

Pakistan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under age 15 in Pakistan are unavailable.³⁵³⁸ The majority of working children are located in rural areas³⁵³⁹ and engaged in agricultural activities. In urban areas, children mainly work in the informal sector in activities such as street vending, domestic work, auto repair, construction, and assisting in family businesses.³⁵⁴⁰ Children working on the streets and in private homes are especially vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.³⁵⁴¹ Children are also employed in several hazardous sectors, including leather tanning; mining and quarrying; deep-sea fishing; brick-making; rag-picking; carpet-weaving; manufacturing of surgical instruments and glass bangles; and other manufacturing work that involves exposure to dangerous machinery, electrical wires, and toxic, explosive, or carcinogenic chemicals.³⁵⁴² Bonded child labor is still reported to exist in Pakistan in agriculture and in the mining, brick, and carpet-weaving industries, among others.³⁵⁴³ The commercial sexual exploitation of both boys and girls also continues to be a problem.³⁵⁴⁴ Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1998, the most recent year for which data are available, 13.4 percent of the population in Pakistan were living on less than USD 1 a day.³⁵⁴⁵

³⁵³⁸ This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section for information about sources used. 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, such as the use of children in the illegal drug trade, prostitution, pornography, and trafficking. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section. Such statistics and information may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on the definition of working children and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section.

³⁵³⁹ Government of Pakistan, *Information on Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (July 25, 2005) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Islamabad, August 15, 2005.

³⁵⁴⁰ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Pakistan*, Washington, D.C., February 28, 2005, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41743.htm>. See also Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*. News reports indicate that the problem of children working in auto workshops is particularly acute in Peshawar, North West Frontier Province. See IRINnews, "Child labour still widespread in NWFP", IRINnews.org, [online], October 13, 2004 [cited June 28, 2005]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=43644&SelectRegion=Central_Asia&SelectCountry=PAKISTAN. See also Sohail Ahmed, "Rough ride for Pakistan's boy-mechanics", BBC News online, [online], September 30, 2003 [cited December 14, 2005]; available from http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3139382.stm.

³⁵⁴¹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Pakistan*, October 27, 2003, Paragraph 69; available from [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.15.Add.217.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.15.Add.217.En?OpenDocument).

³⁵⁴² U.S. Department of State, *Country Report- 2004: Pakistan*, Section 6d. See also ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Pakistan*, project document, Geneva, September 17, 2003, 9, Table 2.1.

³⁵⁴³ U.S. Department of State, *Country Report- 2004: Pakistan*, Sections 5 and 6d. See also Anti-Slavery International, *The Enslavement of Dalit and Indigenous Communities in India, Nepal and Pakistan through Debt Bondage*, London, 2001; available from <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/goonesekere.pdf>. See also Ahmad Saleem, *A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in Pakistan's Mining Sector*, ILO, Geneva, March, 2004; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=2583.

³⁵⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan*, Washington, D.C., June 3, 2005; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46614.htm>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp (Pakistan; accessed June 28, 2005).

³⁵⁴⁵ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2005* [CD-ROM], Washington, DC, 2005.

Boys studying in certain *madrassas*, or religious schools, are recruited, often forcibly, as child soldiers to fight with Islamic militants in Afghanistan and Pakistani-administered Kashmir.³⁵⁴⁶ There are reports of girls being used by Pakistani armed groups as well.³⁵⁴⁷ Pakistan is a source, transit, and destination country for child trafficking.³⁵⁴⁸ Girls, primarily from Bangladesh, India, Burma, Afghanistan, Iran, and various Central Asian countries, are trafficked into Pakistan for the purposes of sexual exploitation, begging, domestic service, and bonded labor. Children are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation and other types of exploitative labor, and Pakistani children are trafficked to Middle Eastern countries, Turkey, and Greece for domestic service, bonded labor, and other purposes.³⁵⁴⁹ Recent attention by NGOs and the media and stronger government enforcement have reduced the number of Pakistani boys that are trafficked to Gulf countries to serve as camel jockeys, but the practice persists.³⁵⁵⁰

