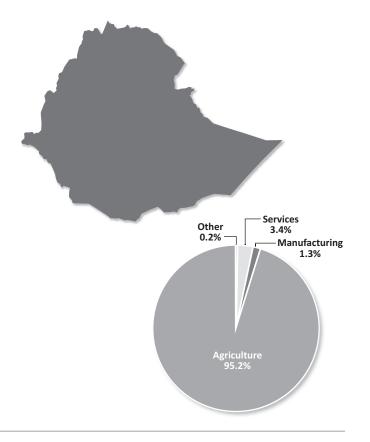
Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia has supported programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor, such as providing services to children living and working in the street and child trafficking victims. However, its efforts did not target sectors with a high incidence of child labor, such as agriculture and domestic service. Ethiopia has not adopted or implemented a comprehensive policy to combat the worst forms of child labor and has not effectively enforced its child labor laws.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	50.1*
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	29.2
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable

^{*} Population of working children: 8,854,463



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Ethiopia are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including agriculture and domestic service. Children's work in agriculture commonly involves dangerous activities, such as using dangerous machinery and tools, carrying heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides. Although evidence is limited, there is reason to believe that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of coffee, cotton, onions, sugarcane and tea. Children also herd and take care of cattle, which may require them to work long hours. Reportedly, children also work to catch fish for sale. Some children who work in fishing may be exposed to risks, such as drowning.

In urban areas, children—mostly girls—work in domestic service, which may involve risks such as sexual and other forms of abuse. Many child domestics also suffer from depression and

anxiety.²⁰⁷⁴ Girls collect firewood and water, activities which may require them to walk long distances with heavy loads.²⁰⁷⁵

Children work in the production of gold. Children working in small-scale gold mining may dig their own mining pits and carry over 10 gallons of water daily.²⁰⁷⁶ Anecdotal evidence indicates that children may also work in quarries.²⁰⁷⁷

In urban areas, many children live and work on the streets as shoe shiners, vendors and beggars, which may expose them to many dangers, including severe weather, vehicle accidents and criminal elements.²⁰⁷⁸ Some child beggars are intentionally maimed or blinded to raise their earnings. Children also work in petty trading, transportation and the construction and manufacturing industries.²⁰⁷⁹

Although the extent of the problem is unknown, reports indicate that children may represent a

considerable percent of the traditional weaving industry in Addis Ababa and the Gamo Gofa and Wolaita Zones.²⁰⁸⁰ Child weavers may work long hours, face physical, sexual or emotional abuse from their employers and develop injuries as a result of crouching while working on traditional weaving looms.²⁰⁸¹ Anecdotal evidence suggests that some child weavers suffer starvation and are held in debt bondage.²⁰⁸²

Children in Ethiopia are also found in other activities that constitute the worst forms of child labor, such as prostitution, forced labor and with militias. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is more prevalent in urban areas, especially Addis Ababa.²⁰⁸³ Girls are recruited to work in prostitution at brothels, hotels, bars, rural truck stops and in resort towns.²⁰⁸⁴ Girls may also be involved in the production of pornography and in sex tourism.²⁰⁸⁵ Reports also suggest that children are recruited by local militias, predominantly in the Somali Regional State.²⁰⁸⁶

Trafficking of children occurs from Oromiya and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) to other regions in Ethiopia for forced labor in domestic service and the weaving industry. Children are also trafficked from rural to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, street vending and manual labor. Children are reportedly trafficked from Ethiopia to Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, Europe and the Middle East for labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

Although the Government has made significant strides in improving access to education by building schools, children in rural areas are still at risk of entering the workforce at a young age due to the limited number of schools.²⁰⁹⁰

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Proclamation sets the minimum age for employment at 14 and the minimum age

for hazardous work at 18.²⁰⁹¹ The law forbids employers from using "young workers," defined as children ages 14 to 18, when the nature of the job or the conditions under which it is carried out might endanger the life or health of a child.²⁰⁹² The Labor Proclamation also prohibits children from working at night, working overtime and in occupations designated as the worst forms of child labor.²⁰⁹³

WIJON	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	No
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	14
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Government only provides protection to children involved in contractual labor, excluding many children who perform unpaid work and work on the streets, in family farms or as child domestics. ²⁰⁹⁴ In addition, the law does not prohibit children above the age of 14 from engaging in hazardous work if this work is performed following a Government-approved vocational training course. Hazardous work is dangerous to the health and safety of the children involved, even if this work is supervised. ²⁰⁹⁵

The Constitution provides protections for children from trafficking, slavery and forced labor. Some communities in Ethiopia have also enacted local

by-laws against trafficking. The Criminal Code also prohibits trafficking, child pornography, the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the use of children in illicit activities. However, there is no evidence of a legal framework or institutional structure to ensure that all children are registered at birth. Unable to prove citizenship, nonregistered children are vulnerable to trafficking and recruitment in armed conflict. The Criminal Code sets the minimum age for conscription and voluntary recruitment into the military at 18. ²⁰⁹⁹

