
**In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and
Child Labor in the Production of Goods**

Sierra Leone

Submitted to:

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
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Summaries of Goods Researched

Sierra Leone

In-Country research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Researcher: [REDACTED]

Based on previous studies conducted by a number of agencies referenced in the annotated bibliography and interviews conducted the following can be concluded:

1. DIAMONDS

- Forced Child Labor exists in the production of diamonds in Sierra Leone.
- Children are placed in mines by parents or other relatives to bring income to the families. They do not have the power to resist working there. They are enslaved.
- Children dig, carry, wash or sieve gravel to search for diamonds; they also work underground in these mines.
- Most of the children involved in this do not have any benefits in doing or performing the tasks; they do not go to school, their health is at risk as they are exposed to mining equipment, insects, cold, and excessive sunlight.

2. QUARRYING/STONE CRUSHING

- Research shows Forced Child Labor exists in this sector as children work in very difficult and hazardous environments
- Children's right to education, health recreation and other benefits are abused as they work endlessly without any of the afore-mentioned benefits
- Children sit in the sun for long hours breaking stones and inhaling fumes from nearby machines
- They carry heavy stones in wheelbarrows which is very strenuous work for a child.

3. FISHING

- Child Labor exists in some fishing communities in Sierra Leone, children work in boats that go out to sea for long hours.
- Exposed to cold, and tumultuous weather out there, work long hours without proper rest.
- Children do not receive pay except if they work for a person other than their relative and even what they are paid is very minimal.
- They miss out on school, most of these children live along these wharfs and are made to sit and mend fishing nets or for those who do not go out carry fish to cars waiting to transport to the market or storage rooms.

4. FURNITURE

There was no evidence of this from any other source except one mentioned by [REDACTED].

5. VEGETABLES

- Few agencies interviewed have made reference to the use of forced/child labor in vegetable production
- It is understood that children are deprived of school and basic rights to carry out these tasks.
- With regards to vegetable production, there is not much evidence indicating the existence of forced labor in the production of this good. This is because no agency has actually done any study or work in that direction.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 10th March 2008
Time of Interview: 12.00 P.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED] Development Officer
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

The [REDACTED] has a mandate to ensure that vulnerable groups of women and children are protected and provided with appropriate services. The organization also coordinates various activities of child protection and other women's organizations.

Types of Institution:

Government: X

Local [REDACTED] _____

International [REDACTED] _____

Worker's Union _____

Private Business/Company _____

Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

To a very large extent forced labor or child labor in Sierra Leone takes the form of domestic servitude. In most cases children are victims of this when someone from the bigger towns or city comes with the pretense of wanting to help and end up exploiting them through child labor, prostitution and other forms of exploitation.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Quite a lot. As an institution responsible for children's affairs we have been presented with a lot of these cases across the country and also work closely with other agencies who

work with some of these victims. There have been instances when children had to be rescued from mining pits by World Vision and other partners.

3) What type of forced labor is used (debt bondage, indentured labor)

Mostly domestic labor wherein children are forced to work from dusk to dawn. In some cases they are made to work on farms and sell items on the streets and a whole lot of exploitation takes place. Debt bondage is uncommon in Sierra Leone these days; however, as I have said children are very vulnerable to being placed in exploitative situations what with the rising trend in household poverty. In the mining areas children are sent to work to earn a living for their families and in some cases the children themselves go willingly as they see this as a way of getting something to survive on.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Generally in mining activities, fishing and stone breaking in construction areas. Petty trading, carrying heavy loads in marketplaces. Salt-mining is becoming another activity in which they are involved.

Researcher's Note: No additional information was provided by the interviewee regarding salt-mining

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

Initially it is through their vulnerable status that abused persons become victims. It starts as wanting to help out a relation's child or an unaccompanied child ends up being lured into this as a means of livelihood and end up subjected to harsh conditions of living, and they end up in worse shape than they were before.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

In most instances they (children) are placed with other families who subject them to these tasks and in other cases like with stone breaking some small construction groups hire them on a daily basis to break stones and these are sold to those building houses. Generally they are not paid and even when they are paid what they receive is never commensurate to the labor put in the job.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Different tasks by different age groups/gender. However in mining they (children) are made to bail water from the pit, dig, sieve and sometimes dive into the holes as it is easier for them to than an adult. With stone breaking they break stones and transport them to

roadsides for vehicles to carry out to construction sites. In fishing, tasks performed by children include bailing water out of the boats as most times these leak through, mending nets and diving into water to get fish that are stuck in the net or when the net gets caught down.

8) With regards to those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Salt, diamonds, stones, fish, palm oil, rice, vegetables and gold.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Except for diamonds and gold but I want to believe all other goods are for domestic consumption; of course it is never enough to be exported.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

It varies with the type of job. Boys between the ages of nine to 18 are mostly into mining, stone breaking, and fishing. Girls perform household chores. Girls as young as five are given out to relatives or wealthier families

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Of course not. The safety standards in most of these jobs are appalling, with mining, fishing and stone breaking it is very dangerous and poses as a health hazard to these kids. With regards to mining for instance children working in dangerous pits filled with water or digging through heavy dirt is really risky to their health and well-being, of course with fishing even with adults it is a risky job being at sea in those dug out boats with little protection or life jackets. Stone breaking is as hazardous as the other two as I hear the children burn tires in place of dynamite to blast the big rocks which they end up breaking into smaller stones, the fumes from the tires burning and even the dust from the stones are serious health hazards.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

There are a lot of risks, most of these kids end up being so isolated as a result of their activities in these places. With mining and stone breaking the risks are very high as they are made to dive in water, go into dangerous pits and with stone breaking they burn tires to soften the stones for breaking and inhale all the fumes from this, with fishing they are out in the cold for so long and end up being very ill. Loss of self-esteem is also a common factor with these children and they see themselves as not good and therefore

would not want to move away and interact with other children. For their families maybe the risk of losing these children is the only risk I would see, since most people in Sierra Leone do not see anything wrong with these children working their families would definitely not be isolated. There is coercion (mostly psychological). For example in this country children are brought up to believe they have the responsibility to work and take care of parents, at an early age some parents use this method to get their children to do dirty difficult and dangerous jobs and the children in turn would not refuse or complain and even in cases when there is serious abuse children would be scared to complain or even think of leaving for fear of breaking the tradition and end up hurting their parents. The parents in most cases would not force them physically but words used or statements are enough to keep these children enslaved for a long time. Some employers or wealthy relatives would use the same strategy to further abuse the children placed in their care.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Most of the time no as these kids have been moved from one region to another and also they themselves feel they would fail their families if they leave so they actually stay to please them even if they have the opportunity to leave.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

Country-wide but specific regions for specific type of activities, [REDACTED] and other areas in the South and East for mining, stone breaking mostly Freetown and peninsula areas; fishing also Freetown and peninsula areas. Palm oil is mostly in southern parts of the country. Vegetables in the north and parts of western rural areas.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc?)

Interviewee:

It varies with the type of job. In most mining and fishing situations boys are the ones involved; with domestic labor it is mostly girls who are employed and are also sexually exploited. In Sierra Leone it is difficult to hear of forced or exploitive labor occurring among adults. I do not know if this is because almost every person is concerned mainly with child labor issues.

16) How is trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

There is a relation in that most of the people involved in forced labor have been deceived and transported by another person.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee mentions that mostly children are moved from one village to a bigger town or the city but does not actually indicate any routes used in Sierra Leone.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

There are quite huge numbers but since we have not as a ministry done any studies I would not say the percentages off the top of my head. Anyway I can refer you to [REDACTED] who has done a similar study recently.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

Interviewee is the professional head of the [REDACTED] and is involved with a lot of agencies and issues regarding children and women. She is currently Co-chair of the [REDACTED] set up by Government and so interacts with a good number of groups working on trafficking and exploitive labor. She has a fair idea of what the issues are around child/forced labor generally but could not authoritatively give concrete evidence on the issue either because it is not available or just holding it back for fear of reprisals. She has, however, been cooperative more than she has ever been before in granting this interview.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 6th March 2008
Time of Interview: 2.00 P.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED] Project Manager,

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

The [REDACTED] is an international [REDACTED] working on various issues but particularly women's and children's protection issues.

Types of Institution:

Government: _____

Local NGO: _____

International [REDACTED]: X

Worker's Union: _____

Private Business/Company: _____

Other: _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

Forced labor occurs in a number of areas and it is mostly with children who are forced to work to support their families or go out themselves to find income for themselves when they do not get it from parents or guardians. We know just after the civil war there were terrible cases of children in the mines but lately labor has taken another form which is mostly prostitution and domestic labor. This does not mean that there are no longer instances of labor in other areas. As an organization the [REDACTED] is sensitizing parents to stop sending children to work in mining and these other difficult work places.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Yes we are currently implementing a project called “Cycle Project” which involves rescuing those already in labor and those at “risk” of entering in so we have come across many cases; even though like I said it is mostly with domestic labor or sexual exploitation. The cycle project deals only with children in or prone to being used in forced or exploitive labor. This is an education project funded by the USDOL, activities include getting vulnerable children from off the street or exploitive situations and supporting them to enroll in schools

3) What type of labor is used (indentured servitude, debt bondage)

Interviewee:

Most of the time the children are in indentured servitude.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Fishing, mining, selling on the streets, begging, petty stealing and domestic labor

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

They are sometimes lured by neighbors or other family members who take them from villages to care for them and they are subjected to these conditions. Otherwise it is mostly the parents themselves who send their children into these situations, claiming they are poor so they need the children to perform these tasks to support their own efforts in bringing income.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Family members and other well-to-do people from other areas who promise big profits. They are paid in cash or kind as the case may be but most often their services are just used.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

In vegetable gardening, weeding, planting and selling the products afterwards, fishing is mostly getting water out of the boats and drawing lines that have been sent out to sea and mending nets, with mining getting into small holes to get dirt and sieve for diamonds or gold.

8) With regards to those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Diamonds, vegetables, fish.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Domestic consumption for vegetables and other agricultural products; export for diamonds.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

Boys and girls five to 12 or 13 years are mostly involved. In mining boys 10 to 15 years, vegetable farming girls nine to 18 yrs and fishing it is mostly boys 10 years and above.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

The environments are mostly hazardous. In stone breaking workers inhale the dust and smoke from burning tires; while in fishing, workers dive into water and stay out at sea which is especially dangerous when there is a storm. In mining, there is a risk of dirt collapsing in the mine pits whilst workers are inside and there is also risk of river blindness which is rampant in most of the mining areas as the insect responsible for this is found mostly in these places.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

Physically children are not mature enough for the types of jobs they do and with all the risks of mines collapsing, sicknesses from the things they inhale or are faced with. The trauma of working without rest and sometimes threats of beatings or starvation from parents or guardians also has its effects on these children.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Most of them live far from where they originally came from and so cannot go back; others are threatened with beatings and all sorts of terrible things so they are forced to stay

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

For agriculture it is up country Waterloo and [REDACTED] western rural areas,- for fishing and other types of farming and Kabala (north) for vegetables. Tongo/Kono for diamond mining.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc?)

Interviewee:

Boys five to 12 years old for mining and generally children within this age range for all types of chores.

16) How is trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

N/A The interviewee did not give any answer to this

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

I don't know specifically for the production of goods, but the numbers are high for other areas.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

■ has funding from DOL to work with children in forced labor or at "risk" of engaging in forced labor but when interviewed the Programme Manager could not bring out the issues as would have been expected of someone working directly on forced labor issues. With reference to that he may have made that response without actually thinking of it as being trafficking. He clearly could not bring that out for both issues in a manner I would have expected of one working on a child labor project.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 6th March 2008

Time of Interview: 11.00 A.M.

Location of Interview: Freetown

Interviewer's Name:

Interviewee's Name and Official Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

Brief Description of the Organization:

██████████ is responsible for employment issues in Sierra Leone and also closely works with workers' unions country-wide.

Types of Institution:

Government: X

Local ██████████

International ██████████

Worker's Union _____

Private Business/Company _____

Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

In Sierra Leone child/forced labor is seen as a very normal practice therefore you see a lot of parents giving their children out to work or young men gathering together to work on farms or other areas where they are grossly exploited. ██████████ we are aware that it is important for children to work but not be involved in the worst forms of labor as is seen in the mines, quarrying and fishing areas mostly.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Not really, but I have worked with partners who have dealt with forced labor victims and so I am aware that there are quite a lot of these around.

3) What type of forced labor is used (indentured servitude, debt bondage)?

