

# Non-Independent Countries and Territories

There is limited information regarding the **Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor** in non-independent countries and territories eligible for GSP, AGOA and CBTPA benefits.(1) Statistics on child work and school attendance are often not available from the sources used in this report. In some cases, there is no evidence to suggest that the worst forms of child labor exist in certain non-independent countries and territories. In these cases, when laws appear to meet the guidelines called for in ILO Convention 182 and embodied in the TDA, no recommendations for action have been included.

These non-independent countries and territories generally are not eligible to become members of ILO, so the organization's Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182) do not apply to the majority of them.(2, 3) Territories are generally subject to the laws of the sovereign country.

## Assessments

Evidence suggests that the worst forms of child labor are an issue in some non-independent countries and territories. These entities are assessed in the same manner that all other countries included in this report are assessed. Other non-independent countries and territories do not appear to have a problem with the worst forms of child labor. These entities fall into three types.

The first type of non-independent country and territory involves one in which the population of children is either non-existent or extremely small (under 50). For this reason, OCFT does not write profiles on these territories. The three territories that fit this category are Heard and McDonald Islands, the Pitcairn Islands and the British Indian Ocean Territories/Chagos Archipelago. The Heard and McDonald Islands are uninhabited, and the population of the Pitcairn Islands is less than 50 people.(4) The British Indian Ocean Territories is inhabited by U.S. and U.K. military personnel.(5)

The second type of non-independent country and territory is one with no evidence of a worst form of child labor problem and with a good legal and enforcement framework. Such entities will be marked "No assessment". Given the lack of a demonstrated problem, along with the presence of a preventive

legal and enforcement framework, OCFT does not include recommendations for these territories. OCFT would likewise not assess these territories' efforts. (There are currently seven territories that fit this category. If new evidence emerged that showed the worst forms of child labor had been eliminated in certain countries, it would be theoretically possible for such countries, as long as they had a good legal framework, to fit into this category.)

The third type of non-independent country and territory is one in which there is no evidence of a worst forms of child labor problem, but that lacks a good legal and enforcement framework. The lack of such a framework is a gap in efforts to prevent the worst forms of child labor. For this reason, such non-independent countries and territories are assessed as "No advancement."

## REFERENCES

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2. ILO. *Constitution of the International Labour Organization*; 1948. <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/constq.htm>. Most of the areas covered in the summary report are considered non-metropolitan territories and are therefore ineligible to become members of ILO. While ILO still does not have an official definition for "non-metropolitan territory," in earlier versions of the ILO Constitution, "colonies, protectorates and possessions which are not fully self governing" was used in place of this term. An ILO member can submit a declaration to ILO requesting that these conventions apply to their non-metropolitan areas. Please see the chart regarding ratifications of international conventions and selected non-independent country and territory laws at the end of this discussion.
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4. Central Intelligence Agency. *Pitcairn Islands*, [online] [cited <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>].
5. U.S. Embassy- London. E-mail communication. USDOL official. April 1, 2011.

## Anguilla

*In 2011, Anguilla made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms for child labor. Although evidence is limited, children are reportedly involved in commercial sexual exploitation in Anguilla. As a result of the Child Protection National Action Plan, the Government published the Safeguarding and Child Protection Protocols and Procedures, which designates clear responsibilities for government agencies, serves as a guide for recognizing and referring child protection cases, and will assist in the development of future legislation. Despite these efforts, the Government appears to lack a list of hazardous work prohibited to children and does not have the institutional framework or any programs to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Some children in Anguilla are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, specifically in commercial sexual exploitation. Reportedly, children perform sex acts in exchange for money and gifts.(1) In a number of cases, these transactions reportedly occur with the knowledge, consent and, sometimes, initiation of the child's parent.(1) However, information about the nature and prevalence of the problem remains limited.

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Education Act prohibits children of compulsory school age (5 until the age of 17) from employment during the school year, and children younger than age 14 from employment at all times.(2) The Employment of Children (Restriction) Act limits children younger than age 12 from working in any capacity, including light work.(3) Under the Restriction Act, children ages 12 to 14 may not work during the school day, and there are limitations on work times and the total number of hours they may work. In addition, they are prohibited from work that may be physically hazardous or that requires heavy lifting.(3) It is unclear whether the Education Act or the Employment of Children (Restriction) Act takes precedence in regard to whether children ages 12 to 14 may engage in light work.

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act prohibits all children younger than age 17 from working in industrial undertakings or at night. This provision may leave children age 17 vulnerable to dangerous work in industrial undertakings or at night.(2) The Governor of the Territory has the authority to expand restrictions on child labor.(3) Research did not identify whether Anguilla has a comprehensive list of hazardous work prohibited for children.

The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.(4) The Criminal Code prohibits the prostitution and abduction of children, and the publishing or circulation of indecent materials. The Code also prohibits the use of children for illicit activities.(2, 5)

Defense in Anguilla is the responsibility of the United Kingdom and the minimum age for military recruitment is 16.(6) The minimum age of 16 for military recruitment appears to fall below the international standard of 18 years established in ILO Convention 182.

The Education Act makes education compulsory to age 17.(2, 7) The law also guarantees free education until age 17.(8)

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Anguilla has formed a multiagency Child Protection Steering Committee to carry out the Child Protection National Action Plan.(9) The Department of Social Development (DSD) is the main coordinating agency responsible for child protection in Anguilla. The DSD employs social workers to manage and investigate child protection cases.(10) It also works with the Royal Anguilla Police Force to investigate cases involving child abuse, although what responsibility the Police Force has for enforcing laws against the worst forms of child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation, is not clear from research.(11) However, research found no evidence that the Government of Anguilla has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The Employment of Children (Restriction) Act designates the Labor Commissioner as responsible for enforcing child labor laws. The Act authorizes the Labor Commissioner to investigate work sites where children are believed to be employed, and to prosecute, conduct or defend any information, complaint or other proceeding arising under the Act.(3)

## Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government has developed a Child Protection National Action Plan, which calls for the establishment of a child protection protocol and the development of necessary legislative and institutional frameworks to address issues impacting children and their families.(12) During the reporting period, the Government published the Safeguarding and Child Protection Protocols and Procedures to assist in the development of future legislation on child protection.(11, 13) The publication designates clear responsibilities for government agencies and serves as a guide for recognizing and referring child protection cases.(11, 14) The question of whether this policy has had an impact on the commercial sexual exploitation of children does not appear to have been addressed.