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and **Enforcement**

Although the Government of Ethiopia has established an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts, its mandate does not extend to combating other worst forms of child labor.²¹⁰⁰

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) is the lead agency for trafficking in persons programming and its Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment Department (OSHWED) is responsible for data collection, analysis and policymaking for labor purposes.²¹⁰¹ In 2010, six regional governments established a steering committee on human trafficking. In some communities, there are child protection committees, including children, police, health workers and teachers.²¹⁰²

MOLSA is also the primary federal agency responsible for labor inspections, which are organized through federal and regional offices. OSHWED enforces occupational safety, health and minimum labor conditions of industrial enterprises in Addis Ababa and Dere Dawa, which include child labor laws. ²¹⁰³ OSHWED employs 120 labor inspectors. ²¹⁰⁴ ILO reports that this department is understaffed and lacks sector-specific occupational health and safety guidelines, which weakens enforcement efforts. ²¹⁰⁵

The Regional Bureaus of Social and Labor Affairs (BOLSAs) and City Administration are responsible for labor inspections at the zonal offices and regional and city levels. ²¹⁰⁶ Both OSHWED and BOLSAs lack equipment and their inspectors do not have access to suitable transportation, often relying on employers and trade union representatives for rides. ²¹⁰⁷ Labor inspectors' salaries are not competitive and turnover is high. The NGO Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment provided training to some labor inspectors. ²¹⁰⁸

Labor inspectors visit enterprises to conduct investigations, which are commonly unannounced, and use checklists specific to small, medium and large enterprises. ²¹⁰⁹ If a labor violation is found, labor inspectors may require the employer to correct the situation within a given timeframe or may report the incident to the Minister of Labor. ²¹¹⁰ Labor inspectors do not have the authority to impose immediate sanctions, and fines can only be issued by a court. Outreach to and inspection of the formal sector of the economy has been limited. ²¹¹¹

In addition, the labor relations board, an institution which settles labor disputes, receives labor complaints and issues decisions on alleged violations.²¹¹² Research found no information on how many child labor investigations were opened, how many citations were issued and whether appropriate sanctions were applied.²¹¹³

The Ministry of Justice and the police investigate and prosecute criminal violations of child labor laws.²¹¹⁴ Police departments in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Dere Dawa have special Child Protection Units (CPUs) that are staffed by one social worker and two police officers who identify and refer victims of the worst forms of child labor to support services.²¹¹⁵ During the reporting period, CPUs identified 1,134 trafficked children, referred 116 of these children to shelters and reunified 757 children with their parents or

guardians.²¹¹⁶ The police, in collaboration with the Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment, also operate a hotline to report trafficking cases, but there are no statistics on how many cases are reported or their outcome.²¹¹⁷

Child Protection Committees and Child Clubs, which promote children's rights, were established in SNNPR. During the reporting period, 1,882 committee and club members were trained on the protection of trafficking victims, trafficking case management and international and Ethiopian trafficking laws.²¹¹⁸

The federal police established a Human Trafficking and Narcotics Section in the Organized Crime Investigation Unit to collaborate with the prosecutor's office in conducting investigations, prosecuting offenders and reporting and collecting trafficking data. In 2009, this unit investigated 63 cases and referred 39 cases to the prosecutor's office. It is not known how many of these cases involved children.²¹¹⁹

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government drafted a National Action Plan on Child Labor (2010-2015) and a new Protocol and Guideline on child labor identification, withdrawal, reintegration and educational policies. However, these have not yet been adopted.²¹²⁰

The Government's National Plan of Action on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (2006-2010) outlines targets for reducing the number of children working in the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation. The National Action Plan against Trafficking and the National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2010) also include provisions to reduce the worst forms of child labor.²¹²¹ However, the National Plan of Action for Children document was not translated into local languages or adequately distributed to local authorities in charge of its

implementation.²¹²² No additional information was available on these policies, including whether they were being implemented effectively. In addition, although the Government has established the right to free primary education, in practice, the cost of school supplies and quality of education inhibits some children from attending school.²¹²³

In 2010, the Government launched its Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) Policy which will support early education programs for young children and community-based non-formal school readiness programs.²¹²⁴ Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan 2010-2015 supports the expansion of education services and outlines interventions that the Government plans to undertake in the next five years to provide greater opportunities for vulnerable households to engage in decent work.²¹²⁵ The question of whether these policies have an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed

In addition, child labor issues have been integrated into the following Ethiopian development agendas and policies: Development Social Welfare Policy, the Education Sector Development Program III, Decent Work Country Program and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. However, in general, these policies do not have budgets, detailed action plans or targets related to the worst forms of child labor.²¹²⁶