Interviewee:

One interesting thing if you move around factories or farms and other areas the issue of child/forced labor is not frowned upon as it is part of our culture for children to work as and when members of their family want them to. We have a lot of casual workers (12-16 years old) as people are always excited about taking their children especially to big towns but when they get there they are exposed to street hawking, begging etc.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Several sectors are involved in child labor and/or forced labor, ranging from selling/breaking stones for building houses, fishing and food preparation in cookery stalls.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

Mostly family members but sometimes they (children) themselves decide to go to look for work to support their needs.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

They are not really formally employed but as has been stated go as a result of family members asking them or they give up themselves willingly. They are sometimes paid very little and in other circumstances children are just given food (not always enough) and no money.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

At mining sites various tasks ranging from digging, sifting dirt for boys and cooking for girls. It is mostly the children who do most of the small tasks. Both boys and girls are engaged in stone crushing, in fishing boys are most often the ones involved.

8) With regards to those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Most parents engage their children in stone breaking around the peninsula, [and](#) diamond mining even though there is a lot of campaigning against the involvement of children in mining activities lately. We also do regular inspections at various sites but cannot go to other places as a result of lack of funds.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

No. Goods cannot be exported as the people doing this are themselves poor people; I understand however that Government is planning to export stones to The Gambia to help in construction business in that country. With this I know there would be an increase in demand for workers in this area and would double or triple the amount of children already engaged in this; for us we would like to encourage parents not to send their children there but also would like to see our national income increase in this area so we would need to work things out fast. Stone crushing in Sierra Leone would increase if the plan to export them to The Gambia is concluded and this would see an obvious rise in the number of children engaging/being used in stone crushing.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

Depends on what they want done but we know mostly boys are engaged in difficult circumstances. Younger boys eight to 15 perform less difficult tasks and the older ones are made to work more in diamond mining and stone crushing

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

I cannot say it is totally healthy and safe but generally it is not as bad as other countries I have heard of.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee is referring to child labor generally, not on specific sectors.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of "coercion" or "menace of penalty"?

Interviewee:

Hazards in the mines, dust may have adverse effects in the lungs of workers especially young children. In farming, exposure to dangerous pesticides, and some strenuous activities like lifting heavy loads. █████ schools in village settings use children to carry very heavy loads and this suppresses growth and internal well-being.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

With those children in koranic schools they dare not leave or attempt to as this is what their parents believe in and there is no way they can go against their parents' religious beliefs. I am sure with the other areas also as long as they are children they do not have a say in what they want or do not want; their family members or guardians or even the community determines what should happen to these children.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

Quarrying occurs in the Western Area and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (East) to supply those building houses. Of course mining is in all mining areas ([REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], etc.)

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g boys versus girls etc)?

Interviewee:

Boys are more in than girls for quarrying and most of the other hard jobs, these boys do not see anything wrong with it as they receive small sums of money. Same situation applies for fishing and mining, apart from the fact that more people abuse boys than girls in these situations. It is also evident that more boys are willingly go in search of these jobs than girls

16) How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

The link is the employment component. Also we have cases of adults being hired by security agencies that are paid huge sums from companies yet pay little sums to these guards who are deployed to the companies paying for their services. We will start looking into these but do not know if anything can be done soon.

Researcher's Note/Comment: Guards are exploited and underpaid by the security firms who hire them but they are told what they would be paid at the start of work and are not forced to work like the interviewee would want us to believe. The interviewee has just received a few complaints from some guards and when these have been questioned. Their case is not considered trafficking.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

N/A The interviewee did not respond as he does not know.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

Interviewee is a member of a number of committees working on forced/child labor issues but could not offer much documented evidence of forced labor in the production of goods.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 7th March 2008
Time of Interview: 9.15 A.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED] Project Officer,
[REDACTED]
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

[REDACTED] is working with other child protection agencies in Sierra Leone to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and put together programs to protect children from all forms of abuse.

Types of Institution:

Government:

Local [REDACTED] _____

International [REDACTED]: X

Worker's Union _____

Private Business/Company _____

Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

Forced/Child labor takes a lot of forms in Sierra Leone; domestic servitude, child sexual exploitation, hard labor on farms, in the mines and construction areas in recent times. [REDACTED] did research on child trafficking and I will make that available to you.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

There have been quite a number of cases of children in situations we would call child labor. For example children are taken from the provinces and brought to the city on the pretext of giving them proper educational opportunities but end up working round the clock at home on the street and never make it to school. We do also know, however, that

a lot of children live on the street and work to get money for survival which is sometimes not harmful.

3) What type of forced labor is used (debt bondage, indentured labor)

Interviewee:

Mostly domestic labor/servitude and prostitution, but I must say I have never come across any in the production of goods in the formal sector. There is a lot of forced labor in homes and informal businesses but not in formal and big businesses like factories.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

As I have mentioned earlier most of what we would call forced labor is seen in many quarters as a 'search for survival', anyway with regards to children in these situations you would find them in mining activities and agriculture especially vegetable production and fishing.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

It has already been stated; through deception and sometimes callous attitude of some parents and also some of the children are themselves lured into work when they live on the street. In the mines parents are known to encourage children to work and fetch money. This is quite evident in [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and other mining areas in the country. Also, the issue of migrant workers is similar whereby people move to these areas and end up being exploited. The same goes for working on farms; children are sent to work on someone's farm for a fee. Bonded labor is hardly evident these days. Debt bondage was common but even that is fading away.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Mostly small-scale mining groups and for farming people are employed at 'peak times' (harvest and cultivation) and they are usually paid a very minimal fee. For adults they organize themselves to help on someone else's farm so when it is their turn they would be helped also.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

For mining children are involved in fetching water from the pit shoveling, digging and sometimes diving into pools in the pit. For farms activities include weeding, breaking stones and transporting goods in vehicles when someone buys.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Individuals involved in production of goods make rice, vegetables and other foodstuffs, as well as diamonds, and granite stones for building houses.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Mainly domestic consumption these are small farms (subsistence farming). Vegetables are taken from up country and brought to Freetown but none are exported.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

Mostly children nine to 18 years old.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee just gave a general idea of what age brackets are really ever involved in work using forced child labor and did not provide information on age/gender per each good.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

In mining areas and quarrying it is not safe or healthy at all as they are exposed to a lot of illnesses. There have been instances of children drowning in pits especially during the rainy season. River blindness is rampant also as the mines are breeding grounds for filariasis (a kind of virus responsible for river blindness).

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of "coercion" or "menace of penalty"?

Interviewee:

Physical risk- workload too heavy and also sometimes threats of beatings.
Psychosocial- loss of education, recreation and normal growth as they lose their childhood, which in turn brings in a lot of stress. Some are even sexually exploited.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Since most of them live with parents or guardians they cannot leave, and even with those away from home they are not really enslaved but work to make ends meet and can move away to another location when they want to.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

Cities and big towns in the South, East and North.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc)?

Interviewee:

Boys within the age range of 10 to 18 are more prone to engaging or being engaged in situations like that.

16) How is trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

Maybe the link is the deceptive way in which they are sometimes brought on board. In other countries I suppose trafficking is done mainly for forced labor.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

Our report states numbers but not in the production of goods so I leave it to you to go through that.

Researcher's Note: Report included in the annotated bibliography.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

Again interviewee has spoken about forced labor in other areas but does not state out rightly the use of forced/child labor in the production of goods

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 12th March 2008

Time of Interview: 2.00 P.M.

Location of Interview: Freetown

Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]

Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED]

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

[REDACTED] is a federation or parent body of local workers' Unions in Sierra Leone.

Types of Institution:

Government:

Local [REDACTED] _____

International [REDACTED] _____

Worker's Union: X

Private Business/Company _____

Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

I would not say out rightly that forced labor exists in the formal sector in Sierra Leone as we have very vibrant workers' unions all over the country. However I know a lot of child labor exists in the informal and rural settings. It is not known to exist in the formal setting except maybe for very small enterprises (carpentry shops etc). In the more formal institutions child labor is zero. Regarding forced labor for adults, I know long before now Chiefs and marabouts (koranic teachers) would use adults and children to work on their farms without any pay but that has since stopped. Local laws allow chiefs to use people in bonded labor but they hardly ever do so.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Not quite, except that I know there are a lot of children on the streets of Freetown who could well be involved in some kind of child labor or slavery but I can not verify that.

3) What type of forced labor is used (debt bondage, indentured labor)?

Interviewee:

I have said as far as I know it does not really exist but from what I have heard from other sources it is mostly domestic labor and working in the mining areas.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Selling cold water on the street and prostitution and of course working in mines.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

I am sure peer influence and some wicked people lure them into it through deceitfulness.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Individuals and possibly wealthy relatives even though I have not directly worked on this issue when tackling the issues I do always work on.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

I heard selling water and working directly in digging for diamonds.

8) With regards to those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Diamonds, besides the food I know some of these kids sell.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Obviously diamonds are exported.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

I am not sure I can correctly say, but boys are mostly seen on the street and would be more likely to be involved in child labor.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

I know even though forced labor does not exist here some of the factories or industries have poor safety standards and we are working hard to see that the government puts things in place soon.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

A lot of health hazards would be there.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

N/A

Researcher’s Note: The interviewee did not answer. Clearly it seems like he did know or did not want to respond to this particular question.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

Based on what I have heard it is in the city and big towns ([REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]).

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

Boys are more vulnerable to engaging in diamond mining, stone crushing and farming than girls. Girls would do domestic labor, selling of wares and other lighter tasks

16) How is trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

N/A

Researcher’s Note: The interviewee did not respond.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

We have not done any research but I have a document which I am presenting to you to go through.

Researcher's Note: The document mentioned above has been included in the annotated bibliography.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

The interviewee did not seem to have much on the issue of forced labor and was more interested in discussing trade unions' activities even though I tried to bring the issue out in the questions he tended to avoid talking about it. He was very willing though to allow the interview for which reason I would not want to think he was deliberately withholding information.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 14th March 2008

Time of Interview: 9.00 a.m

Location of Interview: Freetown

Interviewer's Name:

Interviewee's Name and Official Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

Brief Description of the Organization:

in Sierra Leone

Types of Institution:

Government: X

Local _____

International _____

Worker's Union _____

Private Business/Company _____

Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

For me I do not think there is forced labor in Sierra Leone as most of the children we claim are in forced or child labor are actually doing it to assist their families to bring income to their households.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

No.

3) What type of forced labor is used (debt bondage, indentured labor)

Interviewee:

What you refer to as forced labor is just children working at home to help their parents/guardians.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

They perform basic domestic chores; sell water or other wares which according to the definition you just gave me is not the worst form of child labor.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

Already said family members make the children work.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work?(In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

N/A

Researcher's Note: The interviewee did not respond, but from the previous discussion he seemed to say the children are not employed by anyone.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Tasks performed include helping to serve food at cookery shops, washing dishes, fetching water, etc.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

I cannot say.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

They are both male and female and are usually below 18 years old.

Researcher's Note: With this the interviewee was only referring to the age of children working with parents or other family members but not in the production of any specific good.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

As far as I know the environments are ok.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

I would not be able to ascertain whether there are any risks since like I said the environments are ok.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

They are in their homes or relative’s homes so I do not see how they would want to leave.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

This is country wide; as long as there are families then you are bound to find them everywhere.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

N/A The interviewee gave no response to this question.

16) How is trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

N/A The interviewee gave no response to this question.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

N/A The interviewee gave no response to this question.

Researcher’s Overall Note/Comments:

Interviewee is quite convinced the issue of forced labor is non-existent in Sierra Leone and could not give any details/evidence of forced/child labor existing in the fishing sector. The fishing industry is where most of the discussion was concentrated as he had worked a lot in fishing sector, he just was not convinced it existed and so from what I observed even if there was any forced labor in this sector he would clearly not agree to it.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 14th March 2008
Time of Interview: 12.00 P.M.
Location of Interview: [REDACTED]
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED],
Coordinator Family Tracing,
[REDACTED]
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

[REDACTED] is a charity organization of the [REDACTED] in Sierra Leone, which implements programs for street and other disadvantaged children. Activities include taking kids from the street and very poor communities rehabilitating and where possible enrolling them in school or other skills training activities. [REDACTED] has counseling, feeding and medical services for all the children who come to their centers.

Types of Institution:

Government: _____
Local [REDACTED]: X
International [REDACTED]: _____
Worker's Union: _____
Private Business/Company: _____
Other: _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

It is known to be taking place in homes, carpentry workshops, mining and fishing areas; but for me I know more about those working in the quarrying areas. These are mostly young children who live with parents or guardians who live around these areas.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

We have had quite a few coming to our centre. They have gone through our rehabilitation sessions and some reunified with 'relatives' and others we cannot trace again.