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

The Government of Anguilla participates in Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) Program, which is sponsored by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.(9) 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. In Anguilla,

the SCOT program has helped the Government develop child protection protocols, including partnerships with civil society organizations. (9, 15) Additionally, under the SCOT Program, joint training has occurred among the police force, social workers, health workers and teachers to encourage effective reporting and management of child abuse cases.(16)

The question of whether the SCOT Program has an impact on child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation, does not appear to have been addressed. Research found no evidence that the Government has carried out programs on the worst forms of child labor, specifically on commercial sexual exploitation.

**Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Anguilla:**

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Clarify whether the Education Act's minimum age of 14 for employment of any type supersedes the Employment of Children (Restriction) Act's rule that allows exceptions to the minimum age of 14.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Ensure that children age 17 are protected from dangerous work in industrial sectors.	2011
	Clarify whether a list exists that limits hazardous work for children under age 18.	2011
	Ensure that the minimum age for military recruitment meets the standards established in ILO Convention 182.	2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Establish a coordination mechanism to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Collect, analyze and disseminate information regarding the enforcement of relevant laws protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation and other worst forms of child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
Policies	Collect, analyze and disseminate information regarding the prevalence and nature of the commercial sexual exploitation of children to guide the development of policies to address the problem.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Assess the impact that the Child Protection National Action Plan may have on addressing child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation.	2010, 2011
Social Programs	Assess the impact the SCOT Program has had on addressing child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation.	2010, 2011
	Implement programs to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2011

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12. Christian, I. "Heartically Yours: Building Capacity for Social Protection." *The Anguillian*, The Valley, September 19, 2008. <http://www.festival.ai/index.php/article/articleview/6235/1/2071>.
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## British Virgin Islands

### *No Assessment*

### **Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

There is no evidence that children in the British Virgin Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

### **Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The minimum age for employment under the Labor Code of 2010 is 16, and children younger than age 18 are prohibited from hazardous work. However, children ages 14 to 16 may perform light work with approval from the Minister.(1) Children between ages 16 and 18 must have sufficient training and supervision when operating heavy machinery, and all children younger than age 18 are prohibited from night work.(1) The Labor Code also provides for the removal and rehabilitation of children subjected to the worst forms of child labor and makes the offense punishable with a fine, holding both the employer and the child's parent or guardian liable.(1) No information was found on whether the

Government has developed a list of hazardous occupations prohibited to children.

The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.(2) Under the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act of 2007, trafficking in minors and enslaving or bonding children are illegal. The code also prohibits the production, publication or possession of child pornography.(1, 3, 4). The Labor Code prohibits child prostitution, the use of a child for illicit activities, and forced or compulsory military recruitment of children.(1)

Education is free and compulsory until age 16.(5, 6)

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

As 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. The Commissioner of Labor may appoint inspectors to enforce the provisions of the Labor Code.(1) Research found no information about enforcement of the worst forms of child labor provisions in the Criminal Code.

### **Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

As 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**

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

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2. British Virgin Islands. *The Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007*, enacted June 15, 2007. <http://www.businessbvi.com/articles/the-virgin-islands-constitution-order-2007/>.
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# Christmas Island

*No Assessment*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children on Christmas Island are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Christmas Island is subject to the child labor laws of the state of Western Australia.(1) The Western Australia Children and Community Services Act 2004 prohibits the employment of children younger than age 15 in a business, trade or for-profit occupation.(2) The Department of Child Protection can issue an order to stop a child from working if there is a risk of harm.(1) No information was found on whether any laws define hazardous work or establish a minimum age for it.

Child prostitution is prohibited under the Western Australia Prostitution Act of 2000.(1, 3) Both the Western Australia Children and Community Services Act and the federally enacted Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 of Australia proscribe the possession, production and distribution of child pornography.(2, 4, 5) The Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 of Australia also criminalizes all forms of slavery, forced labor, the use of children for illicit activities and trafficking in children.(4)

Defense of Christmas Island is the responsibility of the Australian Defense Force, which has a voluntary recruitment age of 17 and a minimum combat age of 18.(6-8)

Public education is free and education is compulsory until age 17.(9-11)

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As 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.

The Australian Federal Police, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and the Department of Regional Australia enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor.(1, 11)

The Australian Federal Police is responsible for investigating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, such as pornography.(1)

The Australian Federal Police has jurisdiction in trafficking matters and its Human Trafficking Teams investigate human trafficking for the purpose of transnational sexual and labor exploitation.(5) The Australian Federal Police Child Protection Operations Team performs an investigative and coordination role for multijurisdictional and international online child sex exploitation issues.(1, 5)

## Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

As 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

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

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# Cocos (Keeling) Islands

*No Assessment*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children on Cocos (Keeling) Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Cocos (Keeling) Islands are subject to the child labor laws of the state of Western Australia.(1) The Western Australia Children and Community Services Act 2004 prohibits the employment of children younger than age 15 in a business, trade or for-profit occupation.(2) The Department of Child Protection can issue an order to stop a child from working if there is a risk of harm.(1) No information was found on whether any laws define hazardous work or establish a minimum age for it.

Child prostitution is prohibited under the Western Australia Prostitution Act of 2000.(1, 3) Both the Western Australia Children and Community Services Act and the federally enacted Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 of Australia proscribe the possession, production and distribution of child pornography.(2, 4, 5) The Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 of Australia also criminalizes all forms of slavery, forced labor, the use of children for illicit activities and trafficking in children.(4)

Defense of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is the responsibility of the Australian Defense Force, which has a voluntary recruitment age of 17 and a minimum combat age of 18.(6-8)

Public education is free and education is compulsory until age 17.(9-11)

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As 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.