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

In 2010, the Government conducted awareness-raising activities to combat child labor and piloted a child labor free zone in Addis Ababa in collaboration with the Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment. It brought together child protection officers, labor inspectors, police and other stakeholders to reintegrate child laborers. The Government of Ethiopia, in partnership with UNICEF, is also providing over 6,000 street children with formal and nonformal education

and access to free health care in Addis Ababa and 14 other major towns.²¹²⁸

In 2011, the Government provided 3,000 people living and working on the streets, including children, with clothing, food and vocational training in cobblestone manufacturing. Research found no information about the condition in which child beneficiaries worked in cobblestone production.

During the reporting period, Ethiopia participated in a \$1 million project funded by the Government of Italy to support the development of a national action plan on the worst forms of child labor. The Government, in partnership with Save the Children, also completed a pilot survey on child labor and exploitation in seven towns. However, the Government has not published the results of this survey or the Central Statistical Agency's 2009 survey on child labor. Statistical Agency's 2009 survey on child labor.

Ethiopia is also participating in the Regional Program for Eastern Africa (2009-2012) to

combat the trafficking of children. With support from UNODC, this program aims to collect data on trafficking in persons, develop a border control system and ratify and implement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.²¹³²

Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) has several components, one of which has been shown to reduce the amount of time children from participating households work. However, another component has been shown to increase the amount of time children work where children's labor is substituted for the labor of adult family members.²¹³³

While the Government participates and implements several programs to combat the worst forms of child labor, its efforts have not targeted sectors with a high incidence of child labor, such as agriculture and domestic service. In addition, the Government has not incorporated child labor concerns into its PSNP.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Ethiopia:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Ensure protection for children who are working on a non-contractual basis and engaging in unpaid work.
- Amend the Labor Proclamation to raise the minimum age children may enter hazardous work following the completion of a Government approved vocational training course from 14 to 16 years.
- Create a legal framework and institutional structure to ensure the registration of all children at birth.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Conduct an investigation into the recruitment practices of local militias to ensure that children are not engaged by these groups.
- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat all worst forms of child labor.
- Develop sector-specific occupational health and safety guidelines.
- Strengthen the capacity of labor law enforcement officials by
 - Providing labor inspectors with competitive salaries to reduce turnover.
 - Providing high-quality and regular training on child labor laws to enforcement personnel.
 - Ensuring that labor inspectors in MOLSA have adequate budgetary resources to conduct systematic inspections in all sectors of the economy.
- Gather and make publicly available information about how many child labor investigations are open, how
 many citations and criminal prosecutions are initiated and issued and whether appropriate penalties are
 applied.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt the National Action Plan on Child Labor and Protocol and Guideline.
- Make publically available the results of child labor surveys and information regarding the National Plan of Action for Children and assess the impact this policy and others may have on addressing child labor.
- Translate the National Plan of Action for Children into local languages.
- Include budgets, action plans and targets related to the worst forms of child labor in development agendas and policies.
- Gather and make publicly available information about the implementation of national policies to combat child labor.
- Promote and implement the right to a free primary education by supporting the cost of school supplies.

IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Develop social protection programs for the withdrawal or prevention of children working in agriculture and domestic service.
- Ensure that programs targeting children living and working on the streets offer psychosocial services and that vocational training programs do not promote child labor.
- Improve access to education in rural areas by building additional schools.
- Implement a birth registration campaign.
- Ensure that child labor prevention and withdrawal strategies are incorporated into the PSNP.

²⁰⁶⁹ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates, 2005-2011. Data on working children and school attendance are from 2005. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report. See also Yisak Tafere, Workneh Abebe, and Asham Assazinew, Key Transitions and Well-being of Children in Ethiopia: Country Context Literature Review, June 2009, 12; available from http://www. younglives.org.uk/files/technical-notes/key-transitionsand-well-being-of-children-in-ethiopia-country-contextliterature-review.

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²⁰⁷² Tafere, Abebe, and Assazinew, *Key Transitions and Wellbeing of Children in Ethiopia: Country Context Literature Review*, 12. See also Assefa, *Baseline study and situational analysis of child labour and education in HIV/AIDS affected communities in Ethiopia*, 133, 135. See also Yisak Tafere and Laura Camfield, *Community Understandings of Children's Transitions in Ethiopia: Possible Implications for Life Course Poverty*, ISBN: 9781904427452, University of Oxford, Oxford, January 2009, 19; available from http://www.younglives.org.uk/files/working-papers/wp41-community-understandings-of-children2019s-transitions-in-ethiopia-possible-implications-for-life-course-poverty. See also People in Need Ethiopia, *A study on the situation of child labour in Ethiopia*, 13.

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