On October 8, 2005, a powerful earthquake struck parts of Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. In Pakistan the provinces of northern Punjab, Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP), and Pakistani-administered Kashmir were particularly hard-hit, with over 73,000 people killed, over 69,000 injured, and 2.8 million left homeless.³⁵⁵¹ According to UNICEF, over half of those killed were children, 17,000 of them in collapsed school buildings in NWFP and Pakistani-administered Kashmir. Thousands of child survivors were orphaned or separated from their families, making them more vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of exploitative child labor.³⁵⁵² There were reports that increased numbers of children in the affected areas were working in such activities as domestic service and delivery of goods.³⁵⁵³

Some provinces mandate basic education, with varying age requirements, but the federal government has not made basic education compulsory.³⁵⁵⁴ The Constitution stipulates that the government "shall remove

³⁵⁴⁶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *CRC Concluding Observations (2003)*, Paragraphs 62, 67. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, November 17, 2004; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports>. See also U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Hearing on U.S. Ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Testimony of Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch, March 7, 2002; available from <http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/03/childsoldiers0307.htm>.

³⁵⁴⁷ Save the Children UK, *Girls and Conflict - Forgotten Casualties of War*, London, April 27, 2005, I; available from <http://www.rb.se/NR/rdonlyres/C0A44378-E6CE-4C74-9EF5-535E673B8FD1/0/GirlsandConflictForgottencasualtiesofwar.pdf>.

³⁵⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan*. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan).

³⁵⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan*. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, March 11, 2005.

³⁵⁵⁰ Reports indicate that some trafficked children are as young as 3 years of age. U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan*. See also IRINnews, "Focus on rehabilitation of child camel jockeys", IRINnews.org, [online], June 23, 2005 [cited June 28, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?reportID=47783&SelectRegion=Asia>.

³⁵⁵¹ Death and injury estimates are those of the Government of Pakistan; homeless estimates provided by IOM. USAID, *South Asia - Earthquake fact sheet*, Washington, D.C., December 8, 2005; available from http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/south_asia_quake/pdf/12.08.05_south_asia_earthquake_fs29.pdf. UNICEF estimated the death toll at 86,000. See IRINnews, "Interview with UNICEF country representative, Dr. Omar Abdi", IRINnews.org, [online], November 9, 2005 [cited December 14, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=50025>.

³⁵⁵² IRINnews, "Interview with UNICEF representative". See also Basic Education Coalition, *After the Earthquake: Pakistan's Affected Children and Schools*, Washington, D.C., October, 2005. See also En-Lai Yeoh, "Pakistan Earthquake Orphans Thousands", Guardian Unlimited online, [online], October 18, 2005; available from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-5352482,00.html>.

³⁵⁵³ Suzanna Koster, "UNICEF fears increased child labour in quake area", AlertNet.org, [online], December 6, 2005 [cited December 8, 2005]; available from <http://www.alertnet.org/printable.htm?URL=/thenews/newsdesk/ISL254340.htm>.

³⁵⁵⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Second Periodic Reports of States Parties: Pakistan*, April 11, 2003, para. 62; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.65.Add.21.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.65.Add.21.En?OpenDocument). See also UNESCO, *Education: National legislation*, UNESCO, [online] n.d. [cited December 14, 2005]; available from http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12388&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html. See also Sindh Education Department, *Compulsory Primary Education*, Government of Sindh, [online] n.d. [cited December 14, 2005]; available from <http://www.sindhedu.gov.pk/Links/cpe.htm>.

illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within a minimum possible period."³⁵⁵⁵ Public education is officially free, but students are often charged fees for books, supplies, and uniforms. Rural children often do not have access to schools, and in urban areas many public schools suffer from low education quality and lack of facilities, leading parents to opt for *madrassas* or other private schools.³⁵⁵⁶ Even before the earthquake, low levels of public spending on education resulted in poor performance on many education indicators, including literacy and gender disparity.³⁵⁵⁷ In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 68 percent and in 2000, the most recent year for which data are available, the net primary enrollment rate was 59 percent.³⁵⁵⁸ Gross and net enrollment rates are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and, therefore, do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Primary school attendance statistics are not available for Pakistan.³⁵⁵⁹

