

Morocco

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> ²⁵⁸²	
Population, children, 7-14 years, 1998-1999:	5,226,523
Working children, 7-14 years (%), 1998-1999:	13.2
Working boys, 7-14 years (%), 1998-1999:	13.5
Working girls, 7-14 years (%), 1998-1999:	12.8
Working children by sector, 7-14 years (%)1998-1999:	
- Agriculture	60.6
- Manufacturing	8.2
- Services	10.1
- Other	21.1
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	107.2
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	88.8
School attendance, children 7-14 years (%), 1998:	71.6
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	83.9
ILO Convention 138:	1/6/2000
ILO Convention 182:	1/26/2001
CRC:	6/21/1993
CRCOPAC:	5/22/2002
CRCOPSC:	10/2/2001
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The majority of working children in Morocco are found on family farms.²⁵⁸³ Doukala, an agricultural province in the northwest, contains the highest concentration of working children, estimated at 26.1 percent of total children working in the country.²⁵⁸⁴ Children in rural areas are reportedly six times more likely to be working than those in urban areas.²⁵⁸⁵ Recent inspection visits by the Moroccan Government found that many children work in the construction and carpentry sectors.²⁵⁸⁶ Some also work for mechanics.²⁵⁸⁷

There are also children working as artisans, producing textiles and carpets in the industrial sector, and in other light manufacturing activities.²⁵⁸⁸ Children also work as junior artisans in the handicraft industry, many of them beginning their work as apprentices before they reach 12 years.²⁵⁸⁹ Some Moroccan boys are subject to involuntary servitude as apprentices for mechanics and artisans.²⁵⁹⁰ Boys are also subject to forced labor in the construction industry.²⁵⁹¹

It has been reported that 50,000 children are working as domestic servants in Morocco.²⁵⁹² These children are primarily girls, as young as 6 years.²⁵⁹³ They work long hours and are often subjected to physical and verbal abuse and nonpayment of wages.²⁵⁹⁴

Reports indicate that approximately 7,000 street children live and work in Casablanca, with another 8,000 living in other major cities such as Marrakech, Fes, and Meknes.²⁵⁹⁵ Street children in Morocco engage in diverse forms of work including selling cigarettes, begging, shining shoes, and washing cars.²⁵⁹⁶ Street children are predominantly boys, though girls have been seen on the street in increasing numbers. These girls are commonly former household maids who have fled abusive employers.²⁵⁹⁷ Street children are vulnerable to being forced into illicit activities such as prostitution and selling drugs to collect money for gang leaders.²⁵⁹⁸

The World Bank, ILO, and UNICEF have received official reports of child prostitution in the cities of Agadir, Meknès, Tangier, Marrakech, Fez, and Casablanca.²⁵⁹⁹ Former child domestic servants are especially likely to engage in prostitution.²⁶⁰⁰ Isolated cases of child pornography have been reported in the country, but the Minister of Human Rights and the Parliamentary Commission on Social Affairs indicate that it goes mostly undetected.²⁶⁰¹ Sex tourism of Moroccan boys and girls is a problem.²⁶⁰² Reports indicate that this is especially true in popular tourist sites that attract customers from the Gulf and Europe.²⁶⁰³

Morocco is a source country for children trafficked to the Middle East and Europe for sexual exploitation and forced labor.²⁶⁰⁴ The internal trafficking of children remains a problem as girls are often forced into involuntary servitude as maids.²⁶⁰⁵ Reports from UNICEF and national NGOs indicate that young girls have been recruited from rural villages in the Atlas Mountains to work as maids in cities.²⁶⁰⁶ Unofficial reports claim that employees in some hotels have been involved in the transportation of young girls from rural to urban areas for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.²⁶⁰⁷ Children trafficked internally and abroad for sexual exploitation are usually deceived regarding the type of work that awaits them.²⁶⁰⁸ Also, traffickers may seize their travel documents and force them to work until they have paid off travel costs and other alleged expenses.²⁶⁰⁹ The Law on the Protection of Children states that persons under 18 years who cannot support themselves economically and whose parents cannot be reached or identified are considered eligible for adoption; adoptive parents are also entitled to a stipend from the Government.²⁶¹⁰ There has been some concern that girls are being adopted at higher rates than boys and that they are then allegedly being forced to work.²⁶¹¹ In addition, children are also rented out to beg.²⁶¹²