3) What type of forced labor is used (debt bondage, indentured labor)?

Interviewee:

Most of these kids are staying with relatives who use them so much and they cannot move away from them as they are threatened and sometimes really beaten up so they are more or less like slaves.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

They are involved in a lot of activities but the most common I have seen are stone breaking, quarrying, carpentry, street trading and house maids/boys.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

Like I said, their parents or relatives involve them but in other instances there have been those who have run away from home and get involved with exploiters. In these cases they are made to stay with their so-called 'bosses' and do all sorts of risky jobs. Sometimes they are moved to a totally different location away from their homes.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

With their families they receive no pay except for food, but with some of the people who take these children they are paid very small amounts of money that would barely buy them a plate of rice or loaf of bread.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Tasks involve stone breaking and transporting to road sides for sale, splitting and sawing boards in carpentry shops, cooking and selling in cookery shops, and selling cold water and other small wares on the street.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Stones for building houses, furniture, cooked food.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee did not provide information on what type of furniture.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Goods are for domestic consumption.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

It is mostly both sexes even though in some cases more boys between the ages of nine and 16 years are involved more than girls.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Generally hazardous and traumatic for these children as their very childhood is stolen from them and they are enslaved.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

The children mostly involved in this have serious trauma going through these situations, physically they are not quite ripe for the kind of tasks they perform and so are exposed to a lot of illnesses (body pain, pneumonia etc). Psychologically, like I said they are traumatized and feel worthless and not fit to be with other children. When they come initially they refuse to talk or interact with others.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Those who live with parents do not have anywhere else to go to, with those on the streets far from home they are hardly ever able to leave.

14) In what regions of the country do work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

They work in the city and most of these kids are found in the north and east. [REDACTED]
(East) [REDACTED] (North)

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

More boys than girls based on those I have come across.

16) How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

The relationship is mostly due to the fact that most of those involved have been deceived and transported to another location where they are exploited.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

I do not have accurate numbers as we have not done any formal research but the numbers are quite huge.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

██████████ first of all rescues these children from the situations they are in, and bring them in to the centre or home where these children are counseled and go through the rehabilitation programs available; working on the children to make sure they are healed of the trauma of their experiences and in cases where the children have parents or families that can be contacted, the family tracing is done and after some time they are reunified with their families. In instances when children need to be enrolled in school/ skills training programs this is done. Activities at centre include sports, music and drama to help in the rehabilitation of these children.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 17th March 2008
Time of Interview: 10.00 A.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED], Deputy Director Planning

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:
[REDACTED]

Types of Institution:
Government: X
Local [REDACTED]
International [REDACTED]
Worker's Union _____
Private Business/Company _____
Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:
I don't think forced labor exists in Sierra Leone and even if it does it is quite unlikely it will be in the formal agriculture sector. I have heard quite a number of people talking about forced/child labor but I have not really seen any evidence of it so I cannot attest to it. We however have branches in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] you can talk to the directors there they might be of help.

Researcher's Note: I spoke to the director in [REDACTED] and he just simply told me the same thing this interviewee had said. No forced labor exists in the agriculture sector as far as they knew.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

No. I have never met any one involved in it either as a perpetrator or victim.

3) What type of forced labor is used (e.g debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Interviewee:

N/A The interviewee did not answer.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

I know a lot of children work on parents or other relative's farms which I don't think is wrong as we all did it growing up. I have said I do not think forced labor is an issue in Sierra Leone.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

People work to support their families or work as a community force to help others.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work?(In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

This is never work for financial gain.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Weeding, carrying tools, scaring birds or insects away

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Sorry I can not really say.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

14) In what regions of the country do work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good e.g boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

16) How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

I think cheap labor is one reason why people are trafficked so there is a connection somehow.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

Researcher’s Overall Note/Comments:

Interviewee insists there is no forced/child labor in this sector even though there have been quite a few references made to this in some reports. He also states they have officers who move around farms to make sure forced/child labor does not take place.

Most of what we discussed was about child/forced labor related to agriculture in the informal sector. His comments in earlier responses show his views on this.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 18th March 2008

Time of Interview: 5.00 P.M.

Location of Interview: Freetown

Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]

Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED]

National Coordinator

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Sierra Leone

Brief Description of the Organization:

[REDACTED] is the local chapter of an international movement called [REDACTED]. The organization's main focus in Sierra Leone is on juvenile justice; which was initially to work with children in conflict with the law but now it embraces all children/victims of abuse. The organization works mainly on legal advocacy on behalf of these children

Types of Institution:

Government _____

Local [REDACTED] X [REDACTED]

International [REDACTED] _____

Worker's Union _____

Private Business/Company _____

Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

From the point of view and also information I have from various other groups working on child protection and human rights issues forced/child labor exists mostly in the domestic area, which is to say people are exploited very often as domestic help.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Several; unfortunately, in Sierra Leone forced/child labor is generally accepted so people pay little or no attention to it and would even deny its existence.

3) What type of forced labor is used (e.g debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Interviewee:

With regards to domestic servitude, it is most common in cases of children staying with parents or other family members and are trapped into working endlessly without pay. These children are brainwashed to think it would be very bad for them to leave as it is considered they are doing it for their benefit.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Largely two types domestic labor and economic activities like selling in the streets, mining, stone breaking, etc.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

As has been highlighted, parents of children or relatives of young adults lure them into work especially in Kono district where you have a lot of mining going on.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

It is mostly individuals who employ them and some are paid whilst others are given very little food as pay for the work they do.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

The types of tasks performed depend on the age of the child. With adults they perform several tasks all for very little or no pay; in the mining sector for example children dig, sieve, and dive through big holes to search for gravel to wash. With quarrying, children break stones and are also made to search for used tires to be used for blasting of stones. This is mostly labor intensive and money is minimal.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Individuals involved in the production of goods produce: stones, diamonds, rice and other goods; however, I really do not have concrete evidence on this.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Goods are just for local consumption.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

I have not done a specific study on this, but for difficult and dangerous work especially in the mines it is boys between nine and 17 years old.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Terrible to say the least; they are not safe at all; equipment used is very dangerous especially for children in the mines. For example, stones can wound, water in the mines is horrible and food is nothing to write home about. Kerosene selling is equally hazardous

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

The work reduces their morale, children do not see themselves as part of society and this makes them less ambitious and willing to change their environment. The type of coercion is mostly psychological, as mentioned earlier victims are made to think it is the best thing they are doing and so opting out is very bad.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

In most cases they do not wish to leave as they have been thoroughly brainwashed and in those cases when they want to leave they are beaten or are punished. This results in some of them running away thus we have street children.

14) In what regions of the country do work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

The northern region of this country is where you would find a very high percentage of forced/child labor and other forms of exploitation. Kono is also very well known for that and lately the big towns around are also places where these forms of labor abuse are found.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

Slightly more boys than girls based on those I have met. It could be different for different regions and types of work. In the diamond mining sector more boys from the eastern region and other areas are more likely to be involved than girls, stone breaking has more boys than girls but there are also a very good number of girls who are used especially in the peninsula areas.

16) How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

The relationship comes around deception and misinformation of young adults and for children taken from parents to other places the element of fraud and movement.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

I have no accurate figures but will give you a document which would most likely be of help.

Researcher's Note: The document given has nothing related to forced or child labor, rather it was a report of training of government officials on trafficking. The report did not address anything relevant to this research.

Researcher's Overall Note/Comments:

Interviewee acknowledges that forced/child labor does exist but mostly seems anecdotal as he has not really come across concrete evidence on the worst forms of child/forced labor.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 27th March 2008
Time of Interview: 1.00 P.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED] Programme Manager Mining and Extractives
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

[REDACTED] is a civil society organization ([REDACTED] that along with other [REDACTED] works to enhance their capacity, and advocates for the rights of people in governance issues. [REDACTED] also works on a program to ensure the judicious use of mining in Sierra Leone

Types of Institution:

Government _____
Local [REDACTED]
International [REDACTED]
Worker's Union _____
Private Business/Company _____
Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

Forced/child labor in Sierra Leone has many dimensions to it; we have domestic labor, labor in the mines, in cookery shops, stone breaking and agricultural sector. As an organization we are focused on all forms of abuse of children and of humans generally. It is in that vein that we conducted a survey on child mining. The war in Sierra Leone was a major cause for these children being in the mines as some were forcefully abducted by the rebels and put in the mines, but even after the war a lot of children are stuck because they want to or are also forced by relatives or parents to be there. Their human rights are greatly violated there. Also if you take a look around the city and big towns you would find children on the street at a very young age selling and I regard that as forced labor for

they are really not supposed to be out there at such an age without protection. Stone breaking and sand mining are also other areas in which you will find a lot of child labor.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Yes I have, and our staff were involved in the survey I told you about. Because this was actually focused on children in the mines, the staff met a lot of children who were directly involved in this work.

3) What type of forced labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Interviewee:

Mostly domestic/indentured servitude wherein children or young people living with a relative or someone who claims to be taking care of them and are placed in hard and dangerous jobs and have no way of leaving for fear of reprisals.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

As highlighted above, stone breaking (quarrying), mining, farming, selling on the street, domestic servants and walking around with disabled people to beg.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

In the past when we had the war they were forcefully conscripted by rebels and placed there but later family members or guardians have also been seen sending very young children into the mines to earn money. It is the same with quarrying sand mining and the others I have mentioned.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

In mining, some work for who have a plot to mine and others work for small artisanal companies who pay them very little money or sometimes even just give them food to barely survive on. Looking at diamonds, they are very expensive yet those working in the mines are really underpaid when you consider the end point of diamonds. Some are given a cup of rice and Le5000 (\$1.70 USD) a day. Some are lucky to have good crew bosses who pay them Le 200,000 (less than \$100 USD) when a diamond is sold.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Tasks range from fetching water to digging in the mines, selling on the streets, washing dishes in cookery shops, and breaking stones and carrying them out to be ready for sale.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Goods produced through these forms of exploitive labor include diamonds, stones, sand, and cooked food, etc.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

With the exception of diamonds all the rest are for domestic consumption.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

The age for involvement in these sectors mentioned is seven years old and upwards depending on the tasks, and the tasks involved with more boys involved than girls.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Not really safe and healthy, they are prone to a lot of health hazards. Mining equipments are very dangerous and heavy to handle. The mining areas are equally dangerous, there are very huge holes with stagnant water in them and children could just slip and fall into this. There have also been cases of huge amounts of dirt or gravel collapsing on miners in some of these areas. In one instance, about seventy people were said to have been trapped underneath dirt.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

Some of the physical risks are body pains from carrying heavy things or digging and sleeplessness, sometimes being beaten up and exposure to too much sunlight and rain as the case may be. Also these children end up really aggressive as they are exposed to rough living among adults; this in turn makes them isolated or shunned by society. They feel so worthless and hopeless and have no desire to move away as this is all they know and it is sometimes difficult for them to open up and want something else.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Most of them cannot willingly leave sometimes those who leave abruptly are attacked or harassed by crew bosses so instead of running away they endure the continuous pain. Those who would want to come out have no alternate means of livelihood so stay until something comes up.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

I feel it is nationwide although for specific activities you have specific regions, for mining for example it is in all mining areas Kono, Kamakwie, and Tongo. are the . With quarrying it is mostly the city and big towns.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

It is both, in domestic labor mostly girls are involved, also these are taken out of Sierra Leone to work as sex slaves but for mining and other extremely difficult work it is more boys than girls.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee did not provide information on where the girls were taken to work as sex slaves.

16) How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

It is related to it as the people exploiting others actually deceive them and end up enslaving them. The government needs to actually enforce the anti-trafficking law.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

You will have to look at our study report.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 26th March 2008
Time of Interview: 10.00 A.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED] Chief of Mission
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief Description of the Organization:

[REDACTED] is an international organization working on migration issues. In Sierra Leone [REDACTED] has set up a Safe House for victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Types of Institution:

Government _____
Local [REDACTED] _____
International [REDACTED]: X
Worker's Union _____
Private Business/Company _____
Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

First of all the definition of forced child labor is marred in Sierra Leone as so many people consider it to be traditional and so they do not frown upon it and do not accept it as bad even in its worst forms. It assumes a lot of forms in this country but the most common form I can say is domestic labor, countless numbers of children are moved regularly from one part of the country to another to work as housemaids or boys. These children are subjected to harsh living conditions, work endlessly with not enough food or clothing and do not have any time to relax or rest. This is a form of child labor that has raised a lot of eyebrows among the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] community. Unfortunately, the government just pays lip service to the fight against it.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

On a personal note I have not met directly and spoken to any victims, but as you may be aware we have a Safe House for victims of trafficking which is mostly for child/forced labor and prostitution.

