

Colombia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

An estimated 10.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were counted as working in Colombia in 2001. Approximately 14.1 percent of all boys 5 to 14 were working compared to 6.6 percent of girls in the same age group. The majority of working children were found in the services sector (49.9 percent), followed by agricultural (35.6 percent), manufacturing (12.6 percent) and other sectors (1.9 percent).¹¹⁰⁵ In urban areas children work in sectors such as commerce, industry, and services.¹¹⁰⁶ Many children, especially girls, work as domestic servants.¹¹⁰⁷ In rural areas, children work in sectors including agriculture and commerce.¹¹⁰⁸ Children work in clay, coal, emerald, and gold mining operations.¹¹⁰⁹ They also harvest coca and work in other aspects of the drug trade.¹¹¹⁰ Child labor is especially a problem in the informal sector.¹¹¹¹ More than half of working children do not receive financial remuneration.¹¹¹² Child labor is one of many problems associated with poverty. In 1999, the most recent year for which data are available, 8.2 percent of the population in Colombia were living on less than USD 1 a day.¹¹¹³

Children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Colombia. Sexual tourism involving children in Cartagena and resorts on the Caribbean coast is a problem.¹¹¹⁴ Colombia is a major source country for the trafficking of girls for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Colombian girls are trafficked internally from rural to urban areas, throughout the Americas, and to locations including the Caribbean, Western Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, and the Middle East. Trafficking victims from other South American countries may pass through Colombia before reaching Europe and the United States. Populations displaced due to armed violence are at increased risk for trafficking.¹¹¹⁵

¹¹⁰⁵ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, October 7, 2005. 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 of this report.

¹¹⁰⁶ 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.

¹¹⁰⁷ 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, 13.

¹¹⁰⁸ National Administrative Department of Statistics, *Encuesta Nacional*, 55.

¹¹⁰⁹ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Small-Scale Mining*, project document, Geneva, September 21, 2001, 5-6. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2005: Colombia*, Washington, D.C., March 8, 2006, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61721.htm>

¹¹¹⁰ Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, *Colombia's War on Children*, New York, February 2004, 21; available from <http://www.watchlist.org/reports/colombia.report.pdf>. See also Colombian Ombudsman's Office, *Informe Sobre Los Derechos Humanos De La Niñez en Colombia Durante El Año 2001*, 2001, 26; available from http://www.defensoria.org.co/?_s=d1. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Section 6d.

¹¹¹¹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2005: Colombia*, Section 6d.

¹¹¹² National Administrative Department of Statistics, *Encuesta Nacional*, 61-63.

¹¹¹³ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2005* [CD-ROM], Washington, D.C., 2005.

¹¹¹⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, Washington, D.C., June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/>. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Sections 5 and 6d.

¹¹¹⁵ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Section 5.

Children in Colombia are recruited, sometimes forcibly, by insurgent and paramilitary groups.¹¹¹⁶ Many are forced to participate in and are victims of human rights violations such as torture and murder.¹¹¹⁷ Child soldiers also act as messengers and guards, and carry and assemble explosives.¹¹¹⁸ Many girl child soldiers are subject to sexual exploitation by other members of insurgent and paramilitary armed groups.¹¹¹⁹ Reportedly, children have been used by government armed forces as informants, although the government does not recruit children and there are no reports of children serving in government armed forces.¹¹²⁰

The Constitution requires children ages 5 to 15 years to attend school. It states that education is to be free in state institutions, but allows state institutions to impose school fees for those that can afford them.¹¹²¹ Children paying enrollment fees do so based on their family's income level.¹¹²² In practice, the costs of enrollment, books, school supplies, and transportation are often prohibitive.¹¹²³ In 2002, the gross primary enrollment rate was 110 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 87 percent.¹¹²⁴ Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. In 2001, 90.4 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years were attending school.¹¹²⁵ As of 2001, 69 percent of children who started primary school were likely to reach grade 5.¹¹²⁶ Education is less accessible for rural, Afro-Colombian, indigenous,¹¹²⁷ and displaced

¹¹¹⁶ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Sections 1g, 5, 6c, and 6d. See also U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*. See also UN Economic and Social Council, *Organization of the Work of the Session: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Colombia*, E/CN.4/2004/13, February 17, 2004, para. 52 and 58; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.2004.13.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.2004.13.En?Opendocument). Various Colombian paramilitary and guerrilla groups have been included on the UN list of Parties to Armed Conflict that Recruit or Use Children in Armed Conflict. See United Nations General Assembly Security Council, *Children and Armed Conflict*, pursuant to Report of the Secretary-General, February 9, 2005; available from <http://www.un.org/special-rep/children-armed-conflict/English/index.html>.