The earthquake demolished the majority of the primary and secondary schools in the region - an estimated 10,000 schools - and school books and supplies were also destroyed. In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir and the closest city to the quake's epicenter, all of the schools collapsed.³⁵⁶⁰ Many teachers were also killed. Some schools have reopened, and some are operating in makeshift tents,³⁵⁶¹ but rebuilding permanent structures will take years.³⁵⁶²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, or other hazardous occupations.³⁵⁶³ The Factories Act of 1934, Shops and Establishments Ordinance of 1969, and the Mines Act of 1923 prohibit the employment of children in certain hazardous situations and processes.³⁵⁶⁴ The Employment of Children Act of 1991 prohibits the employment of children under age 15 in 6 specific occupations and 14 specific processes deemed hazardous or exploitative, including working on trains or in railway stations, carpet-weaving, building, and manufacturing cement, explosives, and other products that involve the use of toxic substances.³⁵⁶⁵ The Act also prohibits overtime and night work by children (after 7 p.m.); limits the workday of a child to 7 hours; requires a 1-hour break after 3 hours of

³⁵⁵⁵ *Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*, (1973), Article 37; available from <http://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/part2.ch2.html>.

³⁵⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, *Country Report- 2004: Pakistan*, Section 5.

³⁵⁵⁷ IRINnews, "Bottom of the class - new Asian education report", IRINnews.org, [online], July 14, 2005 [cited September 23, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=48131>. See also IRINnews, "Low public spending equals low levels of health and education development - report", IRINnews.org, [online], November 2, 2004 [cited December 14, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=43960>.

³⁵⁵⁸ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51> (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005).

³⁵⁵⁹ This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section for information about sources used. For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.

³⁵⁶⁰ Koster, "Increased child labour in quake area." Some Pakistani citizens' groups have attributed the number of collapsed schools to misallocation of resources in school construction projects. See David Montero, "The Pakistan quake: Why 10,000 schools collapsed," *The Christian Science Monitor* (Boston), November 8, 2005; available from <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1108/p01s03-wosc.htm>.

³⁵⁶¹ Koster, "Increased child labour in quake area."

³⁵⁶² IRINnews, "Interview with UNICEF representative."

³⁵⁶³ *Constitution of Pakistan*, Chapter 1, Article 11(3).

³⁵⁶⁴ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. See also Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

³⁵⁶⁵ *Employment of Children Act*, (June 4, 1991), Sections 2 and 3 (I, II); available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/22707/64834/E91PAK01.htm>. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern over variable and contradictory definitions of a "child" in various Pakistani laws. See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *CRC Concluding Observations* (2003), para. 27.

work and at least one day of rest per week for children; and requires employers to maintain a register of working children. However, children working in family-run enterprises are excluded from these provisions.³⁵⁶⁶ The 1995 Employment of Children Rules detail employers' requirements for maintaining minimum standards of health and safety in a child's working environment.³⁵⁶⁷

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Pakistan. Forced labor is prohibited by the Constitution and by the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act of 1992, and those found in violation can face 2 to 5 years of imprisonment and fines of 50,000 rupees (approximately USD 838).³⁵⁶⁸ The Constitution and the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking and Smuggling Ordinance of 2002 prohibit trafficking in persons, and the Ordinance assigns strict penalties for individuals or groups found guilty of engaging in or profiting from such activities.³⁵⁶⁹ The *Zina* (Enforcement of *Hudood*) Ordinance prohibits enticing, leading away, concealing, or detaining a female of any age for the purpose of a sexual act.³⁵⁷⁰ The Penal Code also criminalizes the procuring of a minor for prostitution, punishable by a fine and up to 10 years of imprisonment, and kidnapping or abduction of a minor under 10 years old, punishable by imprisonment or capital punishment.³⁵⁷¹ The law does not specifically prohibit child pornography, but the Penal Code prohibits circulation of any obscene material, with violations subject to fines and up to 3 months of imprisonment.³⁵⁷² There is no compulsory conscription into the Pakistani armed forces. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment is 16 years for technical services only, and 17 years to serve in combat.³⁵⁷³ In December 2005, President Musharraf issued an ordinance containing specific accountability requirements for *madrassas* in the federal capital, in an effort to combat the promotion of militancy in certain religious schools.³⁵⁷⁴

Since 1999, the Government of Pakistan has submitted to the ILO a list or an equivalent document identifying the types of work that it has determined are harmful to the health, safety or morals of children under Convention 182 or Convention 138.³⁵⁷⁵ With technical assistance from ILO-IPEC, the Ministry of

³⁵⁶⁶ *Employment of Children Act*, Sections 3, 7, 8, 11.