The Australian Federal Police, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and the Department of Regional Australia enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor.(1, 11)

The Australian Federal Police is responsible for investigating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, such as pornography.(1)

The Australian Federal Police has jurisdiction in trafficking matters and its Human Trafficking Teams investigate human trafficking for the purpose of transnational sexual and labor exploitation.(5) The Australian Federal Police Child Protection Operations Team performs an investigative and coordination role for multijurisdictional and international online child sex exploitation issues.(1, 5)

## Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

As 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

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

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## Cook Islands

*In 2011, the Cook Islands made no advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Although information is limited, there are reports that some children in the Cook Islands are involved in commercial sexual exploitation. Although the Government collaborated with nongovernmental organizations in the development of a National Plan of Action on the Sexual Exploitation of Children, this Plan has not yet been implemented.*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There are reports that some children in the Cook Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, specifically in commercial sexual exploitation.(1) Information about the

nature and prevalence of the problem, however, remains limited.

### Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Cook Islands have some of their own laws but also follow some of the laws of New Zealand and the United Kingdom.(2) The Cook Islands follow the New Zealand Industrial and Labor Ordinance of 1964 which prohibits children younger than age 16 from working in factories without permission from the Industrial Relations Officer. The Ordinance also prohibits children younger than age 18 from any work that the Industrial Relations Officer deems dangerous. Children younger than age 18 may not work with factory machines without knowledge of the dangers, and must take precautionary measures and receive sufficient training and supervision.(3) Information on minimum age laws in other enterprises was not identified.

Forced labor and compulsory labor are criminal acts under the Cook Islands Prohibition of Forced and Compulsory Labor Ordinance and Amendment Acts.(4-6) Trafficking in persons is illegal under the Cook Islands Crimes Amendment Act of 2004, but it is not clear that internal trafficking is addressed in the Act.(1, 7) There are no armed forces in the Cook Islands.(8)

The Cook Islands Crimes Act of 1969 prohibits prostitution. Brothel-keeping, living on the earnings of the prostitution of another person and procuring a girl to have sex with a man who is not her husband are illegal, as are selling, distributing or otherwise exhibiting indecent documents.(1, 9) No information was found to suggest laws exist prohibiting the use of children in illicit activities.

Education is compulsory to age 15. The Government provides free primary and secondary schooling.(10, 11)

### Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Cook Islands have established a coordinating mechanism to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The Labor and Consumer Affairs Division of the Government monitors the implementation of child labor laws in the Cook Islands.(1) Several agencies participate in protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, which includes the Child and Family Services Division, is responsible for all matters relating to children and families.(1) The Chief Censor has some responsibility for issues of pornography. The Ministries of Tourism, Culture, Education, Foreign Affairs, Health, and Justice, as well as the police also play roles in protecting children.(1) Research found no evidence that the Government of the Cook Islands maintains and publically releases information on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Past reporting indicated the Government of the Cook Islands collaborated with nongovernmental organizations to develop a National Plan of Action on the Sexual Exploitation of Children. However, this Plan has not yet been put into action.(1, 12)

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

Research found no evidence that the Government has established programs to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

**Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the Cook Islands:**

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Amend the Cook Islands Crimes Amendment Act 2004 to clarify prohibitions of internal trafficking in persons.	2011
	Clarify whether a law exists that prohibits the use of children in illicit activities.	2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Establish a mechanism to coordinate efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2010, 2011

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Coordination and Enforcement	Monitor and make public information regarding investigations, prosecutions and convictions involving commercial sexual exploitation of children	2010, 2011
Policies	Collect, analyze and disseminate information regarding the prevalence and nature of commercial sexual exploitation of children to guide the development of policies to address the problem.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Adopt and implement the National Plan of Action on the Sexual Exploitation of Children.	2010, 2011
Social Programs	Establish social programs to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2009, 2010, 2011

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## Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

### *No Assessment*

### **Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

There is no evidence that children in the Falkland Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

### **Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Falkland Islands Employment of Children Ordinance prohibits the employment of children younger than age 16. It also is illegal to employ children ages 16 to 18 during school hours if the work may harm their health, safety or morals, or if the work involves lifting, carrying or moving anything that may injure them.(1) The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance makes it illegal to employ children in work that exposes them to physical, psychological or sexual abuse. It also protects children from work that is underground, underwater, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces, or work that requires the use of dangerous machinery, equipment or tools without training and supervision. Children younger than age 18, including those who have completed compulsory schooling, may not work at night in any industry.(2) No information was found on whether the Government has developed a list of hazardous occupations prohibited to children.

The Falkland Islands Constitution Order 2008 prohibits slavery and forced labor.(3) No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.



The Education Amendment Ordinance of 2008 makes education free and compulsory to age 16.(1, 4)

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

As 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**

As 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**

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

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4. Government of the Falkland Islands. *Education*, [online] [cited February 13, 2012]; <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/Education.html>.

## **Gibraltar**

*In 2011, Gibraltar 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. Gibraltar has not yet enacted the Crimes Bill of 2011 that outlines trafficking prohibitions. In addition, boys are not protected from prostitution under the law.*

### **Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

There is no evidence that children in Gibraltar are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.(1)

### **Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Gibraltar follows the child labor laws of the United Kingdom.(1) According to the British Child and Young Person's Act of 1933, a child can start working part-time at age 14 and full-time at the end of the school year in which the child will be age 16. The Government of Gibraltar's Working Time Act prohibits children under 16 from performing dangerous activities, including mining, manufacturing, and construction.(2, 3)

The Gibraltar Constitution Order of 2006 prohibits slavery and forced and compulsory labor.(4) The Gibraltar Criminal Offenses Act of 1960 protects girls from prostitution, and the Crimes (Indecent Photographs with Children) Act of 2009 prohibits child pornography. (5, 6) The prostitution of boys is not specifically prohibited under the law. There is no evidence of comprehensive laws against trafficking in Gibraltar. The Crimes Bill of 2011, which has been approved by Parliament but has not yet been implemented, applies gender neutrality to offenses and outlines trafficking prohibitions more explicitly.(7) No information was found to suggest that laws exist prohibiting the use of children in illicit activities.

