

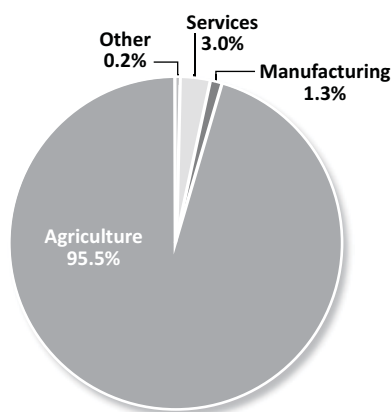
*In 2011, Uganda made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government created a Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Office and an inter-ministerial Task Force to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts. However, gaps continue to remain in laws and enforcement efforts. The legal framework lacks protection for boys from prostitution, and labor inspections are not carried out in rural areas. In addition, there is a gap between the age to which education is compulsory and a minimum age for work. The worst forms of child labor continue to exist in dangerous forms of agriculture and domestic service in Uganda.*



### Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	31.1 (2,631,389)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	84.2
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	35.3
Primary Completion Rate		57.2

### Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14



**Sources:**

**Primary completion rate:** Data from 2010, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)

**All other data:** Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from HHS Survey, 2005-2006.(2)

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

Children in Uganda are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, primarily in dangerous forms of agriculture and domestic service.(3-8) It is estimated that the majority of children who work in Uganda are found working in agriculture, to produce

tobacco, coffee and tea.(6, 7, 9, 10) Children who work on tobacco farms in Uganda are exposed to health hazards and risk developmental defects due to long working hours, exposure to tobacco fumes and the risk for respiratory diseases.(3, 6, 9) Limited evidence also suggests that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of maize, rice and sugarcane in Uganda.(7, 9) Children working in agriculture may use dangerous tools, carry heavy loads and be exposed to harmful pesticides.(8, 11)

Many children in Uganda are also engaged in the worst forms of child labor as domestic servants.(3, 7, 9, 12) Child domestic servants in Uganda commonly lack clear terms of service, work long hours with little or no pay, lack opportunities for education, are given insufficient food, and risk sexual exploitation and physical abuse from their employers.(13-16)

Children in Uganda work in fishing.(7) These children may lack safety equipment and risk death from drowning.(8) These children also receive little or no pay, work long hours processing and smoking fish, and risk injuries from burns and fatigue.(3, 17-19)

In the Karamoja region of Uganda, children herd cattle and may fall victim to involvement in cattle rustling.(7, 20) These children risk being attacked by armed men, are isolated from their communities for long periods of time, are exposed to extreme weather conditions and are denied access to schooling.(9) Children in Uganda also reportedly work in the production of charcoal, bricks and stone.(7, 21, 22)

Children in Uganda are also engaged in cross-border trading.(7, 23) Many children who live at border crossing towns and villages drop out of school to carry merchandise

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on their heads to and from Uganda border points.(23) These children may walk long miles and carry heavy loads.(24, 25)

Other worst forms of child labor exist in the urban informal sector, in which children work as street vendors selling small items.(3, 7) Some of these children end up being forced to beg on the streets.(7, 26) Children who work on the streets in Uganda are vulnerable to severe weather, traffic accidents and crime.(8)

Children risk involvement in the worst forms of child labor while working in bars and restaurants, such as commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.(3, 9, 15) Some children as young as age 10 are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.(15) Children in the custody of pimps and brothel owners are used to produce pornographic materials. These children are also exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.(3, 18, 27)

Uganda is a source and destination country for the trafficking of children.(26, 27) Children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation and forced labor in fishing, agriculture and domestic service.(26) In some cases, Ugandan children have been trafficked to Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya and Sudan for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.(26, 28) Children from Burundi, the DRC, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania are also trafficked to Uganda for commercial sexual exploitation and agricultural work.(26)

There are reports of ongoing abductions of children by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the neighboring countries of the Central African Republic, the DRC and South Sudan.(7, 29-31) However, there were no reports during the year that the LRA had abducted and conscripted children within Uganda.(7, 32)