3) What type of forced labor is used (e.g debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Interviewee:

A lot of the time it is indentured servitude as we all know when victims are trafficked or brought to stay with someone other than their parents they are enslaved and subject to a lot of hardship. Under the circumstances, they do not have the power to refuse or run away; with children their parents may have taken gifts from this person and so they have no choice but to stay to kind of reward the person for their generosity to their family. It is also seen that the people who take these children are doing a good job of “caring” for them so no amount of affliction on them would be seen as bad.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Forced/child labor victims do stone crushing in construction, fishing and vegetable gardening in agriculture, mining, and begging.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

Some are trafficked; some are actually sent by parents to bring income to their households. I have heard also that some street children willingly go to earn a living.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work?(In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Individuals, wealthy relatives, or other community members who have businesses employ these children to work for them. Some children are paid if they work for another person besides their parents or relatives -- both in cash and kind

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Children work as diggers, fetching water in the mines, cooking, sweeping, doing laundry, breaking stones and a whole lot of other tasks.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

I know diamonds are produced, fish, rice, vegetables, stones, etc.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Only diamonds are exported, the others are consumed locally.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

For diamonds 13 to 17 year old boys are mostly involved, fishing would be almost the same age and gender. With stone breaking children as young as seven have been seen to be involved.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

The environments would obviously not be safe or healthy for children in all the categories as there are so many dangerous chemicals and equipment used in the various jobs.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

As I have mentioned working in the dangerous situations, using tools and equipment children should otherwise not be handling is itself a big risk. Physical disasters such as wounding, inhaling chemicals, drowning, pneumonia, cholera outbreaks because of the water especially in mines are also prevalent. Psychosocially these children are threatened with beatings and brainwashed to not want to leave as they think they would be condemned by family members or other community members in their setting.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Most often they cannot as they would face the wrath of their parents or other members of the community for abandoning a good source of support to family or self. Also because their parents are indebted to the one who has taken them they fear that their parents would be in trouble so they do not think of leaving.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

The city is a major area for domestic labor and prostitution but other big towns and mining areas are also very rife with this issue. Vegetable gardening is done mostly in the mountain areas around Freetown and [REDACTED] (North). Fishing is [REDACTED] town, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Western Area), [REDACTED] (South) and [REDACTED] (North).

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

From reports I have heard people from the north are more likely to involve children in forced labor or be involved in it themselves. Regarding children it is a blend of boys and girls depending on the particular job and situation. It is obvious from what we have seen so far that more girls are used for domestic labor and sexual exploitation or prostitution and boys for mining, fishing and other farm work.

16) How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

We know most of the children in forced labor have actually been trafficked. Also young men moving across the country to look for job end up being trafficked and exploited through forced labor so there is definitely a connection between the two. With regards the young men being trafficked this is pretty anecdotal and seems to talk about outside of Sierra Leone with no clear information on where they are taken to.

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

Not sure I can give accurate figures. You can also visit the Safe House to talk to the officer in charge.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 2nd April 2008
Time of Interview: 10.30 A.M.
Location of Interview: [redacted] District
Interviewer's Name: [redacted]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [redacted] Superintendent
[redacted] and [redacted]
Senior Mines Warden
Organizational Affiliation: [redacted]

Brief Description of the Organization:
[redacted] mining activities in Sierra Leone.

Types of Institution:
Government: X
Local [redacted]
International [redacted]
Worker's Union _____
Private Business/Company _____
Other _____

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

[redacted]: I understand forced/child labor happens in various ways but for me I have only heard of it on radio, not actually sure I have seen it happen.

[redacted]: Forced/child labor occurs when a child is taken to work in very harsh situations that are actually detrimental to their well-being. This happened a lot during the war and I am sure it is still prevalent in some sectors but definitely not in the mining sector. As senior warden of mines my team and I make regular patrols to ensure no children are employed by anyone in the sector in this district.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Mr. [redacted]: No

Mr. [REDACTED]: I have come across children who have been involved in very difficult work in various homes; these children are really subjected to heavy work and do not attend school at all.

3) What type of forced labor is used (e.g debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Mr. [REDACTED]: I suppose both occur.

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Food preparation in restaurants, charcoal burning, street hawking, and working on farms.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Family members and other relatives involve them in these occupations.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Business owners and possibly wealthy relatives employ them. They are most often not paid.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Tasks performed include: cooking, cleaning, laundry, weeding on farms and selling on the streets.

8) With regards to those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Mr. [REDACTED]: As mentioned goods produced would be rice, vegetables and even cooked food.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Obviously for domestic consumption

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Young boys and girls from six to 18 years old and sometimes beyond.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Sometimes it is very dangerous.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Risk of getting hurt on farms or getting raped for girls sent out to sell and this in turn results to traumatic situations.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee Mr [REDACTED]:

Most often yes although I know there may be cases where they cannot leave willingly except run away.

14) In what regions of the country do work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Since I live in [REDACTED] this is the only area I would know much about but I would not be surprised if it is happening in other big towns and the city.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?

Mr. [REDACTED]: Boys more often than girls as there are a lot of campaigns going on for the girl child to be sent to school.

16) How is trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Mr. [REDACTED]: N/A He did not answer

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Mr. [REDACTED] N/A He did not answer N/A

Researcher's Note/Comments:

The [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] working on mining issues in Sierra Leone; I tried several times to meet the person in charge in Freetown and could never get to them so I had to visit the office in [REDACTED] to get someone to talk to me and they have done well to allow me to go ahead with this interview. Mr [REDACTED] asked us to go ahead with the discussions as he did not have much information to provide. Mr [REDACTED] seemed to be the person who was constantly around the mines and had better knowledge on the issues around the area. In previous responses, he indicated that the ministry actually has Mines' Wardens or Monitors to make sure no children are employed in these mining fields and that any one who hires a child would have their licenses withdrawn.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In- Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 28th March, 2008
Time of Interview: 12:00 P.M.
Location of Interview: Freetown
Interview's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED], Project Coordinator
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the Organization:

Coalition of faith-based agencies working to combat trafficking through awareness-raising, capacity building and advocacy. All members of the coalition are international agencies- [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. I would imagine these are all in the United States of America. It is also registered in Sierra Leone as an international [REDACTED]

Type of Institution:

Government
Local [REDACTED]
International [REDACTED] (see explanation above)
Workers Union
Private Business/Company

Incidence and nature of Force Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1. What is Forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

In the Sierra Leonean context when one is coerced, threatened and harassed to work without his or her affection, satisfaction and approval this is forced labor. Forced labor is hard work done outside the wish and/or the time of the worker.

2. Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Yes I have seen the case of a nine-year-old boy who works for his aunty day and night without rest and whenever he does not do what is required of him he is beaten. Another case is that of a young man who had a relative pay his school fees until secondary school but had his certificate seized so he could not leave the house and had to work for the relative to pay back all that had been spent on him.

3. What type of Forced Labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc.)?

Interviewee:

Indentured servitude, they are coerced psychologically to remain silent and continue working for the relative or individual and feel like they would be considered 'wicked or ungrateful' if they decide to leave.

4. In what occupation /activities do Forced Labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Activities for both child labor and forced labor include stone crushing, mining, selling and production of charcoal, carpentry, poda poda (shared taxi) transportations, prostitution, domestic services, production of petty goods, leather production, gold and blacksmithing push carting (ormolankay driving), fishing, collection of garbage, work in garbage dumps, etc.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupation/activities?

Interviewee:

Through trafficking, position of vulnerability abuse of power, abduction, fostering, adoption, smuggling, coercion, threat, admiration of strangers, etc.

6. Who employs them and are they paid for their work (In cash or Kind)?

Interviewee:

They are employed by chiefs, traffickers, pimps, parents and guardians. They are not paid but compensated sometimes in kind/shelter, clothing and basic food and medical aid.

7. What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Cutting of firewood or timber; care for other children, domestic chores, bailing of water from boats, pulling of fishing chains, fetching of materials from far distance and stone crushing (quarrying).

8. With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interview:

Broken stones, charcoal, farm produce (palm oil, fish, rice, vegetables), soap, and other domestic ingredients.

9. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Most of the products are for domestic consumption. There are others for export possibly palm oil, gari (another product gotten from cassava, a type of food eaten in Sierra Leone. Cassava can be eaten on its own but when processed, it also produces gari and another called foo-foo), diamonds and recently maybe granite stones.

10. For each what is the typical age/gender of individual producing it?

Interviewee:

Breaking stones and charcoal everybody, farming products more young male are needed, women soap and domestic ingredients, with mining also there is a mixture of each gender and age group

11. What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

The sea, quarries, the street and mines are not safe and healthy at all.

12. What physical and Psychological risk do they or family members face? Are there element of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”

Interviewee:

Injury, verbal abuse, dehumanization, traumatization, deprivation of food, beatings, drug addiction, Tuberculosis and Cholera.

13. Are they able to leave their place of work at will?

Interviewee:

Most are confined, they do not have the liberty to move out of the work place at will, even if they move out they will return or are forced to go because most parents endorse the labor.

14. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

They are decentralized it also depends on the nature of the work done. Domestic labor is more prevalent in the cities and big towns, fishing in the big fishing communities such as around [REDACTED]. Also stone crushing is mostly taking place around Freetown and other big towns where there are a lot of housing projects.

- 15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engage in Forced Labor and /or child Labor in the production of each good (e.g. boys versus girls etc.)?**

Interviewee:

For palm oil the girls are more vulnerable, stone crushing and mining the boys are more vulnerable. Palm oil is less difficult to produce and does not require much energy whereas in diamond mining and stone crushing boys are considered stronger to handle the work.

- 16. How is trafficking in person related to Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the production of good if any at all?**

Interviewee:

Exploitation is a salient aspect of trafficking. Forced or child labor is exploitation. Forced or child labor has been one of the prime reasons for trafficking of humans. Example, a child in a village in [REDACTED] can be transported to [REDACTED], after the trafficker has deceived his or her parents on the pretext of “I will help you.” The child will be brought to a mining site and forced to be sieving, digging and washing gravel for the search of diamonds.

- 17. What is the estimated number/percentage of adults and/or children engaged in Forced Labor in the Production of each good?**

Interviewee:

N/A She did not have any answers/statistics as the organization has really not done any study in this direction.

Researcher’s Note/Comments:

Interviewee has been working on trafficking/other forms of exploitation for a while and I would imagine has a fair idea of what happens in Sierra Leone.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 31st March, 2008
Time of Interview: 12:00pm
Location of Interview: [REDACTED]
Freetown
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED]
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the Organization:

Trade Union that negotiates terms and conditions of service for employees in the Mining Sector/Artisanal Miners.

Type of Institution:

Government:

Local [REDACTED]:

International [REDACTED]:

Workers Union: X

Private Business/Company:

Incidence and nature of Force Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1. What is Forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

Forced labor in Sierra Leone is doing odd jobs excessively without commensurate payment and no measurable time frame for labor exploited.

2. Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Yes, children and youths.

3. What type of Forced Labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc.)?

Interviewee:

A blend of both

Researcher's Note: I explained the definitions of "indentured servitude" and "Debt Bondage", the interviewee seemed to think the two are the forms of forced labor that exist, thus he said "a blend of both".

4. In what occupation /activities do Forced Labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Domestic labor, mining, quarrying, factories, agriculture, entertainment centers, [REDACTED] School, fishing and construction and small-scale business such as selling clothes, foodstuff and other petty things like kola nuts etc. No forced labor victims or mention of it in factories in Sierra Leone.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupation/activities?

Interviewee:

Through their parents, business people, some are involved due to poverty, as others do.

6. Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Parents, business people, miners, farmers, contractors employ them. The pay received is not commensurate to the job done as sometime they receive nothing.

7. What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Cheap labor, hazardous labor, forced labor, deprivation internal or external trafficking not reflecting in national account.

Researcher's Note: I could not get hold of interviewee again to clarify this response although I have tried several times. "Account" refers to these incidences of labor not recording any benefits to government.

8. With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Agricultural commodities, diamonds, gold, sand, and they are also involved in petty trading

9. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Yes, both.

10. For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing?

Interviewee:

For agriculture (farming) it is mostly young men between ages of 17 to 35. Diamond mining has a blend of young boys ranging from ages eight to 20 and men ages 20 and above.

11. What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Some work in safe environments, but the nature of the job done is hazardous to their health; others work in an unsafe environment.

12. What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

Non permanent work, loss of education, abject poverty, loss of lives at early stage, deprivation, and corruption.

13. Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

No.

14. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns and villages?