The recruitment age for the Royal Gibraltar Regiment is 17.5 with parental consent.

Education is compulsory to age 15. Primary and secondary education is free to all residents of Gibraltar.(8, 9)

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

As 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**

As 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**

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

**Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the prevention of the worst forms of child labor in Gibraltar:**

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Ensure that laws against commercial sexual exploitation protect all children regardless of gender.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Enact legislation that prohibits trafficking in persons.	2011
	Clarify whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.	2011

## REFERENCES

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2. Government of Gibraltar. *Working Time Act*, enacted 1999.
3. Government of the United Kingdom. *Employment of Women, Children and Young Persons Act*, enacted 1920.
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6. Government of Gibraltar. *Crimes (Indecent Photographs with Children) Act 2009*, enacted October 29, 2009. <http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/articles/2009-40o.pdf>.
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9. U.S Embassy- London. E-mail communication to USDOL official. June 6, 2012.

## Montserrat

*In 2011, Montserrat made no advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Although limited, there is evidence that some children in Montserrat are involved in commercial sexual exploitation. While the Government participates in the Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) Program, no institutional mechanisms to coordinate efforts have been created to combat commercial sexual exploitation, and the laws do not protect boys from prostitution. In addition, the Employment Act does not protect children ages 15 to 18 from performing dangerous work. The Government did not collect information regarding the prevalence and nature of commercial sexual exploitation.*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There are reports that some children in Montserrat are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation in exchange for money and material goods.(1) Information about the nature and prevalence of the problem remains limited.

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The minimum age for employment under the Montserrat Employment Act is 14. Children younger than age 15 are prohibited from industrial undertakings unless the work is not dangerous and only family members are employed.(2) The minimum age of 15 for dangerous work is under the international standard of age 18 for such types of work set forth in ILO Convention 182. Research found no evidence of a comprehensive list prohibiting children from hazardous work.

The Montserrat Penal Code prohibits the prostitution of girls.(3) The prostitution of boys is not specifically prohibited under the law. Pornography is also illegal.(3)

The Constitution of Montserrat prohibits slavery and forced labor.(4) Abduction and kidnapping are punishable under the Penal Code, and these Code provisions may be used to prosecute traffickers.(3) No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.

The Education Act of 2004 makes education compulsory to age 16. The Government provides free education from nursery through secondary school.(5, 6)

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Government of Montserrat has established a coordination mechanism to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The

Royal Montserrat Police Service has primary responsibility for enforcing laws involving children. The Department of Social Services employs the social workers who work on child protection issues.(7)

### Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Research found no evidence of any policies addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Montserrat.

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

The Government of Montserrat participates in the SCOT Program, which is sponsored by the United Kingdom'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.(8) The question of whether the SCOT Program has an impact on child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation, does not appear to have been addressed. Research found no evidence that the Government has carried out programs on the worst forms of child labor, specifically on commercial sexual exploitation.

### Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Montserrat:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Raise the minimum age for all types of dangerous work to 18 and establish a list prohibiting hazardous work for children.	2011
	Ensure that laws against commercial sexual exploitation protect all children, regardless of gender.	2009, 2011
	Clarify whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.	2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Develop coordination and enforcement mechanisms to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2010, 2011
Policies	Collect, analyze and disseminate information regarding the prevalence and nature of the commercial sexual exploitation of children to establish policies to address the problem.	2009, 2010, 2011
Social Programs	Assess the impact the SCOT Program may have on addressing child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation.	2010, 2011
	Implement programs to address the worst forms of child labor, specifically targeting commercial sexual exploitation.	2011

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## Niue

*No Assessment*

### Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children in Niue are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

### Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Information on laws on minimum employment age, forced labor, the use of children for illicit activities and on laws against commercial sexual exploitation of children was not identified. No information was found on whether the Government has developed a list of hazardous occupations prohibited to children.

Trafficking in persons is a specific offense in Niue.(1) No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities. There is no military in Niue, as defense is the responsibility of New Zealand.(2)

Education in Niue is compulsory to age 16.(3) Research did not find complete information on whether education is free.

### Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As 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

As 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

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

#### REFERENCES

1. UNODC. "Pacific Islands," in *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. Vienna; February 2009; <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>.
2. Central Intelligence Agency. "Niue," in *The World Factbook*. Washington, DC; 2012; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ne.html>.
3. Charts Bin. *Ending Age of Compulsory Education Around the World -- Niue*, [online] [cited February 13, 2012]; <http://chartsbin.com/view/qpp>.

## Norfolk Island

*In 2011, Norfolk Island 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. Norfolk Island has no legislation prescribing a minimum age for employment and prohibiting hazardous work for children.*

### Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children on Norfolk Island are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.(1)

### Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no minimum age for employment on Norfolk Island. Children younger than age 15, however, are subject to limitations under the Norfolk Island Employment Act of 1988.(1) Children younger than age 15 may not work more than 20 hours a week, at night or during school hours.(2) Parental consent and written agreement is required to employ persons younger than age 18.(2) Information is limited, but it does not appear that Norfolk Island has restrictions on hazardous child labor. However, the employer has a duty to provide a safe working environment and, without any charge, the required safety equipment and clothing.(1) No information was found on whether the Government has developed a list of hazardous occupations prohibited to children.

Australia's Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995, which applies to Norfolk Island, criminalizes all forms of slavery and forced labor, trafficking in children, forced prostitution and child pornography. The Norfolk Island Criminal Code Act 2007 prohibits sexual servitude, child pornography and the provision of a controlled substance to children for sale or distribution.(2, 3) The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1993 makes it illegal to employ a person younger than age 16 for the purposes of prostitution.(2)

Defense of Norfolk Island is the responsibility of the Australian Defense Force, which has a voluntary recruitment age of 17 and a minimum combat age of 18.(4-6)

Public education is free.(7) The Norfolk Island Education Act makes education compulsory to age 15.(1)



## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As 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.