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Morocco is 15 years.²⁶¹³ The minimum age restriction applies to all sectors but covers only registered enterprises having more than five employees, which means that (non-industrial) farms, grocery shops, artisans' shops, non-formal sector businesses, and family enterprises are not included.²⁶¹⁴ Children under 16 years are prohibited from working more than 10 hours per day, which includes at least a 1-hour break.²⁶¹⁵ Children under 16 years are also not permitted to work between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in non-agricultural work, or between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. in agricultural activities.²⁶¹⁶ The law prohibits employment of children under 18 years in stone quarries or for underground work carried out in mines.²⁶¹⁷ Employers may not permit workers under 18 years to use products, substances, equipment, or machinery deemed potentially hazardous to their health or safety, or permit

minors to perform activities that pose an extreme danger to them, exceed their capacities, or result in a breach of public morals.²⁶¹⁸

The Ministry of Employment has responsibility for enforcing and implementing child labor laws.²⁶¹⁹ The law provides for fines to be levied against employers who actively recruit children under 15 years.²⁶²⁰

Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by law.²⁶²¹ The minimum age for military recruitment is 18 years.²⁶²² The prostitution of children, child trafficking, and corruption of minors are prohibited under the law. Those found to be involved in or who fail to prevent trafficking, including government officials, are subject to fines and prison sentences of 6 months to 20 years.²⁶²³ Anyone who incites or procures a minor under 18 years for prostitution is subject to a prison sentence of 2 to 5 years and a fine.²⁶²⁴ Any person who uses violence, threats, or fraud to abduct (or attempt to abduct) a minor under 18 years, or who facilitates the abduction of a minor, may be imprisoned for 5 to 10 years. If the minor is under 12 years, the sentence is doubled.²⁶²⁵

The law enables inspectors and police to bring charges against employers of children under 15 years in all sectors, including informal activities.²⁶²⁶ However, according to USDOS, the informal sector is not closely monitored by labor inspectors due to insufficient resources.²⁶²⁷ None of the inspectors are exclusively focused on investigating child labor violations, and they lack the authority to inspect private residences for the presence of child domestic servants.²⁶²⁸ During the first 6 months of 2008, the Ministry of Employment made 94 observations of child labor and issued 29 fines and citations for employing children under 15 years. During the same period, 616 observations were made, and 19 fines were given for illegally employing children between 15 and 18 years.²⁶²⁹

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for implementing and enforcing anti-trafficking activities and regulations. The Government works closely with Spanish authorities to prevent human trafficking across the Strait of Gibraltar.²⁶³⁰

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

The Government is pursuing a National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labor (2005-2015).²⁶³¹ The focus of the national plan includes improving implementation and raising awareness of child labor laws and improving basic education. Sectoral plans target children in agriculture and herding, the industrial sector (carpets and stitching), metal and auto work, construction, the hospitality industry and food production, street children, and children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.²⁶³² The Government has also opened centers in Casablanca and Marrakech to help street children and victims of sexual exploitation, violence, and abuse.²⁶³³ In March 2008, the Government of Morocco committed USD 2.6 million to improve the income-generating capacity of poor families at risk of sending their children to work as domestic laborers.²⁶³⁴

The Government of Morocco is participating in a USDOL-funded 3-year USD 3 million project to combat the worst forms of child labor. The project is implemented by Management Systems International and aims to withdraw 4,000 children and prevent 4,000 children from the worst forms of child labor.²⁶³⁵ The Government of Morocco participated in a USDOL-funded USD 3.1 million, 4.5-year (August 2003 to March 2008) project to combat the worst forms of child labor, primarily among child domestic workers. The project withdrew or prevented 11,882 children from exploitive labor.²⁶³⁶ The Government of Morocco participated in a USDOL-funded, USD 2,251,000, 4.5-year, ILO-IPEC-implemented project to combat rural child labor. By its conclusion in June 2008, the project had withdrawn 3,994 and prevented 7,868 children from the worst forms of child labor.²⁶³⁷

