

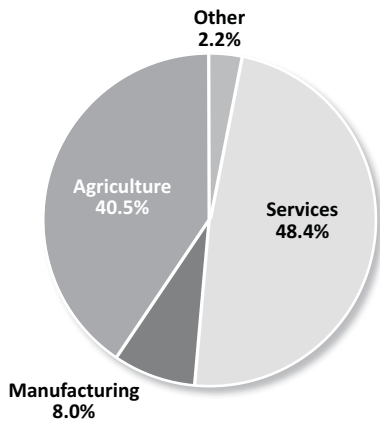
Jordan

In 2011, Jordan made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government approved the country's first national child labor strategy and updated its list of hazardous forms of child labor. However, the law still lacks some protections against worst forms of child labor, including failing to protect boys under 18 from prostitution. Although the Government implements various programs for children, including those in child labor, programs to combat child domestic service, street work and child labor in dangerous agriculture do not exist. Children continued to be involved in the worst forms of child labor particularly in dangerous activities in agriculture and in small business.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	0.8 (11,255)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	94.9
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	0.7
Primary Completion Rate		101.4

Working Children by Sector, ages 5-14



Sources:

Primary completion rate: Data from 2008, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)

All other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from CLS and SIMPOC Survey, 2007.(2)

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Jordan are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in dangerous activities in small business and agriculture.(3-7) Children, mostly boys, work in a variety of



hazardous occupations in small businesses, including auto repair, construction work and work as electricians.(5, 8, 9) Children performing this type of work are exposed to electric shocks, heavy loads, sharp tools, chemical burns, poisoning and noise pollution.(8) Children, mostly girls, engage in agricultural work.(3-6, 8, 9) There is some indication that the children of migrant workers from Egypt, Pakistan and Syria work alongside their families in agriculture.(4) Children working in agriculture perform a variety of tasks and may be exposed to risks such as dangerous machinery and tools, harmful pesticides and heavy loads.(8-10) Children are also engaged in fishing in Jordan, which may expose them to risks such as drowning.(5, 9, 11)

Boys also work in mines and are involved in the transport and storage of goods to and from the market, during which they risk exposure to dust and fumes, loud noise, insufficient lighting, harmful chemicals and sharp tools.(5, 6, 8, 9)

Child labor is also common in the tourist areas such as Petra. These children work in hotels, restaurants and as vendors near tourist attractions doing tasks in which they are subject to exhaustion from long working hours and overheating from extreme temperatures.(3, 8, 9, 12)

There are reports that children are increasingly involved in trash picking and scrap metal collection.(4, 6)

There are street children in Jordan, some of whom are involved in begging.(3, 6, 9) There is increasing anecdotal evidence of

child begging rings that involve trafficking of children.(13, 14) Children working on the streets are exposed to a variety of hazards, which may include severe weather, accidents caused by proximity to automobiles and vulnerability to criminal elements.(3)

Anecdotal evidence points to the possibility of underage girls from Jordan working in third party homes as domestic workers.(3) Additionally, there have been cases of trafficking of underage foreign domestic workers from Indonesia, some as young as age 14 reported.(3, 15, 16)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code establishes the minimum age for work at age 16.(17, 18) Children younger than age 16 are prohibited from working more than 4 hours straight, more than 6 hours a day, on weekends, holidays or at night.(18, 19) The Labor Code protections do not apply to unregistered or family businesses, in which many children are employed.(20)

	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	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

In June 2011, the Government of Jordan updated article No. 74 of the Labor Act, which details the hazardous forms of labor prohibited to juveniles under the age of 18.(21) These hazardous jobs for children under age 18 include work involving explosives or flammable materials; mining; work requiring special protective gear; work with sharp machinery; work involving exposure to traffic and other moving vehicles and service jobs involving work with the elderly

and addicts.(21, 22) The Labor Code also prohibits forced labor.(18, 23)

The Penal Code prohibits the procurement of a woman under the age of 20 for prostitution and related activities.(24) The Code also protects boys under the age of 15 from acts of sodomy. However, these provisions do not protect boys from prostitution and other related activities.(25) Under the Criminal Code, individuals are banned from selling or possessing “lewd materials that could corrupt public morality” for purposes of distribution or public display.(25) Jordan’s Law on Narcotic Drugs (1988) imposes the death penalty for anyone who uses a minor for the production, transportation, sale or purchase of drugs.(26)

The Anti-Human Trafficking Law prohibits human trafficking for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation, including prostitution.(27) It specifies imprisonment and other penalties for trafficking violations.(27-29) Penalties are enhanced in cases when the victim is a child, female or a person with disabilities.(28, 29)