³⁵⁶⁷ *Employment of Children Rules*, (1995); available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/44242/65005/E95PAK01.htm>.

³⁵⁶⁸ See also *Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act of 1992*, as cited in ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.details?p_lang=en&p_country=PAK&p_classification=03&p_origin=COUNTRY (*Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1992* (abstract); accessed October 1, 2005). See also *Constitution of Pakistan*, Chapter I, Article 11 (2). See also ILO-IPEC, *National Legislation and Policies Against Child Labour in Pakistan*, [online] March 21, 2005 [cited June 29, 2005]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipsec/responses/pakistan/national.htm>. For currency conversion, see FXConverter, [database online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from <http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>.

³⁵⁶⁹ *Constitution of Pakistan*, Article 11(2). See also *Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking and Smuggling Ordinance (No. 54 of 2002)*, as cited in U.S. Department of State, *Country Report- 2004: Pakistan*, Section 5. See also ILO-IPEC, *National Legislation and Policies*. Under the Ordinance, trafficking is punishable by fines and 7 to 14 years of imprisonment. See also U.S. Embassy-Islamabad, *reporting*, March 11, 2005.

³⁵⁷⁰ The term *zina* refers to sexual acts outside of marriage. The ordinance is part of a body of law known as the *Hudood Ordinances*, which also cover certain crimes against property. See (Enforcement of *Hudood*) *Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance*, as cited in ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan). See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, March 11, 2005. See also World Organization Against Torture, *Rights of the Child in Pakistan: Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Pakistan*, Geneva, May, 2003; available from http://www.omct.org/pdf/cc/pakistan_report_09_2003_en.pdf. See also Amnesty International Asia-Pacific Regional Office, *Hudood Ordinances- The Crime And Punishment For Zina [sic]*, [online] n.d. [cited January 18, 2006]; available from http://asiapacific.amnesty.org/apro/APROweb.nsf/pages/svaw_hudoo.

³⁵⁷¹ *Pakistan Penal Code*, Articles 372, 373, and 364(A), as cited in World Organization Against Torture, *Rights of the Child in Pakistan*. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *CRC Second Periodic Report of States Parties (2003)*, Paragraph 104. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan).

³⁵⁷² ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Pakistan).

³⁵⁷³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers 2004*.

³⁵⁷⁴ Muralidhar Reddy, "More restrictions on madrasas", *The Hindu* online, [online], December 3, 2005 [cited December 9, 2005]; available from <http://www.thehindu.com/2005/12/03/stories/2005120305611400.htm>.

³⁵⁷⁵ ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

Labor convened a tripartite committee in September 2002 that identified 29 occupations as hazardous for workers under age 18, including mining, stone crushing, ship breaking, deep-sea fishing, manufacturing glass bangles, fireworks, and tobacco, work with heavy machinery or live electrical wires, and work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.³⁵⁷⁶

Child labor laws are enforced by provincial governments through the labor inspectorate system,³⁵⁷⁷ and violations can result in a maximum 1-year prison term and/or a fine of 20,000 rupees (approximately USD 335).³⁵⁷⁸ However, the U.S. Department of State reports that enforcement of these laws is weak due to an inadequate number of inspectors, lack of training and resources, corruption, and the exclusion of many small businesses from the inspectorate’s jurisdiction. Employers found in violation of child labor laws often are not penalized, or the fines levied by the courts are too low to act as a deterrent.³⁵⁷⁹ The Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has primary responsibility for enforcing trafficking-related laws.³⁵⁸⁰ According to the U.S. Department of State, Pakistan has made significant recent improvements in enforcement, with higher numbers of trafficking-related case registrations, arrests, court cases, and convictions.³⁵⁸¹