Interviewee:

A greater percentage of victims are found in the city (Freetown) ,mining areas ([REDACTED] and others)

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/ or child labor in the production of each goods (e. g boys versus girls etc).

Interviewee:

War victims, children, widow’s children, disadvantaged children such as street or abandoned children.

16. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

Internal and external trafficking is mostly for forced labor and or child labor.

17. What are the estimated number/ percentage of adults and /or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

About 80 percent of children are involved in child labor in the various mentioned sectors.

Interview's Note: I have double-checked and found that he has no basis for this information.

Researcher's Note/Comments:

Interviewee's organization is a very active group campaigning on behalf of workers in the mines. They have been involved in quite a number of activities geared towards this. He has been very cooperative also in granting this interview.

After following up with the interviewee, it is very obvious he has no idea on the issue of child/forced labor and if he knew of any incidences he would definitely say it.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In- Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 31st March, 2008
Time of Interview: 9.00 A.M.
Location of Interview: [REDACTED] Sierra Leone, [REDACTED]
Road Congo Town, Freetown
Interview's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED]
Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the [REDACTED] working on child protection and women's issues. They have a program for disadvantaged children and youths which looks into a number of issues affecting them -- issues like HIV/AIDS, prostitution, and other forms of abuse.

Type of Institution:

Government:

Local [REDACTED]:

International [REDACTED]: X

Workers Union:

Private Business/Company:

Incidence and nature of Force Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1. What is Forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

Forced Labor occurs in various ways in Sierra Leone, as an organization [REDACTED] is concerned with the issue of street children and so has a program called [REDACTED]. Children who live on the street are very vulnerable and in most cases these are the ones who end up being exploited in labor as they have no protection out there.

2. Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Most of the street children we deal with are exploited in one way or the other.

3. What type of Forced Labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Interviewee:

“Informal Fostering”: A child is placed with a member of his/her extended family or someone else often with promise of education. However, the child is often used as a source of cheap labor and is often treated like a second class member of the family unit.

“Streetism”: All types of exploitive labor practices often coordinated by “bras” and “sissies” (pimps). Typically the bra or sissy is 10 years older than the child.

“Commercial Sex Children”: Similar to streetism. Children are placed with families who send them into mining and stone crushing

4. In what occupation /activities do Forced Labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

The types of activities that use child labor include carrying luggage/water, commercial sex work, drug peddling, etc. Children may also have to work in petty trading. Domestic labor often happens as informal fostering, mining, stone breaking etc.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupation/activities?

Interviewee:

They become involved through informal fostering or family breakdown through the death of one parent (a consequential problem of remarriage step parents etc.). Abuse at home can often lead to the child running away and into exploitive street environments.

6. Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

“Most of these children are fostered informally and work in exchange for food they receive. With regards to those on the street, they have their “bosses” who provide a place for them to stay and end up sending them into all sorts of difficult and abusive work. In mining individuals employ them and sometimes the children are paid while others are not depending on the arrangement they had. Sometimes children work and are paid when a diamond is found or are fed and will receive a daily fee of Le 5,000-Le 10,000 (3USD).

7. What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Domestic chores, sexual services, digging, sieving for diamonds, crushing stones or selling as the case may be.

8. With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Diamonds, rice, and stones.

9. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Diamonds are mostly exported as we all know but rice and other commodities are consumed locally as the people do not have enough to export.

10. For each good what is the typical age/gender or individuals producing?

Interviewee:

Street Children: Aged nine to 17 years averaging 14 ½ years (based on program figures)- approximately 80 percent are boys.

Informal fostering: All ages and genders, however more boys typically run away from such exploitive environments.

Commercial Sexually Exploited Children: Predominantly, girls (although boys also involved with little data) in Western zone of Freetown in program outreach-233 aged 15-20 years. In Central zone of Freetown, program outreach-39 aged 10-14 years; 119 aged 15-18 years, 19-25 years. For the others I have no idea.

11. What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

The environments are the streets, lodging for commercially sexually exploited children etc. Both are extremely risky environments for health and child development. With diamonds and stone crushing it is even more dangerous. Children working with heavy equipment that could easily wound them and inhaling dust from stones. They could get hurt whilst breaking these stones.

12. What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

Typically the street children and commercial sexually exploited children have little family influence. They are typically under the menace of penalty for not following livelihood norms determined by the bra or sissy.

13. Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Depends on who they work for and the circumstances.

14. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns and villages?

Interviewee:

All parts, however there is a tendency of informal fostering towards more urban households. Commercial sexually exploited children can be anywhere, however more organized in larger urban centers and around mining extractive locations and ports.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/ or child labor in the production of each goods (e. g boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

Boys 80 percent and girls 20 percent.

16. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

Some street children and commercial sexually exploited children are trafficked. However, there is usually a very complex set of social factors that might lead to the street. Internal fostering has been described as a form of trafficking of children but this tends to focus on more exploitative outcomes. To suggest that all internal fostering is trafficking would deny the social relationships between families that potentially have good social and educational outcomes.

17. What are the estimated number/ percentage of adults and /or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

████████ outreach program for Freetown

Of Street Children: 223 (little data for Freetown wide figures since ██████████ 2005).

Commercial Sex Exploited Children: 424(with 39 aged 10-14 years).

Internal Fostering: 771 beneficiaries, 104 lost both parents, 392 live in a one parent family. Therefore 64 percent of street children in GOAL are the victims of the loss of one or both parents. However, this is only a potential cause of internal fostering and its relationship to labor is not clear. With regards labor in other sectors I have no records.

Researcher's Note/Comments:

Interviewee has responded mostly regarding their program and has not given much information on the issue of child labor in production of goods.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 31st March 2008

Time of Interview: 3.00 P.M.

Location of Interview: Freetown

Interviewer's Name:

Interviewee's Name and Official Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

Brief Description of the Organization:

Main job is to create an enabling environment for

Types of Institution:

Government: X

Local

International

Worker's Union

Private Business/Company

Other

Incidence and nature of Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is Forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee: First of all I must say the information I have is based purely on hearsay not what I have studied as an individual or an institution. Forced child labor exists in many ways namely domestic labor, agriculture, mining and prostitution.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

No.

3) What type of forced labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc)?

Interviewee:

I know mostly domestic labor is what prevails in Sierra Leone

4) In what occupations/activities do forced labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Selling cold water on the street, snacks, mining and agriculture (unspecified).

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

I understand mostly relatives or other people taking care of children do use them in these ways.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Business owners they live with or other relatives, it is not common to see them employed in the formal sector or industries. They are paid by being fed, clothed even though this is never enough.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Mostly as stated earlier-- selling water, preparing food for sale, mining, cleaning and washing in homes.

8) With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Foodstuffs such as rice, palm oil, vegetables and diamonds.,

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

You should know diamonds are exported. However, as a trade ministry worker I know of no goods that are produced using forced labor which are exported.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing it?

Interviewee:

Young girls/boys and youth.

Interviewer's Note: This is just an assumption the interviewee did not state precisely.

11) What are the environments in which they work?

Interviewee:

I would assume not very good.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

N/A No response

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns or villages?

Interviewee:

I am sure it is all over the country, but would be more visible in city and bigger towns.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/or child labor in the production of goods (e.g. boys versus girls)?

Interviewee: Depends on the task and people involved but mostly boys from single parent homes and rural areas.

16) How is Trafficking in Persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee: N/A No response

17) What is the estimated number/percentage of adults/and or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee: N/A No response as he does not know

Researcher’s Notes/Comments:

Interviewee was very difficult initially but he volunteered the little he could. He is the only one who could even grant me an interview as others claimed this was not relevant to their field.

Interview Type 1

In- Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 2nd April, 2008

Time of Interview: 12:00 P.M.

Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

District

Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]

Interviewee's Name and Official Title: [REDACTED]

Organizational Affiliation: [REDACTED]

Brief description of the Organization: Interviewer's Note: This is just a branch of [REDACTED] but they are more actively involved in activities in the district and I felt it necessary to speak with someone there.

Type of Institution:

Government: X

Local [REDACTED]

International [REDACTED]

Workers Union: Yes

Private Business/Company

Incidence and nature of Force Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1. What is Forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:

First of all Forced/Child labor operates in every proportion in this country particularly in this area [REDACTED]. Key types of child/forced labor include: mining, farming, and cookery shop.

2. Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Quite a good number. I have had to actually rescue some from very harsh conditions and took them to the [REDACTED] safe house where they are counseled and we traced, reunified them with their family. With those living with parents we have to encourage parents to desist from using them in this manner.

3. What type of Forced Labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc.)?

Interviewee:

There is a blend of both – debt bondage and indentured servitude.

4. In what occupation/activities do Forced Labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

Working in mines; preparing food or serving as errand boys/girls for cookery shops; and farming.

5. How do they come to be involved in these occupation/activities?

Interviewee:

According to the study we conducted, some go willingly but for us as an institution whether they are willing or not the fact that they are below age of consent it is still considered exploitation. Parents and relatives often send kids to these dangerous/difficult jobs to finance their homes.

6. Who employs them and are they paid for their work?(in cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Like I said some are actually working with parents in the mines or farms and others work for small mining companies, with bigger or more organized companies they don't allow children. Yes some times they are paid in cash or give food (kind) depending on the terms of employment.

7. What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Depends on physical strength –they fetch water, carry work tools, run small errands, dig, wash gravel. Some (the older) are used to supervise smaller ones and even workers so they don't steal.

8. With regards those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

Of course diamonds, rice, palm oil, depending on the time of year.

9. Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Mostly domestic consumption.

10. For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing?

Interviewee:

The typical age range is nine to 18 years mixed, but boys are mostly used in mining and girls are used in selling or sexual exploitation.

11. What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Dangerous, some of the kids fall into pits, are wounded by tools, while others suffer from severe cold.

12. What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family member face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

They suffer so much, the enslaved do not have freedom to choose what they want, trauma, beatings and threats are also involved.

13. Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Sometimes yes, but a greater percentage cannot as they have no other place to go. Lately, however, [REDACTED] has helped us counsel and reunite children with their parents.

14. In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns and villages?

Interviewee:

They work in all areas, big towns, cities and even villages. Most of the kids here (Kono) are from the North anyway.

15. What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/ or child labor in the production of each goods (e. g boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

Boys, from the North and even from around here. Generally most children from poor families in Sierra Leone are at risk of getting involved but with mining and other difficult tasks like farming boys are more vulnerable, in the case of domestic labor and prostitution girls are more likely to be used. It is a pathetic situation for children in this country

16. How is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

It is quite clear most children in the mines or child labor situations have been trafficked, making it difficult for them to leave.

17. What are the estimated number/percentage of adults and /or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

For diamonds check our survey document with [REDACTED]. As a ministry we do not have the capacity (logistics) to carry out any study except to rely on statistics from other agencies.

Researcher's Note/Comments:

Interviewee has a lot of experience working on children's issues in the Kono District as head of the [REDACTED]. She participated in the [REDACTED] survey carried out in 2002 and so has firsthand information on how forced/child labor occurs in the mining area of Kono.

Interview Type 1

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In- Country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 2nd April, 2008
Time of Interview: 1.30 P.M.
Location of Interview: [REDACTED]

Kono District

Interviewer's Name:
Interviewee's Name and Official Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

Brief description of the Organization: [REDACTED] is a component [REDACTED] bringing together other [REDACTED] and government agencies [REDACTED] to look into child mining issues in [REDACTED].

Type of Institution:
Government
Local [REDACTED]: X
International [REDACTED]
Workers Union:
Private Business/Company
Other:

Incidence and nature of Force Labor and/or Child Labor in Sierra Leone

1) What is Forced Labor like in Sierra Leone?

Interviewee:
Forced Child Labor in Sierra Leone takes many forms chief of which is child mining in [REDACTED] District. Others like street trading, farming, and quarrying are not as common in [REDACTED] as in other parts of the country.

2) Have you ever come across someone who is/was involved in this type of situation?

Interviewee:

Definitely, I was actively involved in conducting the survey done by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to look into the situation of child miners. This made me come into contact with a lot of children working in horrible situations in different mining areas.

3) What type of Forced Labor is used (e.g. debt bondage, indentured servitude etc.)?

Interviewee:

For some it is debt bondage maybe their parents owe someone they cannot pay, so the child is sent to work endlessly and does not have any way to escape. Others are just forced psychologically (using threats) so they are afraid and continue working.

4) In what occupation/activities do Forced Labor victims and/or children work?

Interviewee:

For this area 90 percent of the time it is in mining.

5) How do they come to be involved in these occupation/activities?

