup> The law regards minors that participate in the country's hostilities as victims.<sup>1037</sup> The commission of terrorist acts involving the participation

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<sup>1023</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1024</sup> *Código del Menor*, Article 247.

<sup>1025</sup> Ibid., Articles 262-263.

<sup>1026</sup> ILO, *Individual Direct Request concerning Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6) Colombia (ratification: 1983)*, Geneva, 2007; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

<sup>1027</sup> Government of Colombia, *Constitución Política de Colombia*, Article 17.

<sup>1028</sup> Ibid. See also Government of Colombia, *Código Penal, with modifications*, (July 24, 2000), Articles 188-A and 188-B; available from [http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/compendio\\_legislativo.HTM](http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/compendio_legislativo.HTM).

<sup>1029</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código Penal, with modifications*, Art. 213, 214, and 216.

<sup>1030</sup> Ibid., Articles 218.

<sup>1031</sup> Ibid., Article 219-A.

<sup>1032</sup> Government of Colombia, *Decree 1524*, (July 24, 2002), Articles 4 and 9; available from <http://www.iuris.com/leyes/dec/1524.htm>. See also Government of Colombia, *Law 679*, (August 4, 2001), Articles 7 and 10; available from <http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/leyes/L0679001>.

<sup>1033</sup> Government of Colombia, *Law 679*, Articles 19-20.

<sup>1034</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código Penal, with modifications*, Article 141.

<sup>1035</sup> Government of Colombia, *Resolución 004448*, Article 1 and 9.1. See also Government of Colombia, *Decreto 128 sobre política de reincorporación a la vida civil*, (2003); available from [http://www.presidencia.gov.co/prensa\\_new/decretoslinea/](http://www.presidencia.gov.co/prensa_new/decretoslinea/).

<sup>1036</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código Penal, with modifications*, Article 162.

<sup>1037</sup> Government of Colombia, *Ley 782*, (December 23, 2002), Article 15; available from [http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/juridicos/ley\\_782.pdf](http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/juridicos/ley_782.pdf).

of a minor is punishable by 16 to 30 years incarceration and fines.<sup>1038</sup> Armed groups must place all minor recruits with ICBF in order to participate in the government's demobilization process.<sup>1039</sup> Punishments for crimes involving illegal drugs, such as drug cultivation, manufacturing, and trafficking are increased if the crimes involve a minor.<sup>1040</sup>

The MSP is responsible for conducting formal sector child labor inspections, with 276 inspectors.<sup>1041</sup> However, according to the U.S. Department of State, the MSP does not have sufficient resources to enforce labor laws effectively.<sup>1042</sup> ICBF, the Children and Adolescent Police, the Prosecutor General, and Family Commissioners are responsible for enforcing child labor laws.<sup>1043</sup> The National Police and Prosecutor General investigate and prosecute child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>1044</sup> The District Attorney's Office has a unit dedicated to trafficking, sexual violence and victims who are minors.<sup>1045</sup>

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

The Colombian Government's National Development Plan 2002-2006 establishes the eradication of exploitive child labor as a priority.<sup>1046</sup> The Plan for Childhood (2004-2015) contains provisions relating to child labor, and to specific worst forms including trafficking, recruitment into armed groups, and commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>1047</sup> The objectives of the Third Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor and the Protection of Working Youth 2003-2006 are to increase knowledge and awareness; change cultural norms that promote child labor; improve legislation and public policy; and implement strategies that address these problems.<sup>1048</sup> The Inter-institutional Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor has conducted trainings; it also maintains a child labor information system.<sup>1049</sup> The MSP and the National University of

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<sup>1038</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código Penal, with modifications*, Articles 343 and 344.

<sup>1039</sup> Government of Colombia, *Ley 975*, (July 25, 2005), Article 10; available from <http://www.presidencia.gov.co/leyes/2005/julio/ley975250705.pdf>. See also Government of Colombia, *Decreto 4760 Por el cual se reglamenta parcialmente la ley 975 de 2005*, (December 30, 2005), Article 3; available from <http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/noticias/2006/enero/documentos/decreto4760.pdf>.

<sup>1040</sup> Government of Colombia, *Código Penal, with modifications*, Articles 375 and 384.

<sup>1041</sup> *Código del Menor*, Article 261. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 6d.

<sup>1042</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 6d.

<sup>1043</sup> *Código de la Infancia y la Adolescencia, Ley 1098 of 2006, (November 8, 2006), Articles 11, 79-95; available from [http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/compendio\\_legislativo.htm](http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/compendio_legislativo.htm)*. See also *Código del Menor*, Article 288.