The Government of Morocco is participating in two additional ILO-IPEC implemented projects. The French Government is providing USD 4,834,600 in funding for a 3-year (November 2006 to December 2009) ILO-IPEC regional Francophone Africa project to contribute to the abolition of child labor. The project is operating in Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali,

Morocco, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund is providing funding for a USD 711,500 3-year (July 2008 to June 2011) multisectoral project to combat gender-based violence through empowering boys and girls.²⁶³⁸ According to Morocco's Ministry of Justice, public prosecutors and judges are provided with training on human trafficking issues.²⁶³⁹ Additionally, the Government provides training on human trafficking issues to its consular officials, and each of Morocco's 20 tribunals has received training specifically related to trafficking in children.²⁶⁴⁰ Morocco's Ministry of Interior has also reported that border security officials and territorial police officers have had training on human trafficking issues.²⁶⁴¹

²⁵⁸² For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Morocco, *Le nouveau code de travail*, Dahir n. 1-03-194 du 14 rejec 1424 (11 septembre 2003) portant promulgation de la loi n. 65-99 relative au Code du travail, (May 6, 2004), article 143; available from <http://www.maroc.ma/NR/rdonlyres/9A951844-BCA6-4468-9EFD-7460E229E00F/0/codedetravail.pdf>. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, December 14, 2007. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Morocco," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119122.htm>.

²⁵⁸³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d. See also ILO, World Bank, and UNICEF, *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, UCW Project, Geneva, March 2003, 2; available from http://www.ucw-project.org/pdf/publications/report_morocco_draft.pdf.

²⁵⁸⁴ ILO, World Bank, and UNICEF, *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, 11 and 20.

²⁵⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 2.

²⁵⁸⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁵⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁸⁸ *Ibid.* See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Periodic Reports of States Parties due in 2004: Morocco*, prepared by Government of Morocco, pursuant to Article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of

Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, July 15, 2005, para 137; available from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G05/428/21/PDF/G0542821.pdf?OpenElement>. See also ILO, World Bank, and UNICEF, *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, 26.

²⁵⁸⁹ ILO, World Bank, and UNICEF, *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, 26. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁵⁹⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Morocco (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105658.pdf>.

²⁵⁹¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁹² ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Morocco (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2008 [cited January 23, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloilc&document=1504&chapter=3&query=C182%40ref%2B%23YEAR%3D2008&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

²⁵⁹³ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁹⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Morocco: 'Hidden' Children Face Abuse*, [online] December 20, 2005 [cited February 3, 2009]; available from http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/12/21/morocc12278_txt.htm. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report-2008: Morocco." See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, January 21, 2009.

²⁵⁹⁵ Imane Belhaj, "Shelters for Morocco's Street Children Are a Drop in an Ocean," *Magharebia*, March 14, 2008; available from http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/reportage/2008/03/14/reportage-01.

²⁵⁹⁶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Periodic Reports of States Parties: Morocco*, para 137.

²⁵⁹⁷ ILO, World Bank, and UNICEF, *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, para 64.

²⁵⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 29-30.

²⁵⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 28. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, January 21, 2009.

²⁶⁰⁰ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, section 6c.

²⁶⁰¹ ILO, World Bank, and UNICEF, *Understanding Children's Work in Morocco*, 28 and 29.

²⁶⁰² U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Morocco." See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, December 14, 2007.

²⁶⁰³ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, section 6b.

²⁶⁰⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6.

²⁶⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰⁶ *Ibid.* See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, section 6b.

²⁶⁰⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 5.

²⁶⁰⁸ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, February 13, 2009, section 6c.

²⁶⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹⁰ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Summary Record of the 882nd Meeting, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties (continued): Second Periodic Report of Morocco (continued)*, CRC/C/SR/.882, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, July 16, 2003, paras 18-19; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/8e3b9ac683d8dd0ac1256d7a004a2b52/\\$FILE/G0342258.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/8e3b9ac683d8dd0ac1256d7a004a2b52/$FILE/G0342258.pdf).

²⁶¹¹ *Ibid.*, para 43.