Interviewee:

Some are abandoned/street children who decide to go and work as a means of survival yet end up being exploited. Others are actually sent by parents to work for someone they owe or to just fetch money; others are trafficked from one part of the country and brought into the mines especially from the north ([REDACTED]) and I am sure they come from other areas in the South and East too.

6) Who employs them and are they paid for their work? (In cash or kind)?

Interviewee:

Artisanal small-scale mining companies employ and pay them by day (food or Le 2,000-5,000 or about 1.70 USD) as the case may be. Others are working for their parents so they don't expect to be paid, except to be fed. The lucky ones receive proceeds from the sale of a diamond, but this is seldom the case.

7) What tasks do they perform?

Interviewee:

Most often they are involved in all mining tasks such as digging, fetching water, or washing gravel. They are also made to transport gravel once removed to a comfortable place for washing.

8) With regards to those in the production of goods, what goods do they produce?

Interviewee:

For [REDACTED] it is diamonds.

9) Are goods for domestic consumption or export?

Interviewee:

Of course you know the end point is to be exported.

10) For each good what is the typical age/gender of individuals producing?

Interviewee:

Boys aged 13 – 17 years and often above.

11) What are the environments in which they work? Is it safe and healthy?

Interviewee:

Very dangerous, water in these areas is not good thus causing outbreaks of diseases like Cholera, Typhoid, River blindness, and pneumonia as they are made to sleep at the site during peak mining times.

12) What physical and psychosocial risks do they or family members face? Are there elements of “coercion” or “menace of penalty”?

Interviewee:

Children are bound to suffer a lot in these circumstances as they are subjected to a lot of hazardous work and they feel terrible and worthless as they cannot be like other children.

13) Are they able to leave their places of work at will?

Interviewee:

Most often yes, but in other situations they are threatened so they are afraid to leave. However with a lot of campaigning by us and other [REDACTED] I can tell you there has been a drastic drop in the number of children in the mines except for those areas I don't go to.

14) In what regions of the country do they work? Do they work in the city, big towns and villages?

Interviewee:

For this area they work every where, [REDACTED] town and other towns in the district, villages all over, you can see Mining sites everywhere any way.

15) What specific groups of people are more vulnerable to engaging in forced labor and/ or child labor in the production of each goods (e. g boys versus girls etc.)?

Interviewee:

For mining more boys than girls go there. You know it is considered boys are stronger and more likely to withstand hard work.

16) What is trafficking in persons related to forced labor and or child labor in the production of goods if any at all?

Interviewee:

You know in most cases forced labor is one reason people are trafficked. For some boys coming from the North for example, their parents are told they will go to school but they end up being exploited in mines and never go to school. This is internal trafficking

17) What are the estimated number/ percentage of adults and /or children engaged in forced labor in the production of each good?

Interviewee:

There was quite a large percentage at the time of survey. You can refer to that document. As I have said child mining is not much of a problem in this area as even government is working hard against it.

Researcher's Note/Comments:

Interviewee has been involved in previous research and lives in the Kono Area and so he is considered to be quite knowledgeable on the issue of forced/child labor in the mines.

Interview Type 2

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 3rd April 2008
Time of Interview: 10.00 a.m.
Location of Interview: [REDACTED] District
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED] (20 years old)

Brief description of Interviewee: Participant was a child miner starting at age 14 and worked until he was 17 years old when he returned to school. He is currently in Form 3 Junior Secondary School 3).

1) What is forced labor?

Interviewee:

Forced labor is work without proper income.

2) Have you or your child/family member been involved in this?

Interviewee:

Yes, I was involved when I came back to our home town after being displaced by the war, my uncle could not pay my school fees or even provide enough food for us so I had to go and work in the diamond mines to survive.

3) In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Interviewee:

I did diamond mining for all of the time I worked.

- 4) How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?**

Interviewee:

I told you already my uncle had no money to take care of me and I did not know the whereabouts of my parents so I had no choice but to work alongside my uncle at the mining site where he was working.

- 5) Does/did your/their work involve producing goods to be sold/exported?**

Interviewee:

All I know is we were looking for diamonds and when they were sold we had some money for a few days. These were tiny pieces that were not worth much so I would not know what would happen to them after being sold.

- 6) What type of goods do/did you/ they produce?**

Interviewee:

Diamonds.

- 7) What specific tasks do/did you/they perform?**

Interviewee:

I used to dig out gravel, wash and carry tools; sometimes I supervised others when my uncle or our boss had to go to another site or was not able to work.

- 8) Are you/they paid for your/their work? If so, how?**

Interviewee:

We were paid Le 7,000(about \$2.50 USD), no food was served.

- 9) What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical conditions?**

Interviewee:

Since we worked for a small group we did not have very dangerous machines except for one used to bail dirt from underneath water. Sometimes dirt falls and people are buried underneath even though we were lucky never to have this happen in our area.

10) Are you/the children beaten/abused by the employer?

Interviewee:

Never

11) Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats

Interviewee:

Sometimes he threatens us to work harder or we will not be paid, also he says anyone who tries to steal his diamonds when found would be punished.

12) Does your/their employer provide food and shelter? If so, what are the conditions at your place of sleep?

Interviewee:

No

13) Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Interviewee:

I had to run away as I was tired and wanted to go to school.

14) How far away is your/ the child's home? How did you/they get to this place of employment?

Interviewee:

I was actually born in this area, only moved out during the war.

15) Briefly tell me what psychological effect this had/has on you/ the child. How do you relate with others?

Interviewee:

I was terribly upset and traumatized by the absence of my parents and having to work especially when things had returned to normal and boys of the same age group were in school whilst I carried shovels and sieves.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee is currently enrolled in school and is in Form 3 (Junior Secondary).

Interview Type 2

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview:

3rd April 2008

Time of Interview:

12.00 p.m

Location of Interview:

[REDACTED] District

Interviewer's Name:

[REDACTED]

Interviewee's Name:

[REDACTED] (18 years old)

Brief description of Interviewee:

[REDACTED] has been in mining since age 14 he is currently in school but still goes to work. He is currently in SSS 1(Senior Secondary School).

1) What is forced labor?

Interviewee:

Forced labor is when a child is involved in dangerous work that is beyond him.

2) Have you or your child/family member been involved in this?

Interviewee:

Yes I am involved and have been since I was 14.

3) In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Interviewee:

As a child miner

4) How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

My sister and I got lost from other members of the family and so we used to go around looking for work when the rebels were far away from our area, one day I met a relative who told me to come stay with him. He asked me to join up and work in the pits as this is all we could do then.

5) Does/did your/their work involve producing goods to be sold/exported?

Interviewee:

Yes we were working in the mines to get diamonds and I know we usually sell them to foreigners.

6) What type of goods do/did you/ they produce?

Interviewee:

Diamonds.

7) What specific tasks do/did you/they perform?

Interviewee:

I used to dig out gravel, wash and carry tools and cut sticks to make fences to separate our place from others.

8) Are you/they paid for your/their work? If so, how?

Interviewee:

Except you work for a small company otherwise if you work under what we call 'support'. You just work and if lucky to find a diamond it is sold you are given some money for a few days, sometimes Le100,000 or more depending on how this was sold.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee refers to himself personally but also indicates this is the case with some other miners who work in what is referred to as "support groups"

9) What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical conditions?

Interviewee:

Very dangerous, I have marks on my feet and head because a shovel cut me, in some instances the dirt collapses on groups of people but thankfully this has never happened to me.

10) Are you/the children beaten/abused by the employer?

Interviewee:

No, except if you want to steal or be rude.

11) Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

Interviewee:

If you are stubborn or lazy he does not like you so he threatens you.

12) Does your/their employer provide food and shelter? If so, what are the conditions at your place of sleep?

Interviewee:

Only if he is your relative and you are staying with him.

13) Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Interviewee:

For now I cannot as I do not have any other way of getting money for my school fees.

Researcher's Note: From our discussions, I got the impression that he could leave if he wanted to but cannot because he needs whatever money he gets from this type of job.

14) How far away is your/ the child's home? How did you/they get to this place of employment?

Interviewee:

I came all the way from Kabala (Northern region) and it was the war that brought me here as we lost our way.

15) Briefly tell me what psychological effect this had/has on you/ the child. How do you relate with others?

Interviewee:

I feel bad knowing I have to struggle every day just to get school fees and even food.

Researcher's Note: the interviewee works for a single individual.

Interview Type 2

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 4th April 2008
Time of Interview: 8.30. a.m
Location of Interview: [REDACTED] District
Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]
Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED] (36 years old)
Brief description of Interviewee:
[REDACTED] younger sister was involved in forced labor for two years.

1) What is forced labor?

Interviewee:

I believe it is when someone is doing work they do not want to but have no choice to do it no matter how hard or dangerous.

2) Have you or your child/family member been involved in this?

Interviewee:

Yes, my younger sister [REDACTED] was involved in it in Freetown (City).

3) In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Interviewee:

She used to work at the [REDACTED] quarry area for the lady she was staying with.

4) How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

She was taken for fostering since we lost our dad during the war and our mother could not take care of all of us.

5) Does/did your/their work involve producing goods to be sold or exported?

Interviewee:

Yes, stones but I do not know if they are exported.

6) What type of goods do/did you/ they produce?

Interviewee:

Stones for building houses.

7) What specific tasks do/did you/they perform?

Interviewee:

She used to break stones from very early in the morning till late evening with little or no food sometimes.

8) Are you/they paid for your/their work? If so, how?

Interviewee:

She was never paid even when the lady had good sales of stones, she did not have enough to eat or even good clothes to wear.

9) What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical conditions?

Interviewee:

It was horrible; I cried the first time I met my little sister sitting in the hot sun breaking stones. She looked so weak and helpless as she was just 12 years old. I asked the lady why she was subjecting such a young child to this and she said that is how they survive and I could take her if I did not want to see her like that and she even said I was ungrateful. I could not take her anyway as things were very hard for me too so I came back grieved and started selling small wares so I can take her back.

10) Are you/the children beaten/abused by the employer?

Interviewee:

It is obvious she was beaten and abused a lot.

- 11) Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats**

Interviewee:

Sometimes she threatened she will send the girl back home if she did not do as told, and knowing what was home she did not want to annoy the lady too much so she kept quiet and would cry herself to sleep every night.

- 12) Does your/their employer provide food and shelter? If so, what are the conditions at your place of sleep?**

Interviewee:

Yes my sister stayed with her.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee could not provide further details about her sister's accommodations.

- 13) Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?**

Interviewee:

I told you she could not because of our family circumstances.

- 14) How far away is your/ the child's home? How did you/they get to this place of employment?**

Interviewee:

We lived in [REDACTED] before. [REDACTED] lived in Freetown which is about 200 kilometers from [REDACTED].

- 15) Briefly tell me what psychological effect this had/has on you/ the child. How do you relate with others?**

Interviewee:

She was so silent when she finally came home, she would not talk or play with other children as she was not used to it and she would wake up in the night (3.00a.m) to get ready for work thinking she was still in Freetown. She now lives in Guinea and is quite happy.

Interview Type 2

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview: 15th March 2008

Time of Interview: 10.00 a.m

Location of Interview: [REDACTED] Freetown

Interviewer's Name: [REDACTED]

Interviewee's Name: [REDACTED]

Brief description of Interviewee:

[REDACTED] is a former forced labor victim in [REDACTED] (Southern Sierra Leone)
He is 28 years old.

1) **What is forced labor?**

Interviewee:

Forced labor means work that is unpaid or too heavy for the person doing it and yet the person has no means of refusal.

2) **Have you or your child/family member been involved in this?**

Interviewee:

I was trapped in this for a long time; when I was nine my father fell ill and could not work much, so to keep us together as our mother had died years before his brother and wife took me in. He had a huge swamp and garden where we grew vegetables to sell. During the sowing season I would be in that swamp very early to carry tools (pickaxes, machetes, hoes and cooking utensils for preparing the workers meals).

3) **In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?**

Interviewee:

I worked in farming like I have just said; at the swamp we grew mostly vegetables and rice.

4) How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?

Interviewee:

I told you already my father had to send me because of ill-health.

5) Does/did your/their work involve producing goods to be sold or exported?

Interviewee:

Yes, most of what we grew was sold, and during this time after working to harvest I would help my aunt take the goods to [REDACTED] junction (on the highway, a busy business hub for people traveling to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in eastern and southern Sierra Leone). We would sell all the goods and would not return home until it was all gone even if it took days. This also meant no school for me.

6) What type of goods do/did you/ they produce?

Interviewee:

Mainly rice, potatoes, cassava, and groundnuts.

7) What specific tasks do/did you/they perform?

