

In 2011, Angola made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government continued to administer some programs to combat child labor, such as providing microcredit opportunities to families and improving access to education so migrant families could keep children in school. However, Angola's legal framework lacks a minimum age for hazardous work and does not prohibit all forms of human trafficking. In addition, the country lacks a specific age for compulsory education that makes children under age 14 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, as they are not required to be in school and are under the minimum legal age for work. Gaps also remain in law enforcement efforts and inter-institutional coordination. Children continued to engage in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in hazardous activities in agriculture and street work.



Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	25.7 (694,458)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	65.4
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	22.1
Primary Completion Rate		46.6

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 MICS, Survey, 2001.(2)

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Angola are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including hazardous activities in agriculture and street work.(3) Although evidence is limited, children reportedly work in the production of bananas and pineapples, during which they apply pesticides and carry heavy loads.(4) There are reports of forced child labor in the production of rice.(5, 6) Children also work in animal herding, which can subject them to injuries and expose them to disease.(4, 7) Children work in high-seas fishing, during which they are susceptible to risks such as drowning.(4, 8-10) Some children in rural areas work in artisanal diamond mining.(10, 11) Children also reportedly produce charcoal, which makes them susceptible to burns and may carry heavy loads.(4)

In urban areas, children reportedly work in construction and welding.(8) Children in Huambo work in informal markets lifting loads, cooking and selling goods such as meat and alcoholic beverages. Children performing this work risk exposure to extreme elements, physical injuries and burns.(4, 12) Street children engage in begging, prostitution, car washing and the sale of goods.(8, 10, 13, 14) These children can be exposed to the sun and heat, air pollution, heavy vehicular traffic, raw sewage as well as criminal and gang activity.(4, 8)

Children in Luanda reportedly work as domestic servants.(8) Children working in domestic service are at risk of long hours and exposure to physical and sexual exploitation in the households where they work.(15)

Children are forced to act as couriers in illegal cross-border trade between Angola and Namibia in order to avoid import fees.(16, 17) They are used in the sale and transport of illegal drugs and are victims of sexual exploitation.(14, 18) Children are also reportedly recruited by criminal gangs to work as thieves.(19)

Angola is a source and destination country for trafficking in children.(10, 17) Children are trafficked for work in agriculture, domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation.(17, 20) Angolan children are trafficked to Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, South Africa and to Europe—primarily Portugal—to perform a wide variety of work.(17, 20)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at age 14.(21) Law No. 13 of 2001 establishes free and compulsory primary education. The law also establishes that primary education is of a duration of 6 years, but does not set a specific start age for children to attend such education.(22) However, the Government reported to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics that education is compulsory until age 12.(23) This age makes children ages 12 to 14 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, as they are not required to be in school and are under the minimum legal age for work.(24) In addition, a lack of school infrastructure and teaching materials deter children from attending school. In some cases, adolescents share classrooms with small children.(19)

	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	No
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	No
	Compulsory Education Age	12
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Labor Code requires children between ages 14 and 16 to obtain consent from their guardians to work, although such consent is not required if the children are married or otherwise deemed an adult.(21, 25) The Labor Code states that minors may only perform light work that does not harm their physical, mental, or moral development, with specific prohibitions for types of work that could harm their moral development, such as work in bars and discos.(21) Though these prohibitions appear to apply to children under age 18, the ILO Committee of Experts has pointed out that the Labor Code does not specifically define minors as children under age 18.(26) The ILO Committee of Experts has also noted that the Labor Code

does not specifically prohibit types of work that can harm children's health and safety, such as work in mining.(27)

The Government of Angola has established a list of hazardous work activities and materials, such as toxic substances, that are prohibited for minors. Some prohibited activities include fireworks production, stone mining, animal slaughter, leather production, brick-making, paper-making and pornography.(28, 29) Research could not determine if there is a link between the hazardous work list and work prohibited to minors by the Labor Code, or whether the hazardous work list amends the prohibitions in the Labor Code. Neither the Labor Code nor the hazardous work list specifically prohibits children from working in some dangerous activities they are known to engage in, such as high-seas fishing and street work.