¹¹¹⁷ Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry: Child Combatants in Colombia*, Washington, September 2003, 68-77 and 88-98; available from <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/colombia0903/>.

¹¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 6 and 61-67.

¹¹¹⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004: Colombia*, November 17, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=820. See also Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry*, 53-59.

¹¹²⁰ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004: Colombia*, November 17, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=820. See also Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry*, 102-103.

¹¹²¹ *Constitución Política de Colombia de 1991, con reformas hasta marzo 2005; accessed September 26, 2005, Article 67; available from http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/*.

¹¹²² Katarina Tomašeski, *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, para. 16.

¹¹²³ Katarina Tomašeski, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education on Her Mission to Colombia (1-10 October 2003)*, E/CN.4/2004/45/Add.2, United Nations Economic and Social Council, February 17, 2004, para. 15, 24, and 25; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.2004.45.Add.2.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.2004.45.Add.2.En?Opendocument). See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Section 5.

¹¹²⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51> (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definition of gross primary enrollment rates in the "Data Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

¹¹²⁵ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹¹²⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51> (School life expectancy, % of repeaters, survival rates; accessed December 2005).

¹¹²⁷ UNICEF, *At a Glance: Colombia- The Big Picture*, n.d. 2005 [cited June 30, 2005]; available from <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/colombia.html>.

children.¹¹²⁸ Teachers, among other groups, have been the targets of murders, threats, and violence by paramilitary and guerilla groups, and this may affect children's education.¹¹²⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution states that children are to be protected against exploitative and hazardous labor.¹¹³⁰ The Minors' Code defines minors as those under age 18, and sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years, with certain exceptions. Authorization from a labor inspector or other designated authority is required for all those under age 18 to work. Under exceptional circumstances children ages 12 and 13 may obtain authorization to work.¹¹³¹ The Code requires parents to ensure that youths under age 14 attend school, limits children's working hours, protects against the firing of pregnant or lactating minors, and prohibits employers from moving minors from their homes except with authorization for temporary training programs. The Code establishes that minors are afforded the same labor protections as adults in matters not addressed by the Minors' Code. Also under the Code, the Ministry of Social Protection (MSP) is required to inspect businesses in order to determine if they are in compliance with child labor laws.¹¹³² Penalties for violating child labor laws range from 1 to 40 times the minimum monthly salary and can include the temporary or permanent closure of the violating establishment.¹¹³³

The Minors' Code prohibits children from various types of work that pose health risks, with certain exceptions for those older than 14 years, and authorizes the MSP to prohibit minors from additional forms of labor.¹¹³⁴ In 2005, an MSP resolution established a list of work prohibited to minors. This list includes the types of work prohibited by the Minors' Code.¹¹³⁵ Minors are prohibited from working in agriculture, livestock, fishing, hunting, forestry, mining, and construction. Certain types of work involving the industrial manufacturing, transport, health, and security sectors are also prohibited for children. Children may not work as shoe shiners, domestic laborers, or in ambulant sales.¹¹³⁶ Minors are also prohibited from working under specific conditions, including those that involve risks to a child's physical or psychological well-being, health risks, and exposure to dangerous chemicals. Work that is unpaid or interferes with education is prohibited, as is work involving separation from a child's family, abuse, or illegal situations. According to the MSP resolution, minors may not work between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., with the exception of those who are 16 and 17 years of age.¹¹³⁷ However, the Minors' Code permits 16 and 17 year olds, like

¹¹²⁸ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Section 2d. In the capital, displaced children do not have to pay enrollment fees for one year, but must pay fees for following years. Katarina Tomašeski, *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, para. 25.

¹¹²⁹ In 2004, 68 teachers were murdered and 17 were kidnapped. Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, *Informe Anual de Derechos Humanos y DIH 2004*, Colombia, June 2005, 204-205; available from <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/modules.php?name=informacion&file=article&sid=501>. See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2005: Colombia*, Sections 2a and 6a. See also Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, *Colombia's War on Children*, 18-19.

¹¹³⁰ *Constitución Política de Colombia*, Article 44.

¹¹³¹ *Código del Menor*, Decree No. 2737, (November 27, 1989), Articles 28 and 237-241; available from www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/normatividad2.asp.