Employment inspectors and child welfare officers, in accordance with the Child Welfare Act of 1937, monitor the employment and take action in regard to the protection of young workers.(1) The Australian Federal Police enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor.(2) The Australian Federal Police's Human Trafficking Teams investigate human trafficking for the purpose of transnational sexual and labor exploitation. (1)The Australian Federal Police

Child Protection Operations team performs an investigative and coordination role for multijurisdictional and international online child sex exploitation issues.(2)

## Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

As 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

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

## Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the prevention of the worst forms of child labor in Norfolk Island:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Establish a legal minimum age for employment.	2010, 2011
	Establish laws to prohibit children under age 18 from engaging in hazardous work.	2010, 2011
	Amend the Criminal Code Act to protect all children younger than age 18 from prostitution.	2010, 2011

## REFERENCES

1. U.S. Embassy- Canberra. *reporting, January 19, 2012.*
2. U.S. Embassy- Canberra. *reporting, February 11, 2011.*
3. Government of Norfolk Island. *Norfolk Island Criminal Code*, enacted 2007.
4. Central Intelligence Agency. "Norfolk Island," in *The World Factbook*. Washington, DC; 2012; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ck.html>.
5. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. "Australia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*. London; 2008; <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/preface>.
6. Government of Australia. *Canberra Act 2600, Amendment No 2*, enacted April 22, 2008.
7. U.S. Embassy- Canberra official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. March 31, 2011.

## Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (formerly called Saint Helena)

*No Assessment*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children in Saint Helena and its dependencies, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.(1)

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is very little information on the laws and regulations against the worst forms of child labor in Saint Helena and its

dependencies. Information on laws on minimum employment age, on forced labor, and against commercial sexual exploitation of children was not identified. No information was found on whether the Government has developed a list of hazardous occupations prohibited to children.

The Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor.(1) No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.

In Saint Helena and Tristan da Cunha, the Education Ordinance makes education free and compulsory to age 15. In Ascension, education is compulsory to age 16.(2)

### **Institutional Mechanisms of Coordination and Enforcement**

As 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. The Department for Employment and Social Security is responsible for employment issues.(3)

### **Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

As 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 participates in Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) Program, which is sponsored by the United Kingdom'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.(4)

#### **REFERENCES**

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2. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Initial reports of States parties due in 1996 - Overseas dependent territories and crown dependencies of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*; February 22, 2000.
3. UN Economic and Social Council. *Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Fifth periodic reports submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Overseas Territories*. New York, United Nations; February 14, 2008. <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/404/99/PDF/G0840499.pdf?OpenElement>.
4. U.S. Embassy- London. *reporting, December 9, 2010*.

## **Tokelau**

### *No Assessment*

### **Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

There is no evidence that children in Tokelau are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

### **Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Tokelau Crimes, Procedures and Evidence Rules Act of 2003 prohibits prostitution and the possession, sale or exhibition of pornography.(1) New Zealand legislation does not apply to Tokelau, unless it is extended with Tokelauan consent. Evidence that laws from New Zealand against the worst forms of child labor have been extended to Tokelau was not obtained. No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.

Public education is free and compulsory to age 16.(2, 3)

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

As 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**

As 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**

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

#### **REFERENCES**

1. Government of Tokelau. *Tokelau Crimes, Procedures, and Evidence Rules 2003*, enacted 2003. [http://www.paclii.org/tk/legis/num\\_act/cpaer2003302/](http://www.paclii.org/tk/legis/num_act/cpaer2003302/).
2. Government of Tokelau. *Education*, [online] [cited February 15, 2012]; <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Foreign-Relations/Pacific/Tokelau/0-tokelaubooklet.php#Education>.
3. UNESCO. *World Data on Education*; 2010. [unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001931/193192e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001931/193192e.pdf).

# Turks and Caicos Islands

*In 2011, 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 to protect children from performing hazardous work.*

## 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.

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The minimum age for employment in the Turks and Caicos Islands is 16. Children younger than age 16 may be employed with the written consent of a parent or guardian.<sup>(1)</sup> 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.<sup>(2)</sup> No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the

use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.

Education is compulsory to age 16.<sup>(3)</sup> Research did not find complete information on the question of whether education is free.

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As 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

As 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 the Turks and Caicos Islands participates in Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) Program, which is sponsored by the United Kingdom'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.<sup>(4)</sup>

## 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
	Clarify whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.	2011

## REFERENCES

1. *Turks and Caicos Islands Employment Ordinance 2004*, enacted October 26, 2004. <http://www.misickstanbrook.tc/articles/ordinances/Employment%20Ordinance/Employment%20Ordinance%202004.pdf>.
2. *The Turks and Caicos Constitution Order 2006*, enacted August 9, 2006. [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1913/pdfs/uksi\\_20061913\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1913/pdfs/uksi_20061913_en.pdf).

3. Charts Bin. *Ending Age of Compulsory Education Around the World -- Turks and Caicos*, [online] [cited February 22, 2011]; <http://chartsbin.com/view/qpp>.
4. U.S. Embassy- London. *reporting, January 19, 2012*.

# Wallis and Futuna

*No Assessment*

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children in the Wallis and Futuna Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.(1)

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

French law applies in the Wallis and Futuna Islands.(2) As such, the French Labor and Penal Codes detailed herein extend to its territory of Wallis and Futuna.