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

Since 2000 the Government of Pakistan and provincial-level governments have been implementing a National Policy and Action Plan to Combat Child Labor (NPPA) that calls for immediate eradication of the worst forms of child labor and the progressive elimination of child labor from all sectors of employment. The NPPA further seeks to prevent children from entering the work force by offering educational alternatives.³⁵⁸² The government’s 2003 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) reiterates the government’s commitment to the NPPA, and incorporates the reduction of child labor into its target-setting process.³⁵⁸³ The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development is coordinating the National Project on the Rehabilitation of Child Laborers, which is focused on withdrawing children from hazardous employment and providing rehabilitative services.³⁵⁸⁴ The project is being implemented by “Pakistan Bait-up-Mal,” an agency of the Ministry of Social Welfare, which was operating over 100

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments		
Ratified Convention 138		
Ratified Convention 182	10/11/2001	✓
ILO-IPEC Member		✓
National Plan for Children		
National Child Labor Action Plan		✓
Sector Action Plan (Bonded Labor)		✓

³⁵⁷⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Time-Bound Program in Pakistan, project document*, 34-35. See also Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended the inclusion of five additional sectors in the list, but the government has not yet approved any additions. See ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Pakistan*, technical progress report, Geneva, September 12, 2005, 2.

³⁵⁷⁷ Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, 1.

³⁵⁷⁸ *Employment of Children Act, Section 14*. For currency conversion see FXConverter.

³⁵⁷⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Report- 2004: Pakistan*, Section 6d.

³⁵⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, March 11, 2005.

³⁵⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005: Pakistan*. Government and security officials have been implicated in trafficking and during 2004, 17 public officials were prosecuted and 3 FIA inspectors were arrested for involvement in facilitating trafficking. See U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, March 11, 2005.

³⁵⁸² Government of Pakistan, *National Policy and Action Plan to Combat Child Labour*, Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Islamabad, May 20, 2000, 11. See also Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

³⁵⁸³ ILO-IPEC, *National Legislation and Policies*.

³⁵⁸⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *CRC Second Periodic Report of States Parties (2003)*, Paragraph 21. See also ILO-IPEC, *National Legislation and Policies*.

National Centers for the Rehabilitation of Child Labor as of February 2005. The centers assist in removing children from hazardous work environments and providing non-formal education; school uniforms and other clothing; books; medical care; stipends to children; and stipends to families for income generation activities.³⁵⁸⁵

The provincial Labor Departments of Punjab, Sindh and NWFP have established Child Labor Resource Centers, and the provincial government of Balochistan has established a Child Labor Vigilance Cell, each for the purposes of providing a focal point for information and data on child labor; forging networks of social partners to combat child labor; and working with the media to disseminate information on efforts to combat child labor.³⁵⁸⁶ Punjab has also established a Child Protection Welfare Bureau to provide protective and rehabilitative services to street children and many of the trafficked child camel jockeys who have been repatriated from the Middle East.³⁵⁸⁷

The National Committee on Abolition of Bonded Labor and Rehabilitation of Freed Bonded Laborers oversees the implementation of the National Policy and Plan of Action for the Abolition of Bonded Labor,³⁵⁸⁸ with support from the ILO.³⁵⁸⁹ The government has established a fund of 100 million rupees (approximately USD 1.7 million) to educate working children and freed bonded laborers; three new projects were approved from this fund in May, 2005.³⁵⁹⁰ With support from IOM, the FIA has trained Anti-Trafficking Unit staff to identify and investigate trafficking cases.³⁵⁹¹ Also in collaboration with IOM, the government has trained law enforcement officials at national and provincial levels to recognize, apprehend, and prosecute traffickers; piloted a model shelter for trafficking victims under Islamabad Capitol Police protection; and implemented public awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking.³⁵⁹² In 2005, the FIA established a task force to focus on human trafficking in border and coastal areas.³⁵⁹³

In 2005, the Ministry of Labor, Manpower, and Overseas Pakistanis signed a 5-year extension of its Memorandum of Understanding with ILO-IPEC, through 2009.³⁵⁹⁴ The government is participating in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC Time-Bound Program through 2007, designed to remove and rehabilitate child workers from several target sectors including glass bangle manufacturing, surgical instrument manufacturing, tanning, coal mining, scavenging, deep-sea fishing, and seafood processing.³⁵⁹⁵ In addition, with support from the Swiss, Norwegian, Italian, German, and Danish governments and other donors, ILO-IPEC is implementing several other child labor projects in Pakistan. These include targeted projects to assist vulnerable groups such as trafficked children, child domestic workers, and children in the carpet-weaving sector, and a project that utilizes the electronic and print media to raise awareness of