<sup>1044</sup> National Agency for Police News, *Operación "Patria 36 y 37"*, press release, Montería, June 2006; available from <http://www.policia.gov.co/inicio/portal/portal.nsf/paginas/BoletinesdePrensa>. See also National Agency for Police News, *Operación República 5*, press release, Bogotá, February 14, 2006; available from <http://www.policia.gov.co/inicio/portal/portal.nsf/paginas/BoletinesdePrensa>.

<sup>1045</sup> *Dimensiones de la trata de personas en Colombia*, 28.

<sup>1046</sup> National Planning Department, *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2002-2006: Hacia un Estado Comunitario*, Bogotá, , 2003, 209; available from [http://www.dnp.gov.co/archivos/documentos/GCRP\\_PND/PND.pdf](http://www.dnp.gov.co/archivos/documentos/GCRP_PND/PND.pdf).

<sup>1047</sup> Government of Colombia, *Plan Decenal de Infancia (2004-2015) para Colombia*, 20, 31, 33, 35-36, 40-41; available from <http://www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/decenal.htm>.

<sup>1048</sup> ILO and Inter-institutional Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Youth Worker, *III Plan Nacional para la Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil y la Protección del Trabajo Juvenil 2003-2006*, Bogotá, 2003, 51-52; available from [http://www.oit.org.pe/ipec/documentos/3erplan03\\_06.pdf](http://www.oit.org.pe/ipec/documentos/3erplan03_06.pdf).

<sup>1049</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia," Section 6d.

Colombia have worked to eradicate exploitive child labor through a media campaign, community and school education, and inter-institutional coordination.<sup>1050</sup>

The Government of Colombia also participates in projects to combat child labor with the assistance of foreign governments and international organizations. The government participates in a USD 3.5 million, 4-year USDOL-funded project implemented by World Vision to combat exploitive child labor by improving basic education. This project seeks to withdraw 2,081 children from hazardous agricultural labor and prevent a further 2,419 children from entering that work.<sup>1051</sup> The Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining implements a project with UNDP to eradicate child labor in mining.<sup>1052</sup> With support from ILO-IPEC and Canada, the government executed a child labor survey and contributed to the consolidation of the National Policy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor.<sup>1053</sup>

ICBF administers programs that provide services to former children soldiers and seek to prevent further recruitment of children by armed groups.<sup>1054</sup> These programs receive assistance from the United States and from several foreign governments and international organizations.<sup>1055</sup> The Ministries of Defense and Interior assist through the demobilization of child soldiers, who are turned over to the ICBF.<sup>1056</sup> The Colombian Government participated in a 3-year, USD 7 million, inter-regional ILO-IPEC project funded by USDOL to combat the involvement of children with armed groups. This project, which ended in 2007, sought to withdraw 5,264 children from child soldiering and prevent an additional 4,250 children from becoming child soldiers in seven countries, including Colombia.<sup>1057</sup>

The Government of Colombia has developed a National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys, Girls, and Adolescents Less than 18

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<sup>1050</sup> Center for Social Studies National University of Colombia, *Informe sobre las acciones realizadas en el desarrollo del convenio interadministrativo 047 de 2005*, Bogota, June 9, 2006, 3-4.

<sup>1051</sup> World Vision, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor Through Education in Colombia*, project document, Washington, DC, 2005.

<sup>1052</sup> ICBF, "PEPTIMA, un ejemplo para las comunidades mineras," *Diálogos*, July 2005, 8; available from [http://www.oit.org.pe/spanish/260ameri/oitreg/activid/proyectos/ipecc/documentos/bol\\_min\\_col\\_icbf.pdf](http://www.oit.org.pe/spanish/260ameri/oitreg/activid/proyectos/ipecc/documentos/bol_min_col_icbf.pdf). See also Maria del Pilar Gómez Herrera, "De la oscuridad de las minas a la luz de la fotografía," in *Hechos del Callejón*, Bogota: UNDP, October 2006, 18 and 20; available from [http://indh.pnud.org.co/files/boletin\\_hechos/Boletin\\_hechos\\_del\\_callejon\\_19\\_opt.pdf](http://indh.pnud.org.co/files/boletin_hechos/Boletin_hechos_del_callejon_19_opt.pdf).

<sup>1053</sup> ILO-IPEC official, Email communication to USDOL official, November 16, 2006.

<sup>1054</sup> Colombian Family Welfare Institute, *Servicios del Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar*, [online] [cited October 8, 2006]; available from <http://www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/general1.asp>. See also, IOM and U.S. Agency for International Development Mission to Colombia, *Post-Emergency Assistance to Displaced Groups, Receptor Communities and Vulnerable Populations Program, 22nd Quarterly Report*, March 2006; available from [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PDACH020.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACH020.pdf). See also, IOM, *Programmes and Projects: Excombatant Children*, [online] [cited January 9, 2006]; available from <http://www.oim.org.co/modulos/contenido/default.asp?idmodulo=145>.

<sup>1055</sup> IOM, *Programmes and Projects: Excombatant Children*. See also IOM and U.S. Agency for International Development Mission to Colombia, *Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children- Colombia, 20th Quarterly Report*, March 2006, 3; available from [http://dec.usaid.gov/index.cfm?p=search.getCitation&CFID=4892846&CFTOKEN=34010000&rec\\_no=140442](http://dec.usaid.gov/index.cfm?p=search.getCitation&CFID=4892846&CFTOKEN=34010000&rec_no=140442).

<sup>1056</sup> Ministry of Defense, *Reclutamiento de Menores: Otra agresión de los grupos ilegales contra la niñez colombiana*, January 26, 2006; available from <http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/index.php?page=181&id=3295>.

<sup>1057</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Program*, project document, Geneva, September 17, 2003.

Years of Age (2006-2011). This plan establishes such objectives as generating information, developing and applying legislation, prevention, provision of services to children, institutional capacity building, and participation of children in the plan.<sup>1058</sup> The National Police's program, "Colombia without Prostitution," uses family and community education to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children.<sup>1059</sup> The government participates in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional project costing USD 5.5 million to combat child domestic labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The goal of this project is to withdraw 2,185 children from exploitive child labor and prevent 2,920 children from entering such work.<sup>1060</sup>

The Inter-institutional Committee against Trafficking in Persons and various ministries have implemented various anti-trafficking awareness-raising activities within Colombia, including enclosing flyers about trafficking in newly issued passports; installing information kiosks at major airports; producing short television ads and a daytime soap opera about trafficking; making presentations for at-risk school children; and assisting with the development of departmental and municipal anti-trafficking plans.<sup>1061</sup> The Committee also maintains a database of trafficking cases and promotes collaboration between agencies.<sup>1062</sup> Colombian foreign missions and the National Police provide assistance to trafficking victims that includes referrals to IOM repatriation services and information on legal protections.<sup>1063</sup>

The Ministry of Education's (MEN) Policy Guide for Vulnerable Populations includes strategies to address child labor.<sup>1064</sup> The military distributes educational kits to schools in areas where children are at risk for recruitment into armed groups, and awareness-raising materials for children to prevent involvement in armed groups.<sup>1065</sup>

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<sup>1058</sup> ICBF-UNICEF-ILO-IPEC Fundación Renacer, *Plan de acción para la prevención y erradicación de la explotación sexual comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes menores de 18 años 2006-20011*, Bogota, 2006, 43.

<sup>1059</sup> ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Colombia*, accessed June 8, 2007; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

<sup>1060</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Domestic Labour (CDL) and of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CESC) in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru*, project document, Geneva, September 8, 2004, 27.

<sup>1061</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, December 6, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Colombia." See also Ministry of Communication, *Qué es Internet Sano*, [online] [cited October 10, 2006]; available from [http://www.internetsano.gov.co/que\\_es.htm](http://www.internetsano.gov.co/que_es.htm). See also National Police News Agency, *"Que Nadie Dañe Tus Sueños"*, press release, August 9, 2006; available from [http://www.policia.gov.co/\\_85256EA10053F753.nsf/0/AA9949A80C6E0D510525712C004BFCA9?Open](http://www.policia.gov.co/_85256EA10053F753.nsf/0/AA9949A80C6E0D510525712C004BFCA9?Open).

<sup>1062</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Colombia."

<sup>1063</sup> *Ibid.* See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Colombia."

<sup>1064</sup> Ministry of Education, *Lineamientos de política para la atención educativa a poblaciones vulnerables*, Bogota, July 2005, 32-35; available from <http://www.mineducacion.gov.co/cvn/1665/article-90668.html>.

<sup>1065</sup> Ministry of Defense, *Reclutamiento de Menores*. See also United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations: Colombia*, para 80.