The French Labor Code prohibits employment for persons younger than age 16, with some exceptions for apprenticeships and other alternative education programs, light work during holidays and work within the entertainment industry.(3-5) Minors younger than age 18 are prohibited from certain dangerous jobs and from working more than 7 hours a day or 35 hours a week. These jobs include working in plants, factories, construction sites, and workshops.(4, 5)

The French Penal Code prohibits slavery, forced labor, and the use of children in illicit activities such as transporting or selling drugs.(6) The Penal Code prohibits trafficking in children and provides for appropriate penalties for offenders.(5) Procuring and prostituting a child is also prohibited under France's Penal Code and such offenses carry appropriate penalties.(5, 7)

Under the French Penal Code, it is unlawful to take, record or send a pornographic image of a minor with the intention of circulation. Such a crime carries appropriate penalties, as does the crime of distributing a pornographic image of a minor through import or export.(6)

Persons younger than age 17.5 years are prohibited from admittance into the French Armed Forces.(8)

Education is free and compulsory to age 16.(9)

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As 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

As 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

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

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# West Bank and the Gaza Strip

*During 2011, the Palestinian Authority (PA) made no advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the 18 percent of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under PA control. Although the PA solicited donor support to hire additional inspectors and expand vocational programs for youth, it did not receive the funding necessary to implement these goals. The PA did not initiate any programs for children working on the streets or in dangerous activities in agriculture. Although the PA reassigned one inspector to specialize in child labor issues, it continued to lack an adequate number of inspectors and child protections officers to enforce child labor laws. Children continue to engage in the worst forms*



*of child labor in dangerous activities in agriculture and street vending.*

### Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Primary Completion Rate		Unavailable

#### Sources:

**Primary completion rate:** UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)

**All other data:** Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis.(2)

	C138, Minimum Age	N/A
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A
	CRC	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	N/A
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	N/A
	Minimum Age for Work	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

### Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, many of them in dangerous activities in agriculture and street vending.(3) Some children working in agriculture help to cultivate dates.(4-12) Children working in agriculture may use dangerous tools, carry heavy loads and apply harmful pesticides.(3)

Children engage in street vending and portering, which may involve carrying heavy loads and working long hours standing in the sun and traffic, often without food or water. Children working in the streets are vulnerable to harassment

and assault.(8, 10-12) Some children work in auto body shops, in which they are exposed to unsafe tools and machinery.(8, 13, 14) Children also collect metals and other salvageable materials from garbage dumps and structures demolished from the ongoing conflict. Scavenging exposes children to harmful and unsanitary materials, as well as to potential hazards from unexploded ordnance or structures that may collapse.(9, 11, 12)

Children in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip work in stone quarrying, and collect pebbles and gravel for construction purposes.(8, 9, 11, 14-17) This work requires heavy lifting and often takes place in dangerous areas that put the children in the middle of ongoing conflict.(14-17) While evidence is limited, there are indications that children work in manufacturing and construction.(8-10, 12)

In the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, Palestinian children work inside underground tunnels that run between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, smuggling food and other goods, including chemicals, and digging and laying wire for electricity and pipelines for fuel.(8-10, 12, 18-22) Some children may work up to 10 hours at a time in the tunnels, with only a short break.(8, 10) Many children use stimulant drugs to decrease pain and increase stamina during long shifts in the tunnels. Some Palestinian children have died in the tunnels as a result of Israeli attacks and efforts to block the smuggling.(10, 20, 23)

Because children are generally able to cross Israeli military checkpoints with less scrutiny than adults, they are sometimes used to smuggle drugs and to transport or sell weapons.(12) Children are reportedly used in armed conflict as human shields and informants.(25) There is limited evidence that children are trained as combatants by Hamas.(22)

### Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Since the 2007 takeover in Gaza by Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, the PA no longer has jurisdiction or enforcement capabilities in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, under the terms of the Oslo-era agreements between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Israeli Government, the PA only has law enforcement capabilities in the 18 percent of the West Bank that is designated Area A.(22) The Israeli Government is responsible for law enforcement in Areas B and C. This report discusses only the efforts of the PA in the areas it controls. For more information, see the U.S. Department of State's 2011 Human Rights Report at <http://www.state.gov>.(22)

The Unified Labor Law No. 7 of 2000 and Palestinian Child Law No. 7 of 2004 (PCL) prohibit the employment of any

person under age 15. The former also requires children from age 15 to age 18 to receive medical examinations every 6 months while working.(26) The Labor Law prohibits children from working more than 4 consecutive hours at a time, and requires employers to give children a 1-hour break during their shift.(26, 27)

The Labor Law prohibits children under age 18 from being employed in industries that the Minister of Labor (MOL) identifies as dangerous or unhealthy. It also prohibits children from working night shifts and overtime, piece work and employment away from their communities.(10, 26) The law also creates exceptions for children who work for and are directly supervised by relatives, as long as the work does not negatively impact the mental and physical development of the child or the child's education.(10, 26) In 2004, the Minister of Labor created a list of 32 activities from which juveniles, defined as children ages 15 to 18, are prohibited from doing. These activities include mining stone, any other work related to extracting material, producing and using pesticides and lifting more than 10 kg, which includes dragging heavy materials and engaging in construction work.(28) In addition, juveniles are permitted to work a maximum of 6 hours, but are prohibited from working between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Employers are required to keep a record of birth certificates and other information such as letters of consent from parents allowing the children to work.(28)

The PCL prohibits the exploitation of children in any work that is against the law, hinders a child's education or is harmful to his or her health, physical or moral safety. The PCL specifically prohibits the use of children in drug and alcohol-related industries, the publication, circulation or possession of child pornography and the use of children in armed conflicts.(26, 27) Prostitution is illegal.(10)

The PA Labor Law does not expressly prohibit forced and compulsory labor.(22, 26)

While there is no regular military force in the West Bank or in Gaza, recruitment for government service, including security services, is voluntary beginning at age 18.(26, 29)

Article 37 of the PCL states that all children have the right to complete education through secondary school. The law requires the Government to take action to encourage student attendance, eliminate discrimination and promote the dignity of students.(27) Education is compulsory for 10 years. Children start school on average around age 6, which means that Palestinian children should be in school until approximately age 16.(30)

Due to the limited jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, the PCL is not enforced in Gaza or most of the West Bank. In Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank, the Jordanian Education Law No. 16 of 1964 takes precedence. Article 10 of this Law makes education compulsory from ages 6 to 15, regardless of grade.(27, 31) The Hamas-controlled Gaza follows the PA's compulsory education law requiring children to attend school until age 15. In Gaza, education is provided by relief organizations, Hamas and Christian private schools.(31) No unified and comprehensive education law exists for all of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.(27)

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip lack adequate schools to serve all children. Children often travel long and often dangerous distances to attend schools, which can sometimes be poorly equipped and unhygienic.(32)

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

Research found no evidence that the PA has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor in the PA-controlled areas of the West Bank.

