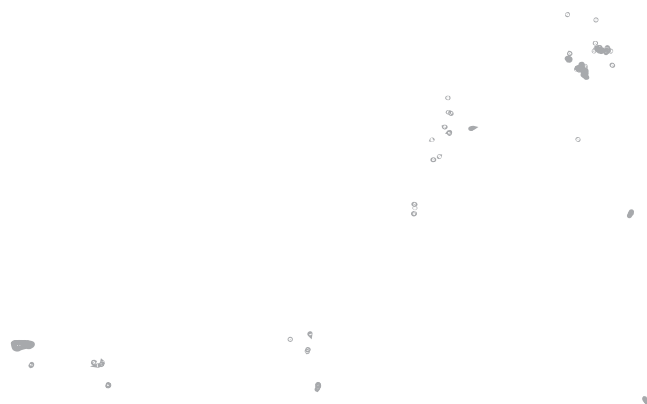


In 2014, Seychelles made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government adopted the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, which criminalizes all forms of human trafficking and contains provisions to prevent child trafficking and other worst forms of child labor. The Government also adopted the Strategic Framework and National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons, which provides legal protection and social assistance to victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. However, children in Seychelles are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation. The Government has not established a minimum age for hazardous work nor has it determined hazardous occupations or activities prohibited for all children. In addition, the Government has not taken sufficient action to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation through social programs.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Seychelles are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation. (1-6) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Seychelles. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Primary Completion Rate (%)		104.5

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2011, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(7)
Data were unavailable from Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis, 2015.(8)

Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children's work by sector and activity.

Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity

Sector/Industry	Activity
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation sometimes as a result of human trafficking* (3-6)

* Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown.

‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a) – (c) of ILO C. 182.




Children in Seychelles, predominantly girls, are induced into commercial sexual exploitation by peers, family members, and pimps. (4-6) Migrant workers and foreign tourists contribute to the demand for commercial sex, particularly on the main island of Mahe. (4-6, 9) Seychellois children engage in commercial sexual exploitation in nightclubs, bars, guest houses, hotels, brothels, and on the street. (4, 6) According to NGOs, drug addicts under age 18 are among those at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. (5, 6, 9)

Limited evidence suggests that the lack of school infrastructure and limited availability of teachers impede access to education, which may increase the vulnerability of children to the worst forms of child labor. (10)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Seychelles has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 31 of the Constitution (11)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	No		
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	No		
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 17 of the Constitution; Article 251 of the Penal Code (11, 12)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Article 4 of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act (13)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Article 245 of the Penal Code; Article 2 of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act (12, 13)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 73 of the Children Act of 1982 (14)
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	18		Article 23 of the Defense Act of 1981 (15)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Article 33 of the Constitution (11)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 33 of the Constitution (11)

* No conscription.(16)

Article 31(b) of the Constitution stipulates that the minimum age for dangerous, harmful, and unhealthy work should be higher than the minimum age for work of 15 years, though it does not specify an age.(11) Article 22(4) of Seychelles’ Conditions of Employment Regulations allows children ages 15 to 17 to work in the restaurant, tourism, or entertainment industries and at night with the written approval of a “competent officer,” though a definition for “competent officer” is not provided in the legislation. (5, 17)

The Attorney General’s office has established a committee to bring Seychelles’ national laws into harmony with ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor. (18, 19) A more specific list of hazardous child labor activities that includes a provision that sets a minimum age for hazardous work at 18 has been developed but was not approved during the reporting period.(19, 20)

In April 2014, the Government adopted the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, which criminalizes all forms of human trafficking, including the trafficking of children.(4, 6, 13) The law prescribes penalties for those convicted of children trafficking up to 25 years’ imprisonment and a fine up to \$55,000, a punishment sufficiently stringent and commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape.(4, 6, 13, 21) The law also provides legal protection and social assistance to victims

of human trafficking. Children identified as victims of human trafficking receive specialized assistance that address the needs of minors, including education support and family reintegration services.(6, 13)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor and Human Resources Development's Labor Monitoring and Compliance Unit	Enforce child protection and child labor laws, investigate complaints and conciliate disputes between employers and workers.(22, 23)
Police Department' Family Squad	Investigate criminal cases involving minors, including issues of commercial sexual exploitation.(5, 22, 24, 25)
Department of Social Affairs' Child Protection Unit	Develop and implement programs to protect vulnerable children and monitor alleged violations of child labor laws, including those related to the worst forms of child labor.(5, 22, 24, 25)

Law enforcement agencies in Seychelles took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms.

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2014, the Ministry of Labor and Human Resources Development employed six labor inspectors.(4) Labor inspectors did not receive training on the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period.(26) Reports indicate there is a lack of trained staff, equipment, transportation, and funding to conduct effective inspections and legal proceedings.(4, 27) Labor inspectors conduct regular checks to monitor school attendance and manage truancy.(28) Labor inspectors are authorized to conduct unannounced or announced inspections. The Inspectorate can initiate routine or targeted inspections based on analysis of compliance data or patterns of complaints.(29) Research could not identify the number of inspections, complaints, citations issued, violations, and penalties assessed related to child labor, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

Criminal Law Enforcement

No information was found regarding the total number of Police Department' Family Squad agents, although agents received training on child trafficking.(30) Reports indicate that investigators handled commercial sexual exploitation cases during 2014; however, reports indicate that no legal action was taken against those who exploited children for commercial sex.(4, 22) Research also did not find information about the number and quality of investigations, prosecutions, convictions, or whether appropriate penalties were applied related to the criminal enforcement of crimes related the worst forms of child labor. Reports indicate there is a lack of trained staff, equipment, transportation, and funding to effectively conduct criminal law enforcement efforts related to the worst forms of child labor.(4)