²⁶¹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁶¹³ Government of Morocco, *Le nouveau Code du travail*, article 143. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁶¹⁴ Management Systems International official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, September 23, 2009.

²⁶¹⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁶¹⁶ Government of Morocco, *Le nouveau Code du travail*, article 172.

²⁶¹⁷ *Ibid.*, article 179.

²⁶¹⁸ *Ibid.*, articles 181 and 287.

²⁶¹⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁶²⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶²¹ Government of Morocco, *Le nouveau Code du travail*, article 10.

²⁶²² Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Morocco," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/>.

²⁶²³ U.S. Department of State, "Morocco," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100602.htm>.

²⁶²⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Second Periodic Reports of States Parties Due in 2000: Morocco*, prepared by Government of Morocco, pursuant to Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, February 12, 2003, paras 642 and 643; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/22c537968b14bcfbc1256d2d0037f5b4/\\$FILE/G0340393.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/22c537968b14bcfbc1256d2d0037f5b4/$FILE/G0340393.pdf).

²⁶²⁵ *Ibid.*, para 660.

²⁶²⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Morocco," section 6d.

²⁶²⁷ Ibid. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 24.

²⁶²⁸ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, February 13, 2009*, section 8e.

²⁶²⁹ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 25.

²⁶³⁰ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, February 13, 2009*, section 8g.

²⁶³¹ Government of Morocco, *Written Communication*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (December 5, 2006) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Washington, DC, February 28, 2007. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 4.

²⁶³² UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Periodic Reports of States Parties: Morocco*, paras 98-99, 128-129.

²⁶³³ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, February 13, 2009*, section 9b.

²⁶³⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Morocco."

²⁶³⁵ Management Systems International, *Combating Child Labor through Education in Morocco (Dima Adros)*, Technical Progress Report, Rabat, August 30, 2008, 2, 3, G-9.

²⁶³⁶ Management Systems International, *Combating Child Labor Through Education in Morocco (Adros)*, Final Technical Progress Report, Rabat, March 31, 2008, 2 and G-26.

²⁶³⁷ ILO-IPEC, *Combating Child Labour in Morocco by Creating an Enabling National Environment and Developing Direct Action Against Worst Forms of Child Labour in Rural Areas*, Final Technical Progress Report, Geneva, June 30, 2008, cover page, 24.

²⁶³⁸ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

²⁶³⁹ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, February 13, 2009*, section 8e.

²⁶⁴⁰ Ibid., section 9k.

²⁶⁴¹ Ibid.

Mozambique

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in rural areas of Mozambique work on cotton, tea, and tobacco commercial farms as well as family farms and small plots known as *machambas*.²⁶⁴² They also herd livestock and work as domestics.²⁶⁴³ Children sell products in shops, stalls, and on the street and work in restaurants and informal bars known as *barracas*.²⁶⁴⁴ Some girls employed in *barracas* also engage in prostitution.²⁶⁴⁵ Children cross the border from Zimbabwe into Mozambique to work in agriculture, construction, informal mining, prostitution, and street vending.²⁶⁴⁶

Children are trafficked internally and to South Africa and Swaziland for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor in agriculture, manual work, and domestic service. Girls trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation are sent to brothels and popular nightclubs.²⁶⁴⁷ Girls from Zimbabwe and Malawi are also trafficked to Mozambique for commercial sexual exploitation and forced domestic service. Boys are trafficked

within the country and to South Africa to work on farms and in mines.²⁶⁴⁸

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Mozambique is 15 years.²⁶⁴⁹ The minimum age for apprenticeships is 12 years. In other exceptional cases, the law allows children between 12 and 15 years to work with the joint approval of the Ministries of Labor, Health, and Education; these children are issued legal documents establishing the conditions under which they are allowed to work.²⁶⁵⁰ The law restricts the conditions under which minors between 15 and 18 years may work and commits employers to provide for their education and professional training. Children are prohibited from working more than 38 hours per week and more than 7 hours per day.²⁶⁵¹ Minors under 18 years are not permitted to work in unhealthy, dangerous, or physically taxing occupations; must undergo a medical examination; and must be paid at least minimum wage. Violators of child labor laws are subject to fines.²⁶⁵²