The Ministry of Labor's Inspection and Protection Administration is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.(18, 33) During the reporting period, the MOL continued to employ 45 labor inspectors, but increased the number of inspectors specifically assigned to monitoring child labor conditions by 1. this increase brings the total number of child labor specialists to 6.(8, 10, 18, 22, 27) Government officials describe the MOL as understaffed and in need of at least 150 labor inspectors in order to cover most of the private establishments in which children often work.(8, 18)

Because of current political circumstances, enforcement agents cannot monitor conditions in all areas in which Palestinian children are working. This limited jurisdiction leaves many children without the benefit of monitoring and enforcement to protect them against labor exploitation. During the reporting period, the PA was unable to conduct investigations in the Gaza Strip due to Hamas control of the area.(8, 18) In addition, PA officials have stated that there are no enforceable laws to monitor and protect Palestinian children working in Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank.(10, 22)

In 2011, the MOL inspectors engaged business owners on child labor laws in an effort to raise awareness on minimum age requirements for work eligibility.(8) No current or reliable data were found on the precise number of investigations conducted or violations reported during the reporting period. However, between 2007 and 2011 the MOL referred only 10 people to

the Attorney General for employing children under age 15 in dangerous work.(8) Further information on the result of these referrals, fines imposed or other penalties is not available. Palestinian Authority law requires the MOL to investigate suspected cases of children recruited for armed conflict and mandates that those responsible be tried in court.(34)

The Child Protection Department within the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) is responsible for preventing the abuse and sexual exploitation of children as well as for assisting victims of such maltreatment. Since 2010, the MOSA has attempted to register all employed youth in an effort to improve the monitoring of working conditions.(27) In cooperation with the local police force, MOSA Child Protection Officers are responsible for investigating cases of sexual exploitation. The most recent data available indicate that the MOSA had employed fewer than 13 child protection social workers in the West Bank, and eight in Gaza.(27) According to government officials, while the Child Protection Officers receive reports of both child labor and child abuse, they are burdened with too large of a case load and too few resources to follow up on child labor violations.(18)

### Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The revised National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children 2009-2011 addresses many child protection issues, including protecting children's economic rights. In its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the PA established a strategic goal to monitor all workplaces in which children are employed.(27) Due to the lack of data regarding monitoring and enforcement efforts, the research did not uncover whether the Government had achieved this goal during the reporting period.

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

The Palestinian Authority is currently working with UNICEF to examine matters of child labor, including the means of monitoring child laborers and eliminating the illegal use of children.(27) However, the research did not uncover any activities produced by this collaboration.

MOSA continued to support vocational centers for children who have dropped out of school or are considered poor, and child protection programs to reduce the risk of economic exploitation of children.(27) Furthermore, families receiving social assistance through the MOSA are monitored to ensure that their children remain in school and complete the mandated minimum education.(27) In total MOSA runs 13 vocational centers, 8 in the West Bank and 5 in Gaza.(27). However, Save the Children and the PA published a report in 2010 that criticized these programs, alleging that they are outdated, poorly resourced and ineffective.(27) During 2011, the PA solicited donor support to expand vocational programs for youth but did not receive the funding necessary to implement the plan.

Palestinian children can use the free Palestinian Child Protection Helpline 121 as part of Child Helpline International, a network of child helplines that aims to provide free support and counseling to children and adolescents to protect them from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.(35) Save the Children Sweden provides funding for the helpline.(35)

Given the scope and magnitude of child labor in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the limited scope of these programs is not sufficient to combat child labor, especially in street work and agriculture.

### Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Implement a law that expressly prohibits forced and compulsory labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Provide sufficient resources and staff to the MOL and MOSA to adequately enforce child labor laws.	2010, 2011
	Collect and distribute current data on the enforcement of child labor laws.	2010, 2011

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Social Programs	Implement programs to address child labor, particularly in street vending and agriculture.	2011
	Update the curriculum of programs offered by MOSA that address the worst forms of child labor.	2010, 2011
	Improve educational access by increasing the number of well-equipped and hygienic schools available for students.	2011

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## Western Sahara

*In 2011, Morocco made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in Western Sahara. During the reporting period, the Government of Morocco provided training on child labor to enforcement officials. Although the Moroccan-controlled territory is subject to the 2004 Labor Code, there are exemptions that compromise its effectiveness. The latest draft bill to protect domestic servants and a separate draft bill to prohibit child labor in traditional artisan or handicraft sectors were not yet adopted. Some evidence suggests that children in Western Sahara continue to engage in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in dangerous forms of agriculture.*

### Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Some evidence suggests that children in Western Sahara are engaged in the worst forms of child labor in dangerous forms of agriculture.(1) Children working in agriculture may use dangerous tools, carry heavy loads and apply harmful chemicals.(2) Information about the nature and prevalence of the problem remains limited.

### Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Moroccan-controlled territory of Western Sahara is subject to Moroccan laws.(1) Part of the country is controlled by the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front), a Sahrawi national liberation movement, and information on the laws applicable in this area is unavailable.