Interviewee:

I carried tools and other things for use on the farm/garden, I used to help weed the garden and water it by fetching water from nearby stagnant water sources. I had to go back and forth several times and I did this in the morning and evening, if there was no rain. I also used to help harvest rice and pound it afterwards to be sold

8) Are you/they paid for your/their work? If so, how?

Interviewee:

How can I be paid when they kept telling me they were doing me a favor or else I would die of starvation?

9) What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical conditions?

Interviewee:

Yes there were tools, pickaxes, hoes but also the area was very swampy and all sorts of flies and insects were there. I was also sent alone on the path to the swamp which was very scary for me especially very early in the morning or when it was getting dark.

10) Are you/the children beaten/abused by the employer?

Interviewee:

I was constantly beaten. At one time it was so horrible as I was carrying food for the workers and tripped and everything went down; I was horrified because my uncle beat me so much I thought I would never walk again. One of the workers felt sorry for me and begged him to leave me.

11) Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats

Interviewee:

Of course.

Researcher's Note: The interviewee did not elaborate on the kind of threats the interviewee received.

12) Does your/their employer provide food and shelter? If so, what are the conditions at your place of sleep?

Interviewee:

I stayed with them but food was never sufficient as I had to wait for them to finish eating and had the leftovers.

13) Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Interviewee:

I would have left but to where?

14) How far away is your/ the child's home? How did you/they get to this place of employment?

Interviewee:

My home was in [REDACTED] not very far from [REDACTED] and you know I came to be taken care of.

15) Briefly tell me what psychological effect this had/has on you/ the child. How do you relate with others?

Interviewee:

It was horrible I never want to think of it and I would never subject anyone to such wickedness.

Interview Type 2

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-country Research and Data Collection on Forced Labor and/or Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Sierra Leone

Date of Interview:

15th March 2008

Time of Interview:

6.30 p.m

Location of Interview:

[REDACTED]
Freetown

Interviewer's Name:

Interviewee's Name:

[REDACTED] (10 years old)

Brief description of Interviewee:

[REDACTED] stays with uncle and works alongside him in his fishing business.

1) What is forced labor?

Interviewee:

I do not know except what you have just told me, forced labor is when you work endlessly without pay.

2) Have you or your child/family member been involved in this?

Interviewee:

Well according to what is happening to me I believe I am actually in it. I wake up each day at 5.30 a.m, wash up and get ready for work. At times we go in the evening but most often it is in the morning. I sit in the boat when they go out at sea to throw out water coming into the boat.

3) In what occupations/activities do/did you/the child victim(s) work?

Interviewee:

Fishing. All types of fish, snapper, herring, mina (these are really tiny fish).

- 4) How did you/they come to be involved in these occupations/activities?**

Interviewee:

My mother's brother took me from [REDACTED] (North) to send me to school but he has never taken me to school.

- 5) Does/did your/their work involve producing goods to be sold or exported?**

Interviewee:

Yes.

- 6) What type of goods do/did you/ they produce?**

Interviewee:

Fish

- 7) What specific tasks do/did you/they perform?**

Interviewee:

I throw water out of the boat, mend the nets, and when we come to the shore I transport fish from the boat to vehicles waiting for fish mongers.

- 8) What specific tasks do/did you/they perform?**

Interviewee:

Never

- 9) What are your/their working conditions? Are there dangerous tools, machinery, fumes, or other physical conditions?**

Interviewee:

It is dangerous, especially when we go out to sea, sometimes it is so rough I cry for fear of drowning out there. It is also very cold at night.

- 10) Are you/the children beaten/abused by the employer?**

Interviewee:

Well sometimes, otherwise he is gentle with me.

11) Are you/they threatened by the employer if certain job tasks are not performed? What kind of threats?

Interviewee:

No

12) Does your/their employer provide food and shelter? If so, what are the conditions at your place of sleep?

Interviewee:

Yes he does. I sleep with my cousins who are older than me.

13) Are you/they able to leave your/their workplaces at will?

Interviewee:

I cannot go back to [REDACTED] as people would laugh at my parents. Any child who comes to the city and goes back without attending school is considered a failure and people hardly ever want to hear your reasons for not attending and even if you tell them you have been forced to work in really difficult situations you are still considered a lazy a person who just does not want to work.

14) How far away is your/ the child's home? How did you/they get to this place of employment?

Interviewee:

Kamakwie is far.

15) Briefly tell me what psychological effect this had/has on you/ the child. How do you relate with others?

Interviewee:

For me I play well with my friends when there is time, I feel ok.

Site Visit Note

Sierra Leone

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research on Child Labor/Forced Labor in the Production of Goods

Date: 2nd April 2008

Time: 2.00 p.m

Location: Small [REDACTED] District Eastern Sierra Leone

Sector: Diamond Mining

Site Visit conducted by: [REDACTED]

Victim Activities

Four children between the ages of 12-16 years stand in a chain passing buckets from one to another. After the bucket is handed to another child standing close to three adults who are digging and shoveling out the gravel. The last child in the chain dumps this close to stagnant water a few meters away. This task is performed with much speed as the gravel is quite heavy to be moved around so quickly. After a while one of the boys starts using the shovel to dig and load a bucket with gravel.

- All four do not have any form of disability but are obviously exhausted.
- Work has been going on since 7.a.m with only a few stops to get water or a cigarette break. This work goes on until around 6.00 p.m.
- The use of the shovel is frightening as the boy has to keep raising it above his head when digging; there is also a risk of cutting his feet in the process. One boy told of hitting his head once performing the same task. Raising and moving such heavy gravel for a boy of 12 is quite risky and exposes him to a lot of aches in his arms, legs and back.
- Working continuously in the sun is another hazard and the boys' skin is dry and drawn on them.

Physical atmosphere of work

Work is in the open air but the dug out pits are very dangerous with so much water all around especially as it rained the night before. There is a high risk of falling into the pits.

Treatments by the employer

From my observation there is an obvious friendliness between boys and the crew boss, as they were speaking and laughing in between work even though some of the time they were speaking in their own local tongue ([REDACTED] and [REDACTED]). However, I could tell they were not being reprimanded or threatened at all.

Note: I was not allowed to interview anyone or take photos of the site stating I needed to get clearance from the local chief who suddenly became aggressive.

Site Visit Note

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research on Child Labor/Forced Labor in the Production of Goods

Date: 2nd April 2008

Time: 4.00 p.m

Location: [REDACTED] District Eastern Sierra Leone

Sector: Diamond Mine

Site Visit conducted by: [REDACTED]

Victim Activities:

There were no child workers at this site, it was reported earlier that a lot of child miners used to work here but they were no longer there as a result of campaigns carried out by some agencies in the area and strict laws operating in regard to children working in the mines.

There were about 20 adults working at the site. There were some young men roughly between the ages of 25-28 and older men joking and singing as they shoveled away and some washed gravel. Most adults involved in mining are either paid or doing it for themselves. There have been no reported cases of adults being forced to work in the mines after the rebel war, and I have never come across any who told me he was in forced labor.

Site Visit Note

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research on Child Labor/Forced Labor in the Production of Goods

Date: 2nd April 2008

Time: 5.45 p.m

Location: [REDACTED]

Small [REDACTED] District Eastern Sierra Leone

Sector: Diamond Mine

Site Visit conducted by: [REDACTED]

Victim activity-

Twelve boys slightly above 18 or just below are working with no adult presence or supervision, some move gravel while others are washing and about four are just hanging around and laughing at jokes being told by one who seemed to be the oldest and probably the team leader. Following are what I observed:

- No physical disabilities
- They seemed to have just started work and would go on until around noon and go home to come back in the evening to complete washing for the day.
- Muddy stagnant water an obvious risk should any slip from the high rise.
- Being in the sun and exposed to flies that cause river blindness is also a common hazard in this area.

Since there was no older person it seemed the boys were here working on their own to get a few pieces that they would sell to get some cash to survive on. I interviewed two. Interview notes are attached with other interview notes 2.

Site Visit Note

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research on Child Labor/Forced Labor in the Production of Goods

Date: 5th April 2008

Time: 11.00 a.m

Location: [REDACTED] area [REDACTED] Western Area, Sierra Leone

Sector: Stone Quarrying

Site Visit conducted by: [REDACTED]

Victim Activities

Several children (youngest would be four and oldest 13 years old).

Some of the children are seated close to piles of stone and breaking them into small pieces with heavy hammers, the youngest among those breaking stones was four years old. Other children carried bigger stones in head pans from the area where a huge rock had been blasted by dynamite or broken by burning fire wood. There were also adults hitting the bigger stones whilst the children put them in these pans for others to carry to where it is broken into much smaller pieces (it is mostly in this form that construction companies or individuals buy it).

A boy of 12 years pushed a wheelbarrow full of really heavy stones, all his muscles stood out as he pushed. This is repeated over and over for several hours of the day. These children are obviously not being paid as their parents or other relatives are the ones working with them, no company employs these children. Following are what I observed:

- No physical disabilities
- Schedule and duration of task: work starts as early as 6.30.a.m until late in the evening, there are small breaks in between to eat food prepared or bought from petty traders coming to site.

- Risk associated with the activity: Work site is directly situated underneath a hill which is full of huge rocks and a quarrying company with huge equipment is not very far. This company uses dynamite and other dangerous chemicals. One could see dust from crushing the stones to powder from within the compound of this company. Constant inhaling of this could be detrimental to all persons working around that area as they do not have any form of protective gear or clothing. Also with the small kids the posture assumed to break stones itself is risky, a child sits with two feet raised on a slab where stones are placed to be hit with a hammer which has been raised high up to get the desired impact. One slip of stone could result in the hammer hitting the feet of the child or should a stone skip it could hit the child in the face or head.

Also, sitting in the sun for long hours is another risk to these children, not to mention carrying heavy stones in a pan for two or more hours continuously. Fumes from tires burnt to break stones are also hazardous to the health of both adults and children. In 2004 there were anecdotal reports about young ladies forced to work in stone breaking after they got married to some of the men working there. There has never been any study to prove this.

Physical Atmosphere

Over crowded but open air

Site Visit Note

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research on Child Labor/Forced Labor in the Production of Goods

Date: 5th April 2008

Time: 08.00 a.m

Location: [REDACTED] Fishing Wharf

Sector: Fishing

Site Visit conducted by: [REDACTED]

Victim Activities

Children and adults all jammed at the waterfront, boats are starting to come in from the night of fishing out at sea. Three boys obviously exhausted sit in one of the boats, one of them is throwing out water from the boat, another jumps out with two older men and helps pull the boat closer to the wharf. There is sudden chaos as men, women and children rush to see the catch of the day, women negotiate for fish so they can go and sell, children help carry fish from the boat and also possibly to steal a few fish to sell so they can get some food, the men are equally looking for some amount of benefit (carrying fish or at least helping with sales). I observed the following:

- Few people have a disability (a child about seven years old limps by to get a job, a man of roughly 30 or so has only one foot).
- Schedule and duration of task: work starts as early as 07.00.a.m and goes until late in the evening, depending on the number of boats coming in and the season or tide.
- Risk associated to the activity:

This area is a slum and very overcrowded, so risk of catching diseases is quite high. For the children out at sea, they did not seem to be wearing much warm clothing and considering how cold it would be out at sea at night it is torture. Storms are also another risk as boats can easily capsize and of course life jackets would not be sufficient if they were available at

all. At the wharf, there is also a lot of drug peddling and consumption, the smell of marijuana hung heavy in the air.

Physical Atmosphere

Over crowded, stench of fish and humans everywhere, but open air.

Researcher's Notes: I was not allowed to take many notes as some young men asked me to leave claiming they have had enough of people coming around with surveys and yet doing nothing for their community.

Site Visit Note

MACRO INTERNATIONAL/USDOL

In-Country Research on Child Labor/Forced Labor in the Production of Goods

Date: 15th March 2008

Time: 5.30 p.m

Location: [REDACTED] Western Rural Area

Site Visit conducted by: [REDACTED]

Sector: Fishing Community

Victim Activities

Here I counted about 16 children some mending nets, others carrying fish from the boats, and a few just lazing around waiting for more boats to come in. Two boys hold on to a chain along with older men drawing it to the shore; this is full of fish. Even though the men are holding onto the chain there is still an obvious strain on the boys' hands and faces.

- No disability seen here
- Schedule and duration of task: Work starts early and these children do not go to school, some are here because their parents/guardians are there but others are on their own as they are street children with no where to go so they come here to do odd jobs to survive. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is 10 and lives with his uncle who owns a boat so he has to come and help work here (carrying fish and mending nets).
- Risk associated to the activity:

This area is considered to be the largest fishing community around the western area if not Sierra Leone as a whole so lots of people are here, children get missing, drown whilst searching for nets underneath water.