¹¹³² *Ibid.*, Articles 238, 242, 243, 260, 261, and 264. In 2003, the MSP became responsible for carrying out the functions of the former Ministries of Labor and Health. See World Bank, *Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan in the Amount of US\$86.4 Million to the Republic of Colombia for a Social Safety Net Project*, 31880-CO, October 3, 2005, 2; available from http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/10/13/000090341_20051013094615/Rendered/PDF/31880.pdf

¹¹³³ *Código del Menor*, Articles 262-263.

¹¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, Article 245.

¹¹³⁵ *Resolución No 004448: 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>. See also *Código del Menor*, Articles 262-263.

¹¹³⁶ *Resolución 004448*, Article 1.

¹¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, Article 2.

other minors, to work only until 8 p.m.¹¹³⁸ Work affecting children's morality, such as work in places of prostitution and where alcohol is served is prohibited.¹¹³⁹ Those with knowledge of children engaging in prohibited work are mandated to report such situations to MSP.¹¹⁴⁰ Since 1999, the Government of Colombia 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 and Convention 138.¹¹⁴¹

Trafficking is prohibited by the Constitution¹¹⁴² and is punishable by 13 to 23 years of incarceration and fines up to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary; penalties are increased under aggravated circumstances which include cases in which the victim is a minor.¹¹⁴³ Penalties for pimping and forced prostitution range from 2 to 13 years of incarceration and fines of 66 to 750 times the minimum monthly salary, with increased penalties if the victim is under age 14, if the crime involved moving the victim outside of the country, or if the perpetrator is a family member.¹¹⁴⁴ Operating an establishment in which minors practice sexual acts is punishable by 8 to 12 years of incarceration and fines of 66 to 750 times the minimum monthly salary, with increased penalties if the crime was committed by a family member.¹¹⁴⁵ Child pornography is punishable by fines from 133 to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary and 8 to 12 years of imprisonment, with increased penalties if the crime was committed by a family member.¹¹⁴⁶ The use of the mail or internet to obtain or offer sexual contact with a minor is punishable by 5 to 10 years of incarceration and a fine of 50 to 100 times the minimum monthly salary, with increased penalties if the minor involved is under age 12.¹¹⁴⁷ Internet pornography depicting minors is punishable by fines up to 100 times the minimum monthly salary and the cancellation or suspension of the web site.¹¹⁴⁸ Law 679 states that tourist agencies that engage in activities related to sexual tourism of minors can be penalized by fines of up to 300 times the minimum monthly salary and the suspension or cancellation of their registration in the National Tourism Registry.¹¹⁴⁹ Forced prostitution and sexual slavery in relation to the country's ongoing conflict is punishable by imprisonment from 13 to 27 years and a fine of 666 to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary.¹¹⁵⁰ The minimum voluntary and compulsory recruitment age for the armed forces is 18.¹¹⁵¹ Recruitment of children under age 18 by armed groups is punishable by 8 to 15 years in prison and fines ranging from 800 to 1,500 times the minimum monthly salary.¹¹⁵² Children are also prohibited from performing intelligence activities.¹¹⁵³ The law regards child soldiers as victims.¹¹⁵⁴ Armed groups that collectively enter the government's demobilization process must place all minor

¹¹³⁸ *Código del Menor*, Article 242.

¹¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, Article 246.

¹¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, Article 247.

¹¹⁴¹ ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 14, 2005.

¹¹⁴² *Constitución Política de Colombia*, Article 17.

¹¹⁴³ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, Washington, D.C., June 3, 2005; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46613.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, December 5, 2005.

¹¹⁴⁴ *Código Penal*, (July 24, 2000), Articles 213, 214, and 216; available from http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/compendio_legislativo.HTM

¹¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, Article 217.

¹¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, Article 218.

¹¹⁴⁷ *Law 679*, (August 4, 2001), Article 34; available from <http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/leyes/L0679001>.

¹¹⁴⁸ *Decree 1524*, (July 24, 2002); available from <http://www.i-uris.com/leyes/dec/1524.htm>. See also *Law 679*, Articles 9-10.

¹¹⁴⁹ *Law 679*, Articles 19-20.

¹¹⁵⁰ *Código Penal*, Article 141.

¹¹⁵¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report*. See also *Resolución 004448*, Article 1, 9.1.

¹¹⁵² *Código Penal*, Article 162.

¹¹⁵³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report*.