In the Moroccan-controlled territory, the minimum age for employment is 15, as established by the Labor Code of 2004. The Labor Code also limits the number of hours that children younger than age 16 can work.(3) However, agricultural or seasonal activities may be exempt from these restrictions for children ages 15 to 16.(3) The Labor Code prohibits hazardous activities for children younger than age 18, although children working on family farms are not protected by the provisions of the Labor Code.(3) The Ministry of Employment and Professional Training updated its list of occupations that qualify as “hazardous work” for children.(4, 5) The list addresses some work in agriculture, including hazards such as use of pesticides and sharp blades.(6)

Multiple iterations of bills have been drafted to provide protections to domestic workers since the 2004 Labor Law was approved; however legislation has not yet been enacted, which leaves children in domestic service without basic protections.(7) In October 2011, a bill on setting the minimum age for domestic service at 15 years old was submitted to Parliament for approval.(8, 9) In May 2011, a draft bill to clarify Article 4 of the Labor Code regarding child labor in traditional artisan or handicraft activities was submitted to the Secretary General for approval. As of the end of the reporting period, both bills remained under review.(9)

Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited under the Labor Code and the Penal Code.(80, 82-85) Although Morocco does not have a specific law against trafficking in persons, child trafficking can be prosecuted using provisions in the Penal Code and the Immigration Law.(10)

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including pornography and prostitution, is prohibited under the Moroccan Penal Code. In addition, it is specifically prohibited under the Penal Code to incite, procure or facilitate the prostitution of a minor.(11) Sex tourism is also criminalized under an amendment to the Penal Code.(12)

According to Moroccan law, education is compulsory to age 15.(13) Based on the Moroccan model, education is free through university.(14)

The age for voluntary recruitment to the military is 18. There is no compulsory military service.(15)

### Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Government of Morocco administers its laws in Western Sahara through Moroccan institutions.(1)

Morocco’s Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MOSDFS) coordinates child labor efforts and oversees the National Plan of Action for Children (PANE), which addresses child labor, in cooperation with other ministries.(8, 9)

Morocco’s Ministry of Employment and Professional Training (MOEPT) enforces the Labor Code and implements child labor laws.(8) The MOEPT Director of Work heads the Child Labor Task Force to coordinate this effort.(8, 16) The MOEPT employed 463 general labor inspectors nationwide in 2011, all of whom have received training on child labor issues. Labor inspectors and child focal point inspectors extend into Western Sahara as well.(8)

Morocco’s Ministry of the Interior (MOI) is responsible for enforcing the Penal Code’s prohibitions on prostitution and trafficking.(8, 16)

**Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Government of Morocco has initiated child protection and development policies that extend to Western Sahara.

The MOSDFS is carrying out the broad PANE 2006-2015, which focuses on children’s health, protection, participation and education.(8, 9, 17) PANE includes the issue of child labor and sexual exploitation of children, and calls for pilot programs focusing on street children and domestic child labor.(8, 17, 18) In May 2011, the MOSDFS held a conference to review PANE and begin developing the second phase of the policy.(8)

The issue of child labor has been incorporated into the Government’s policies, such as the King’s National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD) second phase 2011-2015.(5, 8) This initiative serves as a framework to reduce poverty through improved education and health facilities, access to electricity and drinking water, attention to the needs of girls and women, and income and employment initiatives such as microfinance.(8, 17, 19, 20) Reducing child labor, with particular attention to street children, is one of the goals of the initiative.(8, 21)

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

The Government of Morocco has initiated anti-child labor and livelihood policies that extend to Western Sahara.

Through the PANE, the Government of Morocco allocated \$180,000 to fund anti-child labor programs implemented by local NGOs in 2011.(8, 9) Research did not identify the scale or results of these programs, or whether they addressed child labor in agriculture.

Livelihood projects implemented under NIHD have resulted in improved employment, housing and access to education and medical services for Moroccans.(19, 27) Programs aimed at increasing school enrollment and reducing dropout rates include the Tayssir Program, focused on primary school reform and reducing dropout rates, and the Iqtane Program, focused on secondary schools.(9, 28, 29) Limited information is available regarding these programs in 2011, specific interventions and results are not known. In November, the Government of Morocco began cooperation with UNICEF on a new \$32 million program through 2016 focusing on education for vulnerable children, health services for mothers and socioeconomic development.(8) The direct impact these projects may have had on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been assessed.

**Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Western Sahara:**

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Amend the Labor Code to apply to all types of work.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Approve legislation to protect domestic workers from hazardous work and to prevent children under the legal working age from domestic service. Also approve legislation to prohibit children under the legal working age from employment in traditional sectors and to regulate apprenticeships in traditional sectors.	2009, 2010, 2011
Social Programs	Building on the best practices of past and current projects, develop or expand programs addressing the worst forms of child labor to protect a greater number of affected children, with a special focus on children involved in agriculture.	2011
	Assess the impact that existing education and livelihoods programs may have on reducing child labor in the interest of disseminating results and expanding effective programs to further reduce the worst forms of child labor in Western Sahara.	2011

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**Reports are not included for Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Pitcairn Islands or the British Indian Ocean Territories/Chagos Archipelago. Heard Island and McDonald Islands are uninhabited, and the population of the Pitcairn Islands is less than 50 people.(1, 2) The British Indian Ocean Territories are inhabited by U.S. and U.K. military personnel.(3)**

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NON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES – LAWS AND RATIFICATIONS

		Anguilla	British Virgin Islands	Christmas Island	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Cook Islands	Falkland Islands	Gibraltar	Montserrat
	C138, Minimum Age	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	X	X	N/A	N/A	X	X	N/A	X
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Minimum Age for Work	14	16	15	15	None	16	16	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	None	18	None	None	None	18	16	15
	Compulsory Education Age	17	16	17	17	15	16	15	16
	Free Public Education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



## NON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES – LAWS AND RATIFICATIONS

		Niue	Norfolk Island	St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	Tokelau	Turks and Caicos	Wallis and Futuna	West Bank	Western Sahara
	C138, Minimum Age	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	X	N/A	X	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Minimum Age for Work	Unclear	None	Unclear	Unclear	16	16	15	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Unclear	None	Unclear	Unclear	None	18	18	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16	15	15, 16, 15	16	16	16	15	15
	Free Public Education	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes