

Kiribati

The Government of Kiribati has established legal protections for hazardous work. However, children continue to sell goods on the street and girls are trafficked for prostitution. There do not appear to be any active efforts to address the worst forms of child labor.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable

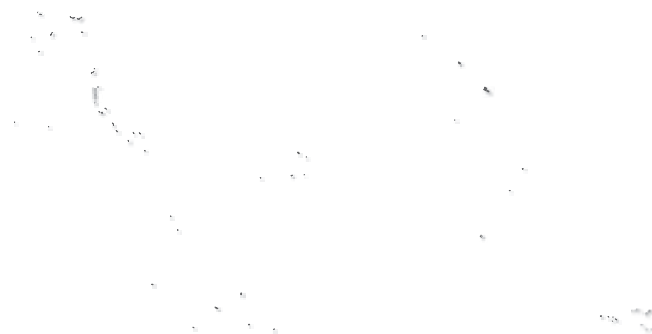
Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor³¹⁹⁸



Children in Kiribati are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, in particular, selling goods on the street.³¹⁹⁹ Children working on the streets may be exposed to many dangers, including severe weather, vehicle accidents and criminal elements. Girls are also trafficked internally for prostitution, and child pornography may be produced as a result.³²⁰⁰ Crew members of fishing vessels are reported to be common clients.³²⁰¹

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 18.³²⁰² The Penal Code prohibits forced labor and trafficking in persons.³²⁰³ The Penal Code also prohibits the procurement of any girl under age 18, or any male, regardless of age, for prostitution.³²⁰⁴ However, the Penal Code lacks prohibitions on child pornography.³²⁰⁵ Kiribati has no regular military force.³²⁰⁶

The Education Ordinance makes schooling free and compulsory until age 14.³²⁰⁷



	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

The Kiribati National Advisory Committee on Children (KNACC), which is made up of representatives from government agencies and NGOs, is responsible for coordinating efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.³²⁰⁸

The Ministry of Labor and Human Resources Development and the Kiribati Police Force are responsible for enforcing child labor laws.³²⁰⁹ No child labor inspections or trainings were conducted during the reporting period.³²¹⁰ Additionally, the Government has not taken any action to arrest, prosecute or convict violators during the reporting period, nor has it set aside any of the national budget for addressing child labor issues.³²¹¹

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The KNACC has drafted a National Children's Plan that awaits Cabinet approval.³²¹²

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 all forms of child exploitation in the Pacific Islands.³²¹³

The question of whether these policies have an impact on trafficking in persons, commercial sexual exploitation and street vending does not appear to have been addressed.

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

The government provided staff and office space to support ILO's efforts to raise awareness of the worst forms of child labor and ILO Conventions 138 and 182.³²¹⁴ No programs appear to exist to address trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation or street vending. In addition, research has not found any evidence that the Government has conducted an in-depth study on any 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 LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend legislation to prohibit child pornography.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Increase efforts and budget allocations to investigate and combat child labor.

IN THE AREA OF POLICY:

- Approve the KNACC-drafted National Children's Plan.
- Assess the impact that existing policies may have on addressing trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and street vending.
- Consider a comprehensive study of children's activities to determine the extent to which children are engaged in or at risk of the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Implement programs to address trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and street vending.

³¹⁹⁸ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used in this report. 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.

³¹⁹⁹ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting, February 8, 2011*, section 1-1. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Kiribati*, CRC/C/KIR/CO/1, Geneva, September 29, 2006, paras 58-60; 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).

³²⁰⁰ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting, February 8, 2011*, section 1-1. See also U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 9, 2010.

³²⁰¹ 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- 2010*, Washington, DC, April 8, 2011, section 6; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eap/154387.htm>.

³²⁰² Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment Ordinance*, (April 22, 1966), article 84; available from http://www.pacii.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>.

³²⁰³ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Penal Code*, (October 18, 1965), article 249; available from http://www.pacii.org/ki/legis/consol_act/pc66/. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment Ordinance*, article 75. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Kiribati,” section 6.

³²⁰⁴ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Penal Code*, articles 136 and 155.

³²⁰⁵ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Kiribati,” section 6.

³²⁰⁶ CIA, *The World Factbook: Kiribati*, [online] March 8, 2011 [cited March 14, 2011]; available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>.

³²⁰⁷ U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 22, 2010. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *A Situation Analysis of Children, Women, and Youth*, 2005, 34; available from http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/Kiribati_Sitan.pdf.

³²⁰⁸ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting, February 8, 2011*, section 4-2. See also 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_REPORT_Feb.pdf.

³²⁰⁹ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting, February 8, 2011*, section 5-1.

³²¹⁰ *ibid.*, sections 4-6, 5-5.

³²¹¹ *Ibid.*, sections 4-4, 5-2, 5-4, 5-6, 5-9.

³²¹² 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*, 2.

³²¹³ *Ibid.*, 1, 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, May 2, 2011.

³²¹⁴ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting, February 8, 2011*, sections 7-6.