Physical Atmosphere

A sore sight for the eyes; people hustling and bustling throwing insults, fighting and the waterfront is also slippery for children even though it seems some of them are used to it as they were born around this area and have lived there all their years

Researcher's Notes: Except for [REDACTED] (a child who was interviewed – see Type 2 Interview Notes), all the children seemed perfectly at ease and by just looking no one would conclude forced labor exists here. People are always suspicious of a strange person around and I explained to a man who seemed to be the leader around there that I was just observing activities around and if possible interview someone. He agreed but everyone shied away from being interviewed (more boats were coming and this was more important). I could not therefore gather much evidence of child/forced labor in this area even though much has been said about it in the past.

Annotated Bibliography: Sierra Leone

In-country Research on Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Production of Goods

Submitted to:

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Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
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May 16, 2008

List of Acronyms

AIM	African International Mission-Sierra Leone
CTUC	Commonwealth Trade Union Council
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMJD	Network Movement for Justice and Development
SLLC	Sierra Leone Labor Council
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCRC-SL	United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child-Sierra Leone

✓ *All Sierra Leone documents are hard copies except for the following: **World Vision Sierra Leone (2002).***

1. Ansumana, F. (2007). The impact of Human Trafficking as Human Rights Abuse on Women and Children in Post-War Sierra Leone. Freetown, Sierra Leone:

Source: NGO

Child Labor: Domestic Labor, Diamond Mining, Sexual Exploitation

Child Trafficking: Domestic Labor, Diamond Mining, Sexual Exploitation

This is an unpublished academic work examining human trafficking (adults and children) in Sierra Leone. It looks at the different types of trafficking that occurs in Sierra Leone; trafficking into the diamond mines, domestic labor and sexual exploitation. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were held with community leaders and other organizations in the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Districts [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The report focuses primarily on child trafficking. It does not however indicate the origin or destinations of those trafficked. Reference is made to the UNICEF State of the World's Children 2000 report which estimates that 71.6 percent of children aged five to 14 years old in Sierra Leone were working in 2000.

2. Combating Child Labor in developing Countries. (2007, April 12). Standard Times. Sierra Leone

Sources: News Article

Child Labor: Agriculture, Fishing, Sisal, Sugar, Cane Plantation

This article discusses generally about child labor in Africa and states that child labor exists in the fishing sector in Sierra Leone. Tombo and Yeliboya are key fishing areas where this goes on. No further details are available and method used to get the information contained in this article is not mentioned.

The report also mentions child labor in sugar cane and sisal plantations in Sierra Leone. No other report corroborates this however.

- . 3. Goal Ireland. (2004). Assessment of Disadvantaged Children Youths and Communities in Rural and Urban Areas of Sierra Leone. Freetown Sierra Leone

Source: NGO

Child Labor: Service (luggage toting), Sexual Exploitation, Street Vending,

Child Trafficking: Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation

This survey was conducted in 2004. The western urban and rural communities were the target areas and the methodology used were desk reviews of previous research on the issue of disadvantaged youths and children, primary data collection through individual in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with community stakeholders. The report touches on various issues facing disadvantaged youth and children in the Western rural and urban communities in Sierra Leone. It further indicates children are involved in performing various tasks like street vending, luggage toting, prostitution and stealing as survival strategies. With regards prostitution the youth and children actually have their bosses who oversee their activities and collect the proceeds gotten from this trade

The report mentions that majority of the disadvantaged children found in the streets have either been trafficked from other parts of Sierra Leone and neighboring countries of Guinea and Nigeria. Children are trafficked to work as housemaids or boys, some to sell wares on the street, some for begging and stealing. The report does not mention however any sectors in which these children work.

- . 4. International Organization for Migration: Combating Worst Forms of Child Labor through Education Sierra Leone Project Proposal. (2005). Author- International Organization for Migration, Help a Needy Child International and Pekin to Pekin Movement. Produced in Freetown Sierra Leone.

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture, Begging, Construction, Domestic Labor, Fishing, Mining, Sexual Exploitation, Stone Crushing, Trade

This is a project proposal for combating the worst forms of child labor and trafficking through an education program prepared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) based on the results of a needs assessment conducted in Kailahun, Kenema, and Kono Districts in the Eastern part of Sierra Leone; Koinadugu in the north; and Pujehun in the southeast. The assessment results found that mining, construction, stone crushing, agriculture, fishing, prostitution, begging, petty trading, and domestic work were considered the worst forms of child labor in the five districts. Regarding the numbers of children involved in mining activities the report states that a total of 1,104 girls and 1,896 boys were involved in mining in Pujehun, Koinadugu Kenema and Kono Districts in the South, East and North of Sierra Leone; for prostitution and begging 1,088 girls and 912 boys were involve. This is a combined figure as it does not state how many children are involved in prostitution and how many are in begging. Also agriculture and fishing figures are combined bringing out a total of 1,058 girls and 942 boys involved. The report does not state what type of mining was done by children, nor does it provide specific data on agricultural goods produced using child/forced labor. The document does not specify what tasks are performed

by children in each sector mentioned. An assessment report is unavailable with this project proposal.

. 5. Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights. 2005.

Human Trafficking in the context of Sierra Leone a situation analysis from Eastern Region of Sierra Leone. Freetown, Sierra Leone: Author: Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights and Care International.

Source: NGO

Child Trafficking: Cocoa

Child Labor: Rice

This report was produced after a situational analysis was conducted in [REDACTED] Sierra Leone. Findings revealed that children were trafficked from Koindu in Kailahun District to Cocoa plantations in Ivory Coast. The report mentions that children were used by Islamic teachers to work (specific tasks not mentioned) on rice farms in the District with consent from parents but exploitive. The report further mentions children moving into Liberia and Guinea to work but does not indicate whether these children have been trafficked and what type of tasks or work they were involved in. Questionnaires were produced and used to conduct interviews with key community leaders in the Kailahun District.

. 6. Network Movement for Justice and Development. (2006). Report on the Situation of Child Miners in Sierra Leone.

Source: NGO

Child Labor: Diamond Mining

This report is the result of a study conducted by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD). The study aimed to determine the number of children involved in diamond mining, as well as produce an assessment of the situations and conditions in which they worked and lived. The study included 267 children in four districts including: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The research methodology took the form of interviews based on a questionnaire that was designed to fit each interviewee (child miner, parent or guardian, crew bosses or mine owners). A total of 14 data collectors were involved in the four districts. The data collected in these areas were used as vital samples in analyzing the broader perspective on child mining. The data analysis of report has been graphically portrayed in part in the document. Of the 267 children, only 51 percent attended school; many had dropped out within the last five years for financial reasons; even those attending school did some part time work in between. It was noted that 55 percent of child miners live

with at least one parent, 38 percent live with a relative and seven percent live on their own. More boys were included in the study than girls, 230 to 37. This is because diamond mining typically employs more boys than girls. The youngest child found working in the mines was seven years old and the oldest was 17 years old. Sixty percent of children surveyed were between the ages of 10 – 15. The children (boys) involved in mining were performing tasks such as digging, shoveling and carrying of gravel whilst the girls carried out tasks such as fetching water, cooking and carrying tools. They are paid and the income went to their parents or guardians. The report also mentions children working in industrial mines (breaking granite stones, digging, gathering and transporting sand and facilitating construction work. Regarding this, however the report does not give any figures or more details of children working in this sector.

. 7. NGO Complementary Report on UNCRC – SL (2005) UNICEF

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Mining, Domestic Labor

This report put together by protection NGOs in Sierra Leone states that child labor is prevalent in the country. Child labor exists in the mining and domestic labor sectors. The report mentions the World Vision 2003 survey report which indicates that 48 percent of children between five and 14 years old were involved in child labor. Apart from this no specific mention is made about the use of forced labor in the production of goods.

. 8. Sierra Leone Labor Congress, Commonwealth Trade Union Council, and the Netherlands Confederation of Trade Unions. (2004). Report on Workshop on Child Labor and Abuse in Sierra Leone. Published in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Source: Other – Trade Unions

Child Labor: Unspecified Sector

This report produced after a five-day workshop organized by the Sierra Leone Labor Congress, Commonwealth Trade Union Council, and The Netherlands Confederation of Trade Unions looks at the magnitude of child labor, forms of abuse, and measures to combat it in Sierra Leone. This report states that over 80 percent of children ages five to 18 years are involved in child labor, 64 percent of which come from the Western Area (Freetown and its surrounding areas), 78 percent in the north, 66 in the South and 70 percent in the East. Twelve percent of these children do not live with their biological parents but live in homes of wealthy families where they work as domestic help or workers.

The report looks at child labor in general and gives no specific information on the use of forced labor in the production of a particular good.

- . 9. Surtees, R. Nexus Institute to Combat Human Trafficking, Vienna Austria Child Trafficking in Sierra Leone 2005. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2005

Source: International Organization

Child Labor: Agriculture Diamond Mining, Sexual Exploitation, Soldiering, Street Vending

Child Trafficking: Agriculture, Diamond Mining, Domestic Labor, Sexual Exploitation, Soldiering, Street Vending

Forced Child Labor: Domestic Labor

This research reports on child trafficking in general in Sierra Leone. It highlights trafficking of children for labor into diamond mines, agriculture, domestic work, prostitution, street vending and child soldiering. Research methodology had four components, conducting a literature review of existing trafficking documents, primary data collection from communities and its leaders, interviewing secondary sources in Sierra Leone government, civil society groups and international organizations. Primary data collection assumed the form of in depth interviews, focused group discussions with adults, focus group discussions with children (10-17 years). The report states that Sierra Leone is both source, transit and destination country for both internal and external trafficking of both adults and children. It mentions and has case studies of victims of international trafficking to other West African countries (Guinea, Ivory Coast and The Gambia) the Middle East (Lebanon) and EU (Belgium). With regards Sierra Leone as a destination country no specific information is given, the case of a Nigerian involved in trafficking and using Sierra Leone as a transit point was mentioned. The report further brings out the various forms of child trafficking in Sierra Leone and these include; trafficking for prostitution, arranged and forced marriage, forced domestic labor diamond mining, agriculture (unspecified) fishing, fighting forces and street vending. The type of labor mentioned in the report includes domestic work, street vending, mining, fishing and agriculture.

- . 10. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Sierra Leone Country Report 2005, Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, Freetown Sierra Leone

Source: Government Agency - Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs

Child Labor: Factory Work, Mining, Trade

This report was produced by the Government of Sierra Leone in 2005 and addresses the implementation of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child. Regarding child labor, it states child labor is on the increase in mines, factories and market places.

- . 11. World Vision Sierra Leone. (2002). Children in Mining Activities 2002. Sierra Leone.

World Vision and African International Mission-Sierra Leone (AIM-SL), Freetown Sierra Leone, (Electronic Copy).

Source: NGO

Child Labor: Diamond Mining

In 2002, World Vision Sierra Leone undertook this survey to look into the involvement and participation of children in mining activities in the diamond-rich Kono District. A total of 1,500 people (500 child miners, 500 mine owners/crew bosses and 500 parents/guardians of child miners) were surveyed. Close-ended questionnaires designed by World Vision Child Protection Staff and Central Statistics Office were used to generate data. A multi-stage cluster sampling procedure was used. The study area was first clustered into six clusters with each chiefdom constituting a cluster. Besides the questionnaires the interviewers also visited sites where they observed participation of children in mining activities. The survey covered six chiefdoms in Kono District- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chiefdoms. The data revealed that 83 percent of children interviewed were actively involved in mining, while 8.6 percent, primarily girls, went to the mining sites to cook. Less than one percent of children surveyed went to the mining site to sell items or to supervise mining activities. Children surveyed were between the ages of six and 18. Almost 10 percent of those interviewed were exposed to hard labor. The report does not mention what activities or tasks children perform in the mines or what hard labor it refers to.

Comments on MACRO In Country Research – Sierra Leone
June 2, 2008

General Comments

1. Thank you for persistence in securing interviews with Government officials.
2. Wherever possible, please state exactly what the good is for fishing and vegetables. For example, exactly what types of fish and vegetables?

Interviews

3. If an interviewee provided a source that was subsequently included in the annotated bibliography, please be sure to note this under a researcher's note in the interview and also cite the title of the source.
4. The Type 1 interview with [REDACTED] on page 16, and with [REDACTED] on page 49, cite granite stones as a good. How are granite stones different from plain stones cited in other interviews and sources in the annotated bibliography? Or are they considered the same good? Please explain.

Annotated Bibliography

5. The TORs required that the researcher collect a minimum of 30 documents. It appears this could not be done, but please provide a detailed explanation as to why.