¹¹⁵⁴ *Ley 782*, (December 23), Article 15; available from http://www.altocomisionadparalapaz.gov.co/juridicos/ley_782.pdf.

recruits with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF).¹¹⁵⁵ The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.¹¹⁵⁶

According to the U.S. Department of State, the MSP conducts child labor inspections, but does not have sufficient resources to inspect all establishments that employ children.¹¹⁵⁷ ICBF is responsible for child protection programs.¹¹⁵⁸ This includes providing services to former child soldiers.¹¹⁵⁹ The Minors' Police, the Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of the Child and Family, and Family Commissioners are also authorized to implement and enforce child labor laws and regulations.¹¹⁶⁰ The Prosecutor General's Office has a unit dedicated to combating trafficking.¹¹⁶¹

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 exploitative child labor as a priority.¹¹⁶² Colombia's Plan for Childhood (2004-2015) contains provisions relating to exploitative child labor, specifically to child trafficking, the recruitment of children into armed groups, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.¹¹⁶³ The National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor implemented the Third Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor and the Protection of Working Youth 2003-2006.¹¹⁶⁴ The plan's objectives include increasing knowledge, improving public policy, raising awareness, and improving legislation regarding child labor.¹¹⁶⁵ The MSP works to eradicate exploitative child labor through activities including awareness raising campaigns.¹¹⁶⁶ With support from ILO-IPEC and Canada, the government is working to improve cooperation and coordination among national, regional, and municipal governments

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments		
Ratified Convention 138	2/2/2001	✓
Ratified Convention 182	1/28/2005	✓
ILO-IPEC Member		✓
National Plan for Children		✓
National Child Labor Action Plan		✓
Sector Action Plan (Commercial Sexual Exploitation)		✓

¹¹⁵⁵ *Ley 975*, (July 25), Article 10; available from <http://www.presidencia.gov.co/leyes/2005/julio/ley975250705.pdf>. See also *Decreto 4760*, (December 30), Article 3; available from www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/noticias/2006/enero/documentos/decreto4760.pdf.

¹¹⁵⁶ *Constitución Política de Colombia*, Article 17.

¹¹⁵⁷ U.S. Department of State, *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2004: Colombia*, Washington, D.C., February 28, 2005, Section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41754.htm>.

¹¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, Section 5.

¹¹⁵⁹ *Decreto 4760*, Article 3, para. 3.

¹¹⁶⁰ U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, October 10, 2001.

¹¹⁶¹ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005*.

¹¹⁶² National Planning Department, *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2003-2006: Hacia un Estado Comunitario*, Bogota, 2003, 209; available from <http://www.presidencia.gov.co/documentos/PND.pdf>.

¹¹⁶³ Government of Colombia, *Plan Decenal de infancia (2004-2015) para Colombia*; available from www.icbf.gov.co/espanol/decenal.htm.

¹¹⁶⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Colombia*, Section 6d.

¹¹⁶⁵ Interinstitutional 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*, ILO, Bogotá, 2003, 51-52.

¹¹⁶⁶ Government of Colombia, *Documento DOL "Peores formas de trabajo infantil"*, 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", Washington, D.C., August 25, 2005, Annex 5, "Avances de Tercer Plan Nacional Para La Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil y La Protección de Trabajo Juvenil 2003-2006: Informe 2004", 18, 19, and 24.

in combating child labor.¹¹⁶⁷ In 2005, the government ratified ILO Convention 182, the Worst Forms of Child Labor.¹¹⁶⁸

ICBF administers a reinsertion program for former child soldiers.¹¹⁶⁹ Its programs are assisted by the IOM through funds from USAID and the governments of Canada and Italy.¹¹⁷⁰ The Colombian Ministry of Interior operates a program that finds housing for and provides grants and training to demobilized child combatants.¹¹⁷¹ The Government of Colombia participates in a 3-year inter-regional ILO-IPEC project funded by USDOL that aims to combat the involvement of children with armed groups.¹¹⁷²

The Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the National Police, and the IOM conducted a trafficking awareness raising program in schools.¹¹⁷³ The government has an interagency trafficking advisory committee whose activities include information campaigns, training, and coordination with Interpol.¹¹⁷⁴ The committee created a database to maintain information regarding trafficking cases.¹¹⁷⁵ Immigration officials and NGOs collaborated to provide information to potential trafficking victims.¹¹⁷⁶ Colombian missions in countries such as Japan assist trafficking victims.¹¹⁷⁷ The government has worked to include business, especially those in the travel industry in anti-trafficking activities.¹¹⁷⁸ The Inspector General's Office implemented a trafficking monitoring system in 10 departments.¹¹⁷⁹

