

Kiribati

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Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Percent
Working	Unavailable
Attending School	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	Unavailable

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor






Children in Kiribati are exploited in the worst forms of labor.²⁷³³ Children sell goods on the street.²⁷³⁴ Street vending exposes children to dangers such as road accidents, air pollution, and extreme weather. Girls are also trafficked internally for prostitution and child pornography may be produced as a result.²⁷³⁵ Crewmembers of fishing vessels are reported to be common clients.²⁷³⁶

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The *Employment Ordinance* sets the minimum age for employment at 14, and the *Employment (Amendment) Act 2008* sets the minimum age for hazardous work at 18.²⁷³⁷ The Penal Code prohibits forced labor²⁷³⁸ and trafficking in persons.²⁷³⁹ The Penal Code also prohibits the procurement of any girl under age 18 for prostitution, or procurement of any male regardless of age for this purpose.²⁷⁴⁰ Kiribati has no regular military force.²⁷⁴¹

The Government ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182 during the reporting period.²⁷⁴²



	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	14
	Free Public Education	Yes

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Government of Kiribati has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor. The Government has not taken any action to investigate, arrest, prosecute, or convict traffickers during the reporting period.²⁷⁴³

The Ministry of Labor and Human Resources Development is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.²⁷⁴⁴ The Ministry received no complaints of child labor during the reporting period.²⁷⁴⁵ In addition, no child labor inspections were conducted during the reporting period.²⁷⁴⁶ No trainings on issues related to the worst forms of child labor were held.²⁷⁴⁷

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The National Advisory Committee on Children, which is made up of representatives from government agencies and NGOs, has drafted a National Children's Plan that awaits Cabinet approval.²⁷⁴⁸

The Kiribati Country Program Action Plan, developed with UNICEF Pacific, provides the basis for the Child Protection Program (2008-2012); one goal of the Child Protection Program is to reduce exploitation of children in the Pacific Islands.²⁷⁴⁹

The question of whether these policies have an impact on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

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

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

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

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.
- Increase law enforcement efforts to target trafficking and the commercial sex sector.

IN THE AREA OF POLICY:

- Assess the adequacy of current policies to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.
 - Take steps to reduce the demand for commercial sex exploitation of children by fishing crews.
- Assess the impact that the Child Protection Program may have on addressing the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Develop programs to address the needs of children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation and street vending.
- Consider a comprehensive study of children's activities to determine whether they are engaged in at risk for other worst forms of child labor.

²⁷³³ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used by USDOL. 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. For more information on sources used for these statistics, 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.

²⁷³⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention*, CRC/C/KIR/CO/1, Geneva, September 29, 2006, 11-12; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/54c00eda0882cbf0c125722d002c60c9/\\$FILE/G0645200.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/54c00eda0882cbf0c125722d002c60c9/$FILE/G0645200.pdf).

²⁷³⁵ U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 9, 2010.

²⁷³⁶ U.S. Department of State, “Kiribati,” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, “Kiribati,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010, Section 6; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eap/135994.htm>. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Kiribati: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth*, Suva, 2005, 56; available from http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/Kiribati_Sitan.pdf.

²⁷³⁷ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment Ordinance*, (April 22, 1966), article 84; available from http://www.paclii.org/ki/legis/consol_act/ea149/. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment (Amendment) Act 2008*, (May 15, 2008), section 8;

available from <http://www.parliament.gov.ki/act/2008/Employment%20%28Amendment%29%20Act%202008.pdf>.

²⁷³⁸ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment Ordinance*, article 75. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Penal Code*, (October 18, 1965), article 249; available from http://www.paclii.org/ki/legis/consol_act/pc66/.

²⁷³⁹ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Kiribati,” section 6.

²⁷⁴⁰ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Penal Code*, articles 136, 155.

²⁷⁴¹ Central Intelligence Agency, “Kiribati,” in *The CIA World Factbook*, 2010; available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>.

²⁷⁴² U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, February 2, 2010.

²⁷⁴³ U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Kiribati.”

²⁷⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, “Kiribati,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119042.htm>.

²⁷⁴⁵ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, February 2, 2010.

²⁷⁴⁶ U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, September 9, 2010.

²⁷⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁷⁴⁸ UNICEF Pacific, *Protect me with love and care: A Baseline Report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Kiribati*, Suva, October 2009, 2; available from http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/UNICEF_KIRIBATI_Feb.pdf.

²⁷⁴⁹ Ibid., 1, 5.