The Constitution of Angola prohibits forced labor, trafficking and slavery.(24, 30) However, Angola does not specifically prohibit all forms of human trafficking, including trafficking for purposes of forced labor.(17, 27) Although the Government has not formally approved a new Penal Code, it follows the regulations established in the draft code, which prohibits the sale of children under age 14, commercial sexual exploitation of children, trafficking of children for sexual purposes and the use of children under age 18 in pornography.(31) In addition, the Constitution forbids the extradition of Angolan nationals, which may hamper regional efforts to prosecute Angolan nationals involved in international trafficking.(16) The Government established a Tourism Code to combat commercial sexual exploitation.(32) However, penalties for the commercial sexual exploitation of children are not stringent enough compared with other serious crimes, such as rape.(17)

The Draft Penal Code sets the minimum age for recruitment and enlistment in the armed forces at age 16.(31) It is unknown whether this provision conforms to ILO Convention 182. Information was not available on whether there are laws regulating the use of children in illicit activities, such as drug trafficking.

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) and the National Children's Institute (INAC) coordinate government policies to protect the rights of children, while the National Council of Children (CNAC) monitors their implementation.(10, 24) The CNAC is led by MINARS and includes the INAC and 17 other ministries and civil society organizations.(10, 24) The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has expressed concern about the

lack of transparency in the selection of civil society members of the CNAC.(32)

The Ministry of Public Administration, Employment and Social Security (MAPESS) is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws.(14, 24) MAPESS has the authority to fine businesses found to use child labor, but cases requiring further investigation must be transferred to the Ministry of Interior. Cases involving prosecution must be transferred to the Ministry of Justice.(14, 24) MAPESS employs labor inspectors in all 18 provinces; they carry out inspections and joint operations with tax authorities and social service providers, though no information is available on how the inspections or joint operations are conducted.(11, 24, 33) The INAC can also receive complaints related to child labor, though it is not clear whether these complaints are investigated by labor inspectors.(24) There is no information available on the number of labor inspectors, inspections performed, or fines levied for child labor infractions during the reporting period.(24)

In 2011, the national budget provided \$135 million to agencies responsible for protecting children and families, though no information is available about how much was dedicated to labor inspection activities.(24) The ILO Committee of Experts has expressed concerns about the remuneration gaps and working conditions among inspection staff.(34) During the reporting period, the ILO continued carrying out a multi-country initiative to strengthen labor inspectorates, including Angola's. As part of this initiative, officials from MAPESS participated in an international seminar on best practices in labor inspections and conducted a study visit in Brazil to learn about labor inspections.(35, 36)

The Courts for Minors enforce child protection legislation, which seeks to protect children from violence, including child labor and prostitution.(37) However, there is no information available about activities to combat child labor carried out by the courts.

The Ministry of the Interior and its agencies, including the National Police, Border Police and Immigration Service, enforce criminal laws related to trafficking.(20) There is no information on law enforcement officials trained in child trafficking or information on investigations and prosecutions of child trafficking during the reporting period.

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The 11 Commitments for Angolan Children is the main policy document to protect children's rights; it includes the goals of

combating poverty, protecting children from exploitation and providing education to every child.(38, 39) The Government has established the National Strategy to Prevent and Mitigate Violence Against Children to guide its efforts to address violence against children.(32) The Government of Angola adopted a national policy to provide free birth registration for children under age 5 and free identification cards for children up to age 11, which can promote children's enrollment in school and facilitates their access to social services.(32, 40) However, according to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a lack of resources limits the Government's free birth registration policy, and there has not been significant progress on increasing birth registration since 2002.(32, 41)

The Government has not conducted in-depth research on the worst forms of child labor; however, it collected general information on the prevalence of child labor in its 2008 national well-being survey.(42) Findings from this survey were not integrated into any strategies to reduce child labor.

The Government has incorporated access to education into some of its broader development policies. The 2005 Angolan Poverty Reduction Strategy is the main policy document that guides the Government's anti-poverty actions.(43) The Strategy recognizes that a leading cause of poverty is lack of access to basic services, such as education. The Strategy also recognizes that children drop out of school to help their families meet their basic needs.(44) The Government cites the lack of human resources and insufficient schools as the main obstacles to providing education.(44) To improve and expand access to the education system, in 2001, the Government developed the National Education for All Plan, which aims to achieve universal primary education by 2015.(10) However, the CRC and UNICEF have pointed out that education funding is inadequate.(32, 41) Although the Government allocates 30 percent of its budget to social programs, only 5 percent of the total budget is assigned to education.(41) There is no publicly available information suggesting that the Government has researched the impact of education policies on the prevalence of child labor.