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

According to the Employment Act, the minimum age for work in Uganda is 14. The Act states that children ages 12 to 14 are permitted to perform "light" work under adult supervision if it does not interfere with the child's education.(28, 33) In addition, no child younger than age 18 may be employed in hazardous work or between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.(18, 33) The Government of Uganda has a National Hazardous List of Employment Prohibited for Children, as well as a guideline to serve as a tool for labor inspectors to identify incidences of hazardous child labor.(18, 32, 34) The list was published and incorporated into the Regulations on Employment of Children

in 2010.(34) The guidelines define hazardous work as exposure to dangerous machinery; carrying heavy loads; exposure to harassment, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse and work under strenuous conditions for long hours.(18) Domestic work is listed as hazardous in the guidelines for children up to age 14.(18)

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	17
	Free Public Education	Yes

Uganda has free and compulsory primary education to age 12, but the minimum age for work is 14, creating a gap between the minimum ages for work and the ending age for compulsory education.(4, 35, 36) This gap makes children ages 12 to 14 particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to be in school but are not legally permitted to work in areas other than "light" work.

The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (PTIP) Act of 2009 prohibits child trafficking and provides for protection, assistance and support for trafficking victims. The PTIP Act also provides for the reparation for victims of trafficking to and from Uganda.(37, 38) The use of children in the commission of a crime is prohibited under the Act.(38)

The Ugandan Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor. Related offenses such as abduction and detention of a person for sexual intent and "defilement"—defined as having sex with a girl younger than age 18—can receive the death penalty under the Penal Code.(39, 40) However, boys under age 18 are not protected from defilement.(40)

Prostitution, procurement and pimping of a prostitute are illegal in Uganda. However, these laws only address female

victims, leaving boys unprotected from prostitution. The production of child pornography with the intent to distribute through the computer is illegal under the Computer Misuse Act of 2011.(41) However, the law does not make the production of child pornography illegal when there is no intent to distribute through a computer.

The minimum age for voluntary military service in Uganda is 18, and there is no conscription for the military.(35, 42)

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

The Government of Uganda has established a child labor steering committee to coordinate child labor issues. The committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD), the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the National Organization of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Uganda Trade Unions, the Federation of Uganda Employers, the International Rescue Committee, ILO-IPEC and other civil society stakeholders.(35, 43, 44) The committee convenes quarterly and held its last meeting of the reporting period in November 2011.(35)

As outlined by the 2009 PTIP Act, the Government created a CTIP Office in February 2012 and an inter-ministerial CTIP Task Force in March 2012.(38) The CTIP Office is charged with drafting policy, implementing public information campaigns and establishing a database on trafficking cases. The CTIP Task Force is responsible for coordinating anti-trafficking efforts among government ministries.(38, 45)

The MGLSD is the lead agency on labor issues and is in charge of enforcing all labor laws in Uganda.(7, 35) Two units within MGLSD are responsible for children's issues—the Child Labor Unit (CLU) and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Unit. The OVC Unit guides programming for orphans and other vulnerable children and integrates child labor information into an OVC database.(43, 44, 46) The CLU, with one full-time and one part-time civil servant, is responsible for the development of the National Child Labor Action Plan. The MGLSD has 40 non-specialized labor inspectors and 20 occupational health and safety inspectors who are assigned permanently to 36 of the 112 administrative districts.(35) The inspectors did not receive training during the reporting period.(35)

MGLSD inspectors conducted 250 inspections in 2011, but no inspections were carried out in rural areas. Given the scope

of child labor in the country, this number of inspections is inadequate. No child labor violations were found.(35) Research did not find evidence on the number of penalties levied for child labor violations found during previous periods.