³⁵⁸⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Combating Child Labor in the Carpet Industry in Pakistan - Phase II*, technical progress report, Geneva, September 13, 2004, 3. See also ILO-IPEC, *Combating Child Labor in the Carpet Industry in Pakistan - Phase II*, technical progress report, Geneva, March 19, 2005, 2. See also Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

³⁵⁸⁶ Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

³⁵⁸⁷ ILO-IPEC, *Timebound Programme, technical progress report (September 2005)*, 2.

³⁵⁸⁸ ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Pakistan*, Geneva, March 9, 2004, 3.

³⁵⁸⁹ ILO, *Combating bonded labour in rural Pakistan*, ILO, [online] September 14, 2004 [cited June 30, 2005]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/features/04/pakistan.htm>.

³⁵⁹⁰ Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*. For currency conversion, see FXConverter.

³⁵⁹¹ IOM staff, email communication to USDOL official, June 29, 2005. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Report- 2004: Pakistan*, Section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Islamabad, *reporting*, March 11, 2005.

³⁵⁹² IOM staff, email communication, June 29, 2005.

³⁵⁹³ ILO-IPEC, *Combating Child Trafficking for Labor and Sexual Exploitation (TICSA Phase II)*, technical progress report, Geneva, September 12, 2005, 5.

³⁵⁹⁴ ILO-IPEC, *Carpet Industry Project - Phase II, technical progress report (March 2005)*, 2.

³⁵⁹⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Time-Bound Program in Pakistan, project document*, 32, 77-79.

child labor.³⁵⁹⁶ With support from USDOL, Save the Children-UK is implementing two child labor projects in collaboration with the government. The first is the USD 5 million “Addressing Child Labor through Quality Education for All” project, which aims to withdraw children from hazardous labor in Punjab province and provide them with education and training.³⁵⁹⁷ The second is the USD 4 million “Mitigating Child Labor through Education” project, which aims to withdraw children from hazardous work and provide educational services in the provinces of Balochistan, NWFP, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).³⁵⁹⁸

Immediately following the October 2005 earthquake, the government and international organizations took steps to prevent vulnerable children from falling into exploitative child labor. A 6-month ban on the adoption of children was imposed, and relocation of children from the affected zones was restricted.³⁵⁹⁹ The Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) established Child Care and Rehabilitation centers with the capacity to provide shelter, education, health care, and psychosocial services to 3,800 quake-affected children. UNICEF is working with MOSW to register all children in emergency settlements in the affected areas. MOSW is further collaborating with the National Database Registration Authority, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and other NGOs, on a comprehensive strategy to find missing children and to assist children who were orphaned, injured, and separated from their families in the disaster.³⁶⁰⁰ In addition to committing over USD 63 million in earthquake humanitarian assistance and relief,³⁶⁰¹ USAID funded the International Rescue Committee to implement child protection programs in certain quake-affected areas.³⁶⁰² The ILO integrated child protection programs into its earthquake response, to prevent children from being trafficked or from falling into hazardous work.³⁶⁰³

In 2003, the Ministry of Education set a goal of universal primary education by 2015 as part of its National Plan of Action for Education for All (EFA). The National Plan of Action makes primary education its top priority, and its objectives include improving basic education quality, promoting community participation in basic education, and reaching disadvantaged populations, particularly out-of-school and illiterate girls.³⁶⁰⁴

Administration of the Pakistani education system is largely carried out at the provincial and district levels.³⁶⁰⁵ Punjab, Pakistan’s most populous province, has actively pursued an Education Sector Reform (ESR) program, continuing efforts to improve education access, quality, and governance and to stem the flow of dropouts. Efforts include providing free textbooks; hiring 29,000 additional teachers and over

³⁵⁹⁶ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2004*, Geneva, February, 2005; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/implementation_2004_en.pdf. See also Government of Pakistan, *Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

³⁵⁹⁷ Save the Children - UK, *Addressing Child Labour through Quality Education for All*, technical progress report, London, September 10, 2005.

