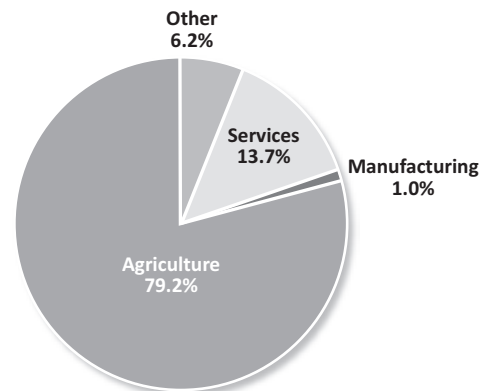


# Cape Verde

The Government of Cape Verde provides some legal protections to prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labor. However, children continue to engage in work that exposes them to health and safety risks in agriculture, domestic service, and on the streets. Policy to address these problems is lacking, and enhanced enforcement efforts and mechanisms to coordinate them are needed.

### Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	10-14 yrs.	3.2%
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	90.1%
Combining Work and School		Unavailable



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

Children in Cape Verde are engaged in the worst forms of child labor,<sup>937</sup> many of them in agriculture and fishing.<sup>938</sup> Children’s work in agriculture may involve the use of dangerous machinery and tools, the carrying of heavy loads, and the application of harmful pesticides. Children working in fishing may face severe weather conditions and drowning.

Children also work as domestic servants, street vendors, and car washers.<sup>939</sup> Child domestic labor may involve long hours of work and may expose children to physical and sexual exploitation by their employer. Children working on the streets may be exposed to severe weather conditions, accidents caused by proximity to vehicles, and vulnerability to crimes.

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

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for work at 15, but allows children as young as 14 to work for artistic and musical purposes as long as their school attendance, health, and development are not

	C138, Minimum Age	No
	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	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	11
	Free Public Education	Yes

compromised and their employer receives approval from the Ministry of Labor.<sup>940</sup> The Labor Code prohibits hazardous work for those under 18; however, it does not provide a list of hazardous occupations.<sup>941</sup>

The Labor Code also prohibits forced or compulsory labor.<sup>942</sup> The compulsory recruitment age to the armed forces is 18; however, children at age 17 may voluntarily join.<sup>943</sup>

Both the Penal and Labor Codes prohibit child trafficking.<sup>944</sup> The Penal Code criminalizes the advancing, supporting, or facilitating of a minor under 16 for prostitution. The Penal Code also bans the use of a minor under 14 for pornographic purposes.<sup>945</sup> The Penal Code does not fully protect all children under the age of 18 from exploitation in prostitution and pornography.

By law, children must attend school until age 11. The low age for compulsory education may make children 12 to 14 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to be in school and are below the minimum age for work.

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

Research found no evidence that the Government of Cape Verde has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.

The Ministry of Labor, Professional Training, and Social Solidarity's Directorate General and Inspector General of Labor are responsible for enforcing worst

forms of child labor laws.<sup>946</sup> During the reporting period, labor inspections were seldom performed. Labor inspectors lack resources to conduct labor inspections throughout the country.<sup>947</sup>

The Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary Police, and the Ministry of Internal Administration are in charge of combating human trafficking and prosecuting criminal violations of child labor laws.<sup>948</sup>

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

Research found no evidence of any policies to address the worst forms of child labor.

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

The One Programme Au Cap-Vert 2008-2010 aims to accelerate economic growth, promote competitiveness, create productive employment, and fight poverty. It has a subprogram administered by UNDP to support national and community institutions to ensure the wellbeing of children. This subprogram is supposed to create a municipal observatory on the rights of the child and to implement an action plan against child labor and exploitation. It is unknown whether these two initiatives are being implemented.

### **Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Cape Verde:**

#### **IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:**

- Amend the Penal Code to fully protect all children under 18 from exploitation in prostitution and pornography.
- Amend the Labor Code to include a list of hazardous occupations for children.
- Raise the age of compulsory education to 15.

#### **IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:**

- Establish a coordination mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.
- Provide adequate resources for enforcement of laws against the worst forms of child labor.

#### **IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:**

- Adopt policies to address the worst forms of child labor.

#### **IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:**

- Assess the impact that the One Program Au Cap-Vert 2008-2010 may have on addressing the worst forms of child labor.

<sup>937</sup> Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2010. Data provided are from 2001-2002. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

<sup>938</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Cape Verde," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/index.htm>.

<sup>939</sup> Ibid. See also U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting*, February 3, 2010.

<sup>940</sup> Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, 5/2007, (October 16, 2007); available from [http://www.incv.gov.cv/\\_publicacoes/geral/B8F21256-A9FC-6EE6-1783F491658675BF19102007024653.pdf](http://www.incv.gov.cv/_publicacoes/geral/B8F21256-A9FC-6EE6-1783F491658675BF19102007024653.pdf). See also Library of Congress official, Letter to USDOL official, March 13, 2008.

<sup>941</sup> U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009.

<sup>942</sup> Government of Cape Verde, *Boletim Oficial Suplemento*, article 14.

<sup>943</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Republic of Cape Verde," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from [http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country\\_pdfs/FINAL\\_2008\\_Global\\_Report.pdf](http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf).

<sup>944</sup> U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting*, January 21, 2009.

<sup>945</sup> Government of Cape Verde, *Código Penal de Cabo Verde*, (2004); available from [http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/text\\_pdf.jsp?lang=PT&id=6073](http://www.wipo.int/clea/en/text_pdf.jsp?lang=PT&id=6073). See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Cape Verde (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2010 [cited May 17, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also Library of Congress official, Letter, March 13, 2008.

<sup>946</sup> U.S. Embassy- Praia, *reporting*, February 3, 2010.

<sup>947</sup> Ibid., sections 2C-5 and 2C-6.

<sup>948</sup> U.S. Embassy- Praia, *TIP reporting*, February 23, 2009. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Cape Verde."

<sup>949</sup> UNDP, *The One Programme au Cap-Vert 2008-2010*, New York, 2007; available from <http://www.un.cv/files/OneProgrammeinCapeVerde2008-2011-English.pdf>.