The Uganda Police Force (UPF) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs has a Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) that has 425 officers trained on child and spousal protection issues at the national, district and local levels. At lower-level police posts, staff members are designated as CFPU liaison officers to manage a child-related complaint system and respond to complaints.(35) These liaison officers receive some specialized training on family and child law from the MGLSD and, in turn, provide training to local police regarding children's rights. The CFPU reported 88 child labor complaints during the reporting period.(35)

The UPF is the lead agency for enforcing anti-trafficking laws and investigating cases related to trafficking in persons.(45) Along with its work on children's issues in general, the CFPU also provides trainings to local police regarding measures to identify and prevent trafficking.(45) All incoming police officers are required to participate in a 1-day trafficking response course provided by the CFPU.(45) Additionally, the Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Public Prosecutions is charged with prosecuting trafficking cases.(45)

The UPF maintained its Anti Human Sacrifice and Trafficking in Persons Desk, which identified five cases of human trafficking and prosecuted three of them during the reporting period. None of the reported cases involved children.(35, 38) In addition, Ugandan courts sentenced two people to prison in separate cases for “aggravated child trafficking” under the 2009 PTIP Act.(26, 38)

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

The Government of Uganda, with support from ILO-IPEC, continued drafting the National Action Plan (NAP) on Child Labor 2011-2015.(35, 47) This NAP, which as of the writing of this report, was scheduled to be released in June 2012, is intended to complete the work started under the 2006 National Child Labor Policy. Specifically, the NAP will strengthen the legal framework and establish enforcement mechanisms to protect children from exploitation.(35, 47)

Child labor concerns have also been mainstreamed into the Millennium Development Goals (2015) and the National Education Development Plan (2004-2015).(48-50)

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

The Government of Uganda has participated in the implementation of programs to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. During the reporting period, the Government of Uganda participated in a 4-year, \$4.79 million Project of Support for the Preparatory Phase of the Uganda National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor funded by USDOL.(47) This Project aims to withdraw 8,138 children from exploitative child labor and prevent others from becoming victims.(47)

The Government also participated in a 4-year, \$5.5 million project funded by USDOL titled Livelihoods, Education and Protection to End Child Labor (LEAP).(51) The LEAP Project contributed to the prevention and elimination of child labor in Northern Uganda and the Karamoja region through awareness raising, and by improving access to and the quality of education. The Project, which ended in September 2011, prevented and withdrew an estimated 11,945 children from exploitative labor.(51) The Project also collaborated with the MGLSD and ILO-IPEC to train 11 district labor inspectors on the Guidelines for Labor Inspectors to identify hazardous child labor.(51)

The Governments of Uganda, the Central African Republic, the DRC and South Sudan continued to cooperate to rescue abductees of the LRA.(26) During the year, the Government of Uganda also took steps to protect and support demobilized LRA child trafficking victims by providing services, such as shelter and food.(26)

At a regional and policy level, the Government of Uganda participates in the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization to strengthen regional cooperation and capacities among East African law enforcement authorities.(52) The Regional Program for East Africa covers 13 countries: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda, and is funded with \$38 million from the UNODC and other funding partners. The Program includes activities that support increased coordination in combating human trafficking.(38, 52)

The MGLSD started a cash-transfer welfare program in 2010, in partnership with UNICEF, that gives cash to vulnerable households in three districts in Uganda.(35) During the reporting period, the program gave funds to 3,500 households through cash transfers that benefited 15,500 individuals. The MGLSD and the ILO reported that families are putting the funds towards school fees and materials.(35)

The Government continued its support of NGO-run shelters that provide medical care, psychological support and other services to vulnerable children.(26) In particular, the Government also supported the repatriation of Karamojong children by removing them from the streets of Kampala and placing them in a government shelter where workers screened them and returned them to their families.(26, 52)

Although there are a number of donor-funded projects in Uganda, Government-supported efforts still fall short of reaching the large numbers of children in the worst forms of child labor in Uganda, particularly in the sectors of agriculture and domestic service.(26)

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

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Adopt legislation that raises the age for compulsory education to be commensurate with the minimum age for work.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Amend legislation to protect boys from prostitution and expand the definition of the crime of "defilement" to include boys as well as girls.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Adopt legislation to make illegal the production and distribution of child pornography through any medium, regardless of intent.	2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Increase the number of child labor inspectors and trainings and ensure an adequate number of inspections are carried out, including in rural areas.	2009, 2010, 2011
Social Programs	Expand and improve projects that target children involved in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in agriculture and domestic service.	2009, 2010, 2011

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