In March 2011, Angola and other members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries approved four target areas where they will focus efforts to combat child labor, which include the exchange of information and experiences, awareness-raising campaigns, the use of statistical methodologies to collect child labor data and technical cooperation and training.(45-47)

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

To implement the 11 Commitments for Angolan Children, the Government previously carried out a public campaign to raise awareness of the commitments among local governments, civil society organizations, and religious and traditional leaders.(48, 49) The Government also worked with local governments to ensure that child-related issues are incorporated into local services.(49, 50) In an effort to achieve the 11 Commitments, the provincial government of Bié distributed school supply kits to children from low-income families during the reporting period.(51)

In 2008, the Government launched the System of Indicators for Angolan Children to track the implementation of the 11 Commitments; however, the CRC has noted that the System has not been fully developed due to a lack of resources.(32)

During the reporting period, the Government of Angola continued to administer ongoing programs that aim to combat child labor. These programs include providing microcredit opportunities to families, a project to help families keep children in school while families migrate with cattle herds and job training programs for youth.(24) The Government also provides free meals for school children.(24) Through the INAC, the Government partners with civil society organizations to assist victims of trafficking through child

protection networks at the local level.(24) Research did not indicate there are any government programs to reach children engaged in hazardous activities in agriculture, street work, domestic service, informal mining, forced labor or cross-border couriership.

During the reporting period, the Government of Angola participated in a 2-year, USDOL-funded \$500,000 project to strengthen the capacity of Lusophone countries in Africa. The project helps countries develop national action plans and promotes cooperation among participating countries, complementing another South-South initiative funded by the Government of Brazil.(52, 53) In addition, the Government of Angola participates in a project funded by the European Union to combat child labor through education in 11 countries, including Angola.(54)

Angola receives support from international donors to improve vulnerable children's access to education. Since 2010, UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Hamburg Society have run the Schools for Africa Phase II Program, which seeks to benefit 8 million children in 11 African countries. In Angola, Schools for Africa Phase I has benefited 54,000 teachers and 2,430,000 children, and has rebuilt 383 schools.(55) UNICEF works in partnership with the Government to identify and assist undocumented children.(38) The question of whether these programs have had an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

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

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Make education compulsory to age 14.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Set a legal minimum age for hazardous work.	2010, 2011
	Ensure that the legal framework fully prohibits hazardous work for children.	2011
	Consider including dangerous work in fishing, mining and street work as hazardous work prohibited to children.	2011
	Formally approve the draft Penal Code and increase penalties and prohibitions related to the trafficking of children, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit all forms of trafficking of children, including for forced labor. Increase penalties for commercial sexual exploitation of children. 	2009, 2010, 2011
	Consider allowing the extradition of Angolan nationals involved in cases of international human trafficking.	2009, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Make information publicly available about how labor inspections are conducted, the number of labor inspections performed, and resulting penalties, including child labor infractions.	2011

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Coordination and Enforcement	Ensure that complaints related to child labor are investigated by relevant government agencies.	2010, 2011
	Strengthen the labor inspection system, including providing adequate remuneration to inspection staff.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Make information publicly available about the Courts for Minors' activities to enforce child protection legislation, including child labor and child prostitution.	2011
	Make information publicly available about law enforcement officials' training on child trafficking issues, and the number of investigations and prosecutions of child trafficking.	2011
Policies	Use the results of the national well-being survey to consider the targeting of existing policies and social programs to working children.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Conduct research on the worst forms of child labor.	2010, 2011
	Accelerate child birth registration and identification processes to facilitate school enrollment, provide social services to vulnerable children and reduce children's risk of being trafficked.	2010, 2011
	Expand government efforts to provide access to education.	2010, 2011
	Assess the impact that existing policies, such as the National Education for All plan, may have on addressing child labor.	2011
Social Programs	Provide funds to ensure the implementation of the 11 Commitments for Angolan Children and the System of Indicators for Angolan Children monitoring system.	2010, 2011
	Develop and implement programs that target children engaged in agriculture, street work, domestic service, mining and forced labor, including cross-border child couriering.	2010, 2011
	Assess the impact that existing programs—such as the provision of microcredit, assistance to migrant families and youth job training—may have on child labor.	2011

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