A formal referral mechanism is in place between law enforcement agencies and the Department of Social Affairs' Child Protection Unit.(24, 25) During 2014, the Department of Social Affairs conducted community outreach and awareness programs on human trafficking.(4)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in Persons	Coordinate actions against trafficking in persons and guarantee the protection of victims at the national level. Committee members are appointed by presidential order.(4, 5) The Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs and includes representatives from the Police force, Immigration and Civil Status Department; the Attorney General's Office; and the Ministries of Labor and Human Resource, Foreign Affairs, and Customs. Also includes nongovernmental stakeholders.(13)

Table 6. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor (cont)

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Council of Children (NCC)	Monitor the implementation of government policies to protect the rights of children and coordinate social programs for victims of child abuse.(18, 22) The Council is a semi-autonomous body established by the NCC Act of 1981.(28, 31) Board members are appointed by the President and includes representatives from government ministries and civil society organizations.(25)
National Commission for Child Protection	Implement, coordinate, and monitor government efforts on child protection.(25) The Commission is chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs and includes representatives from the Attorney General's Office, Health Department, Police Force, Family Tribunal and Ministry of Education and Youth. Also includes nongovernmental stakeholders.(3, 32)

The National Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in Persons met multiple times during the reporting period to develop the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act and drafted the Strategic Framework and National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons; both were approved.(4, 21) The National Council of Children met during the year to implement awareness-raising campaigns on child abuse and commercial sexual exploitation.(22) The National Commission for Child Protection was active during the reporting period.(26)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government of Seychelles has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 7).

Table 7. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Social Renaissance Plan of Action (2012-2016)	Establishes a 5-year roadmap in the areas of education, health, employment, human resource development, social affairs, community development, and security.(2) Includes provisions to decrease violations of children's rights, bolster child protection, and enhance services to victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including child victims.(2) Implemented and monitored by Ministries of Home Affairs; Health; Community Development; and Education, Employment and Human Resources Development, among other agencies.(33)
Strategic Framework and National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons†	Includes goals of enhancing the legal framework to prevent human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, effectively implementing laws, providing effective protection and care for victims and strengthening social and educational initiatives for vulnerable children.(4, 6, 34)
National Employment Policy and Strategies†	Incorporates policies to increase employment opportunities for youth and expand programs to assist women, children, and vulnerable groups.(22, 35) Also aims to develop a list of hazardous occupations prohibited for children. Implemented and monitored by the Ministry of Labor and Human Resource Development.(35)
Social Security Benefits*	Increased funding in 2014 budget for social security benefits to better support vulnerable groups. Enhanced benefits to orphans and other at-risk children and youth.(6){U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, #149;U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, #151;U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, #180}
National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Education (2013-2014)*	Lays out steps to provide a comprehensive, integrated system for early childhood services.(36)

* Child labor elimination and prevention strategies do not appear to have been integrated into this policy.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In November 2014, the Government, in partnership with international organizations, launched a two-month media campaign to raise awareness on trafficking in persons, entitled "Open your eyes," as part of the Strategic Framework and National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons.(6, 37)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2014, the Government of Seychelles funded programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms. The Government has other programs that may have an impact on child labor, including its worst forms. (Table 8)

Table 8. Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children awareness raising‡	Government program that implements awareness-raising activities aimed at youth. Focuses on the dangers of commercial sexual exploitation.(4)
Juvenile Project of Child Rehabilitation‡	Joint effort by the Ministry of Education and the Department of Social Development to serve vulnerable children, including school dropouts. Provides a package of services, including education and psychological care.(18)
Transportation subsidy*‡	Government-funded program that subsidizes bus fares for students in need who live more than three kilometers from school buildings.(6, 25)
National Early Childhood Care and Education Trust Fund *‡	Government-administered trust fund to promote the healthy development of children.(33) Funded several projects during the reporting period, including the purchase of educational materials and playground equipment and the training of early childcare providers.(33)
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Program*‡	Government-implemented training program for secondary school students 16 years of age and older who have difficulty with traditional school curricula. Aims to deter students from dropping out of school.(18) Program enrollment increased in 2014.(19)

* The impact of this program on child labor does not appear to have been studied.

‡ Program is funded by the Government of Seychelles.

Although the Government has a program to address commercial sexual exploitation, the scope of this program is insufficient to address the full extent of the problem, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children associated with tourism.(18)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in Seychelles (Table 9).

Table 9. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including Its Worst Forms

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Eliminate legal provisions that potentially allow for children between 15-17 to engage in hazardous work, and ensure law provides a clear definition of a “competent officer.”	2010 – 2014
	Ensure the law specifically prohibits hazardous work for all children under age 18.	2011 – 2014
	Determine hazardous occupations or activities prohibited for all children in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations.	2009 – 2014
Enforcement	Ensure adequate funding, human resources, training and transportation for law enforcement agencies.	2014
	Collect and make public information on the number of labor inspections, complaints, citations issued, violations, and penalties assessed; as well as number of criminal investigators, number and quality of investigations, prosecutions, convictions, or whether appropriate penalties were applied related to the criminal enforcement of crimes related the worst forms of child labor.	2011 – 2014
	Strengthen enforcement of laws against the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation.	2011 – 2014
Government Policies	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into existing policies.	2014
Social Programs	Conduct research to better understand the extent and nature of the worst forms of child labor in Seychelles.	2013 – 2014
	Ensure that all children have access to education by establishing and implementing a program to address the lack of teachers and schools.	2014
	Expand the scope of programs to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including exploitation associated with tourism.	2011 – 2014
	Assess the impact that existing social programs may have on addressing child labor.	2011 – 2014

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