

In 2016, Cabo Verde made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government approved a National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents and expanded the Code of Ethics Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children to Fogo Island. However, children in Cabo Verde perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. Laws do not provide protection for self-employed children and children engaged in un-paid work. In addition, social programs do not target all sectors in which children work.



## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Cabo Verde perform dangerous tasks in agriculture.(1) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in Cabo Verde.

**Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	10 to 14	3.2 (2,392)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	90.1
Combining Work and School (%)	10 to 14	1.7
Primary Completion Rate (%)		102.2

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2015, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(2)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children’s Work Project’s Analysis of Statistics from Inquérito as Despesas e Receitas Familiares, 2001–2002.(3)

Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children’s work by sector and activity.

**Table 2. Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity**

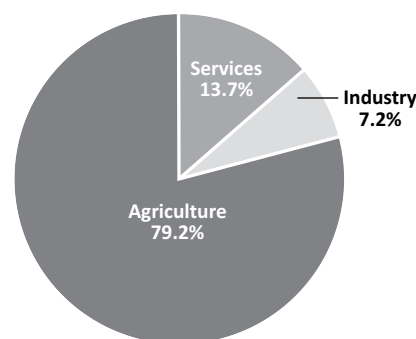
Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Farming, activities unknown (1, 4)
	Raising livestock (1, 5, 6)
	Fishing, activities unknown (1, 4, 6)
Industry	Treating water (1)
	Construction, including extracting sand (7)
Services	Domestic work (1, 6, 8)
	Street work, including vending, garbage scavenging,† car washing, and begging (6, 8)
	Working in hotels and restaurants (1)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (6, 8-10)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking (6, 11)

† Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182.

‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182.

Limited research found commercial sexual exploitation of both boys and girls, including in the tourism industry, occurs in Mindelo, Praia, and Santa Maria.(8)

**Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 10-14**






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### II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Cabo Verde has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

**Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor**

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Cabo Verde's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

**Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor**

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	No	15	Article 261 of the Labor Code (12)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 264 of the Labor Code; Article 133 of the Civil Code (12, 13)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 264 and 267 of the Labor Code; National List of Dangerous Work for Children (12, 14)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 14 of Chapter 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 149, 271, and 271-A of the Penal Code (12, 15)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 149 and 271-A of the Penal Code (15)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 144, 145, 148–150, and 271-A of the Penal Code (15)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 8 of the Drug Trafficking Law (16)
Minimum Age for Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes	18	Article 2 of the Military Service Law (17)
State Voluntary	Yes	17	Article 31 of the Military Service Law (17)
Non-state Compulsory	Yes	18	Article 268-C of the Penal Code (15)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15 <sup>‡</sup>	Articles 13 and 20 of the Education Law (18)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 14 of the Education Law (18)

<sup>‡</sup> Age calculated based on available information (18)

The law's minimum age protections do not apply to children who are self-employed or engaged in unpaid work.(12, 19) The Civil Code allows children age 14 to conduct light work; however, the law does not prescribe the number of hours per week permissible for light work, or specify the conditions under which light work may be undertaken.(13, 19)

### III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

**Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role
Inspector General for Labor (IGT)	Monitor and enforce child labor laws; work closely with the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA).(20, 21)
Judicial Police and National Police	Judicial Police conduct criminal investigations; National Police make arrests related to the worst forms of child labor, including human trafficking.(21, 22)

**Labor Law Enforcement**

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in Cabo Verde took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

**Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor**

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Labor Inspectors	14 (5)	14 (23)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (24)	Yes (24)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (5)	Unknown
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (5)	Unknown
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (5)	Unknown
Number of Labor Inspections	Unknown	Unknown
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown
Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (5)	Yes (23)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (5)	Yes (23)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (5)	Yes (23)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (5)	Yes (23)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (5)	Yes (23)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (5)	Yes (23)

The Inspector General for Labor (IGT) does not have national coverage because there is only representation on Sal, Santiago, and São Vicente Islands.(23) When IGT inspectors find a case of child labor, they inform the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA) of the case for referral to social service providers.(5) In 2016, 18 children were removed from exploitative work and referred to the appropriate social services.(23)