The government participates in a USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional project to combat children's involvement in both domestic labor and commercial sexual exploitation.¹¹⁸⁰ The National Police's program "Colombia without Prostitution" uses family and community education to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children. ICBF operates shelters and treatment centers for children.¹¹⁸¹ The Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining is implementing a project to eradicate child labor in mining in cooperation with the UNDP.¹¹⁸² The government also participates in a USD 3.5 million, 4-year USDOL-funded project to combat child labor in hazardous agriculture through improved access to quality, basic education for children working or at-risk of working in hazardous agriculture.¹¹⁸³

¹¹⁶⁷ U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, August 25, 2004. See also ILO-IPEC official, email communication to USDOL official, November 8, 2005.

¹¹⁶⁸ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*; accessed December 16, 2005, [database online] [cited May 28, 2004]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

¹¹⁶⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Colombia*, Section 5. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report*.

¹¹⁷⁰ IOM, *Programmes and Projects: Excombatant children*, [online] n.d. [cited January 9, 2006]; available from <http://www.oim.org.co/modulos/contenido/default.asp?idmodulo=145>.

¹¹⁷¹ Human Rights Watch, *You'll Learn Not to Cry*, 113-114.

¹¹⁷² ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Program*, project document, Geneva, September 17, 2003.

¹¹⁷³ U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, December 5, 2005.

¹¹⁷⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Colombia*, Section 5. See also U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005*.

¹¹⁷⁵ U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, December 5, 2005.

¹¹⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005*. See also IOM, "COLOMBIA - Migrant Information Center", [online], February 20, 2004; available from <http://www.iom.int/en/archive/PBN200204.shtml>.

¹¹⁷⁷ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2005*.

¹¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Bogota, *reporting*, December 5, 2005.

¹¹⁸⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Prevention and Elimination of CDL and CSEC*, project document, 68 and 72.

¹¹⁸¹ ECPAT International CSEC Database, (Colombia; accessed June 30, 2005).

¹¹⁸² 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.

¹¹⁸³ World Vision, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor Through Education in Colombia*, project document, Washington, D.C., 2005.

Colombia's National Development Plan and the Education Development Plan 2003-2006 list increasing educational access and improving educational quality and efficiency as priorities.¹¹⁸⁴ The Ministry of Education implements programs to improve school infrastructure in conflict zones, to promote the efficient use of human and financial resources, to improve literacy, and to increase access to basic and secondary education for rural, displaced, minority, and border communities.¹¹⁸⁵ The Colombian Federation of Educators and the government have begun a program to assist violence-threatened teachers through investigations and teacher relocations.¹¹⁸⁶ In November of 2005, the government of Colombia signed an agreement with the World Bank for a USD 86.4 million loan, part of which will be used to provide payments to families that meet certain conditions such as ensuring their children attend school.¹¹⁸⁷ Through another loan from the World Bank, the government is working to improve educational quality and access in the country's rural areas.¹¹⁸⁸ Additional funds from the World Bank are being used to improve basic and secondary education in the department of Cundinamarca.¹¹⁸⁹

¹¹⁸⁴ Katarina Tomašeski, *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, para. 12 and 18.

¹¹⁸⁵ Ministerio de Educación, *Grafica de Indicadores Generales del Proyecto*, [online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from <http://www.mineducacion.gov.co/documentos/proyectos.asp?s=7>.

¹¹⁸⁶ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Colombia*, Section 2a.

¹¹⁸⁷ The loan will provide cash payments to families from December 2005 to December 2006. See World Bank, *Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan in the Amount of US\$86.4 Million to the Republic of Colombia for a Social Safety Net Project*, 7-8.

¹¹⁸⁸ The USD 40 million, 5-year, 8-month loan was awarded in 2000. See World Bank, *Rural Education Project*, [online] [cited June 1, 2004]; available from <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=104231&piPK=73230&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=228424&ProjectId=P050578>.

¹¹⁸⁹ This USD 21.4 million, 5-year loan was funded in 2003. World Bank, *Cundimarca Education Quality Improvement [sic]*, [online] [cited June 30, 2005]; available from <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=104231&piPK=73230&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=228424&ProjectId=P077757>.