

In 2012, the Turks and Caicos Islands made no advancement in efforts to prevent the worst forms of child labor. While there is no evidence of a problem, the Government lacks a complete, preventive legal framework. The Turks and Caicos Islands have not established a minimum age for performing hazardous work, leaving children under 18 vulnerable.

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children in the Turks and Caicos Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the islands' 2,000 stateless children may be vulnerable to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.(1)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Although the Turks and Caicos Islands is a territory of the United Kingdom (UK), it writes its own legislation and does not follow UK laws.(2, 3)

The minimum age for employment in the Turks and Caicos Islands is 16.(4) Children younger than age 16 may be employed with the written consent of a parent or guardian. Research found no evidence of a minimum age for hazardous work or a comprehensive list prohibiting children from hazardous work.

Slavery and forced labor are prohibited by the Constitution.(3) No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.

Defense in the Turks and Caicos Islands is the responsibility of the UK, and there is no military conscription. The minimum age for voluntary military recruitment is 16.(5, 6)

Education is compulsory through age 16.(7) Research did not find complete information on the question of whether education is free.

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Since there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for a coordinating mechanism to address the worst forms of child labor.

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Since there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for policies to address the worst forms of child labor.

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Turks and Caicos continued to participate in the Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) Program through the program's completion in October 2012.(8) The SCOT Program was sponsored by the UK's Department for International Development. Through the SCOT Program, participating governments receive capacity building and advisory support to implement policies, procedures and best practices to ensure children's health and safety.(9)

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the prevention of the worst forms of child labor in the Turks and Caicos Islands:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Establish a minimum age for hazardous work and a comprehensive list prohibiting children from hazardous work.	2011, 2012
	Clarify whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.	2011, 2012

Turks and Caicos Islands

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