³⁵⁹⁸ International Child Labor Program, *ICLP Projects Funded in FY 2005*, U.S. Department of Labor, [online] n.d. [cited December 16, 2005]; available from <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/iclp/projectchart05.htm>.

³⁵⁹⁹ IRINnews, "UNICEF and government start child registration", IRINnews.org, [online], November 1, 2005 [cited December 14, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/print.asp?ReportID=49883>. See also Yeoh, "Earthquake Orphans".

³⁶⁰⁰ IRINnews, "Child registration."

³⁶⁰¹ USAID, *South Asia - Earthquake fact sheet*.

³⁶⁰² USAID, *South Asia Earthquake 2005: Human Toll (map)*, USAID, [online] December 8, 2005 [cited December 14, 2005]; available from http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/south_asia_quake/pdf/USAID_pakistan_EQ_12.14.05.pdf.

³⁶⁰³ International Labor Organization, *ILO helps Pakistan earthquake survivors find work and income*, press release, Geneva, November 8, 2005; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/public/releases/yr2005/pr05_27.htm.

³⁶⁰⁴ Government of Pakistan, *National Plan of Action on Education for All (2001-2015)*, Islamabad, August, 2002, Executive Summary and Part 2.1.2; available from http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/file_download.php/0e2791ddb4f9f4a0b56b89cd0dc49defPAKEFA.pdf. See also ILO-IPEC, *National Legislation and Policies*.

³⁶⁰⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Time-Bound Program in Pakistan, project document*, 1, 18.

30,000 support teachers; providing stipends for girls in primary school and for parents of female students; and renovating schools.³⁶⁰⁶ In 2004, the Punjabi government provided free school books to primary school children grades 1 to 5, resulting in 13 percent increased enrollment; books will be provided through grade 8 for the coming school year.³⁶⁰⁷ Further, in light of ongoing critical needs in its education system, in March, 2005, the World Bank announced a credit of USD 100 million to Punjab to enhance quality and access to education, strengthen education system accountability, and strengthen parental participation.³⁶⁰⁸ The provincial governments of NWFP and Balochistan have begun work to replicate Punjab's successful ESR model.³⁶⁰⁹ In addition, the ADB is supporting projects to restructure technical and vocational training in NWFP and Balochistan.³⁶¹⁰

In an effort to rehabilitate the education system after the earthquake, the Pakistani Army and relief organizations instituted makeshift schools in temporary shelters. USAID also continued to fund a number of initiatives focused on the education sector. These include a 5-year, USD 60 million bilateral agreement with the government to implement programs to support Education Sector Reform and increase access to quality education, with a particular focus on the Balochistan and Sindh provinces,³⁶¹¹ and a project co-financed with the Government of Japan to construct 130 public schools in the FATA.³⁶¹²

³⁶⁰⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Carpet Industry Project - Phase II, technical progress report (March 2005)*, 4. See also IRINnews, "Focus on improving basic education in Punjab", IRINnews.org, [online], 2005 [cited April 11, 2005]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=46562&SelectRegion=Asia&SelectCountry=PAKISTAN>.

³⁶⁰⁷ ILO-IPEC, *Carpet Industry Project - Phase II, technical progress report (March 2005)*.

³⁶⁰⁸ World Bank, *World Bank Approves US \$100 Million to Enhance Quality and Access to Education in Punjab*, World Bank Group, [online] March 29, 2005 [cited June 28, 2005]; available from <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,print:Y~isCURL:Y~contentMDK:20419533~menuPK:34470~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

³⁶⁰⁹ Save the Children - UK, *ACL-QEFA, technical progress report (September 2005)*, 4.

³⁶¹⁰ ADB, *Project Profiles: Pakistan*; accessed June 30, 2005; available from <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Profiles/ctry.asp?ctry=23>.

³⁶¹¹ USAID, *Education Sector Reform Assistance*, USAID, [online] April 8, 2005 [cited June 30, 2005]; available from http://www.usaid.gov/pk/program_sectors/education/projects/education_sector_reform_assistance.shtml.

³⁶¹² USAID Pakistan, *Update on USAID Activities in the Federally Administered Tribal Agencies (FATA)*, USAID, [online] July 15, 2005 [cited December 14, 2005]; available from <http://www.usaid.gov/pk/mission/news/fata.htm>.