**Criminal Law Enforcement**

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in Cabo Verde took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

**Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	No (5)	Unknown
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	No (5)	Unknown
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown (5)	Unknown
Number of Investigations	Unknown (5)	1 (10)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown (5)	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown (5)	Unknown
Number of Convictions	0 (5)	Unknown
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (5)	Yes (23)

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In 2016, officials investigated a group of individuals for allegedly forcing girls into commercial sexual exploitation.(10)

### IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

**Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor**

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Committee for Child Labor Prevention and Eradication in Cabo Verde (CNPETI)	Coordinate the execution of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor. Supervised by ICCA.(22, 25)
ICCA's National Unit for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor	Coordinate and monitor the implementation of all national programs and activities to prevent and combat child labor. Counsels victims of child labor and their families.(26)
Children and Adolescent Committee to Prevent and Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	Contribute to the prevention and elimination of child sexual exploitation by coordinating the activities of member organizations and public and private services.(22) Led by ICCA.(27)

### V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 9).

**Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor<sup>†</sup>**

Policy	Description
National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor	Prioritizes the eradication of child labor. Outlines specific objectives, including data collection, institutional capacity building, and enhancement of measures to prevent, protect, and remove children from involvement in child labor.(25)
National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (2017-2019) <sup>†</sup>	Aims to prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children.(28) In 2016, ICCA conducted a public presentation of the Plan.(29)
Code of Ethics Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children	Guides and governs agencies involved in the tourism sector to combat the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.(30)

<sup>†</sup> Policy was approved during the reporting period.

<sup>‡</sup> The Government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor.(31)

### VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

**Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor**

Program	Description
Child Labor Awareness Campaigns	Government program implemented by ICCA and the National Committee for Child Labor Prevention and Eradication that conducts national awareness campaigns on the worst forms of child labor.(32) In 2016, ICCA conducted awareness raising activities on the National List of Dangerous Work for Children in Boa Vista, Fogo, and Santiago islands.(29)
Help for At-Risk Children <sup>†</sup>	ICCA-implemented program that provides education, health services, and professional training to vulnerable children and their families. Eight day centers for street children vulnerable to sexual and labor exploitation operate on Boa Vista, Fogo, Sal, Santiago, Santo Antão, and São Vicente islands.(33)
Child Emergency Centers and Social Protection and Reintegration Centers <sup>†</sup>	ICCA-implemented program that operates emergency centers for child victims of abuse and sexual exploitation on Santiago, Santo Antão, and São Vicente Islands.(22, 25, 33) The Government also operates five social protection and reintegration centers that provide support and educational integration services to children who have experienced long-term trauma.(5, 8, 22, 33)
Government Efforts to Increase Access to Education <sup>†</sup>	Donor-funded programs implemented by the Government that ensure access to education for disadvantaged children by paying for school fees, materials, and meals.(24)

<sup>†</sup> Program is funded by the Government of Cabo Verde.

Research found that programs to assist children involved in agriculture and domestic work are not sufficient to address the scope of the problem.

## VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in Cabo Verde (Table 11).

**Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that all children are protected by law, including children who are self-employed or engaged in unpaid work.	2015 – 2016
	Prescribe the number of hours per week and conditions under which light work may be undertaken.	2015 – 2016
Enforcement	Make law enforcement data publicly available, including information on the labor inspectorate's funding, training for labor inspectors, number and type of labor inspections conducted, number of child labor violations found, as well as the training for criminal investigators, number of violations found during criminal investigations, prosecutions initiated, and convictions achieved.	2011 – 2016
	Ensure that the IGT receives adequate resources to conduct labor inspections on all islands.	2014 – 2016
Social Programs	Conduct research to determine specific activities related to children's work in agriculture to inform policies and programs.	2013 – 2016
	Institute programs to address child labor in agriculture and domestic work.	2010 – 2016

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