The Constitution of Jordan ensures access to free and compulsory education for all Jordanian school-aged children as a fundamental right until the age of 16.(30) There are significant disparities among governorates in the rates of enrollment.(31) While tuition to government schools is free in Jordan, the associated costs (books, uniforms, transportation, etc.) often deter parents from sending their children to school.(8)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Child Labor Unit (CLU) is responsible for proposing and drafting new legislation on child labor; monitoring its scope and prevalence; directing child labor inspections and ensuring the enforcement of child labor laws.(12, 17) The National Committee on Child Labor (NCCL), which includes the Ministry of Labor (MOL), the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health, coordinates the Government’s child labor related activities.(12, 32)

The CLU has three full-time staff in Amman dedicated to implementing the Government’s child labor programs and directing policy initiatives on child labor.(4) The MOL employs 130 labor inspectors throughout the country equipped with legal training and authority to provide advice, warnings and citations to violators of child labor laws.(33, 34) Under the National Framework to Combat Child Labor (NFCC), it is the responsibility of the MOL’s 20 field-based national liaison

officers to transfer withdrawn child laborers to social support centers, NFE centers or other NGO program centers for working children.(33, 35) Because of inadequate funding, the CLU lacks the capacity to conduct a sufficient number of child labor inspections across the country.(3)

During the reporting period, the CLU participated in training the inspectors on child labor and established a child labor focal point in each governorate equipped with knowledge of local social services – including NFE education, vocational training, counseling—and how to deal with cases of child labor.(33) The MOL's Inspection Department found 941 cases of child labor involving Jordanians and 31 involving non-Jordanians in 2011.(36) Of these cases, 905 corrective notices and warnings were given to violating institutions, and 67 received violations.(36) Violations are only issued when employers repeatedly and knowingly violate the law.(3, 37)

Chaired by the Minister of Justice, a National Committee for the Prevention of Human Trafficking coordinates the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.(38, 39) Trafficking crimes are investigated and prosecuted by the Joint Labor Inspector, the police's Anti-Trafficking Investigation Unit and the Human Trafficking Office within the Public Security Directorate's Criminal Investigation Unit (CID).(14, 39) Despite the trafficking law and strategy, the Government's acknowledgement of trafficking in Jordan is very new, resulting in little understanding of the issue among labor inspectors, the police and other legal officials. The low statistics on the number of victims, prosecutions, convictions and sentences to date are likely due to a general lack of government capacity to identify victims and implement the law.(14, 16)

Research was unable to determine if the CID investigated or prosecuted cases of child labor or trafficking during the reporting period.

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In August 2011, the Government of Jordan formally approved the country's first national action plan specifically for the elimination of child labor.(21) NFCC is a reference document and referral guide that outlines the roles, responsibilities and methodologies government agencies, including the MOL, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, NGOs and other entities employed in response to cases of child labor, with the goal of protecting children from exploitative labor conditions.(21, 35)

Launched in March 2010, the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (2010-2012) focuses on the prevention, protection, legal pursuit, partnership building and international cooperation at the local, regional and international levels.(29) The Strategy involves the participation of government, international and national civil society entities.(29)

The Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children (2004-2013) includes the goal of eliminating child labor by 2013. The Plan proposes to do this through the development of livelihood plans for families of child workers, harmonization of national legislation with ILO Convention 182, awareness raising campaigns and the rehabilitation and reintegration of target children.(35, 40, 41) Research on the Plan's impact on reducing child labor was not available.

The National Agenda (2006-2015) is the Government of Jordan's overall development agenda, which calls for strengthening the labor inspectorate and for the provision of vocational training opportunities.(42-44) The Agenda includes a comprehensive social protection strategy that encompasses social assistance and social insurance, highlighting various issues for the Government's future engagement as the chief social protection provider.(43, 44) The question of whether this policy has an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

The National Aid Fund (NAF), an autonomous institution established under Law 36 in 1986, is the sole state-funded institution responsible for providing social protection for the poor and vulnerable of Jordan.(45) NAF administers poverty alleviation programs, including an ongoing cash transfer program that targets various categories of vulnerable households, including women with young children and families headed by divorced or abandoned women.(8, 43, 45) In 2011, the program had approximately 205,900 beneficiaries.(43)

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

In 2011, the Government of Jordan continued to participate in three USDOL-supported projects worth a total of \$10 million. The 2008-2012 project aims to withdraw and prevent 8,000 children from the worst forms of child labor through the provision of education and other social services.(45) The project raises awareness regarding the importance of education and mobilizes community members to improve public schools' educational services.(21, 46) Over the reporting period, the program was instrumental in the development process of the NFCC, which was approved by the Prime Minister in August.(46) The project has also strengthened awareness of the

child labor problem in Jordan through building the capacity of the media to report the issue.(21)

During the reporting period, the Government of Jordan also collaborated on a 4-year (2010-2014) \$2 million USDOL-supported project developing methods and mechanisms needed to implement the NFCC.(47)

During the reporting period, the Government of Jordan participated in a 4-year (2010-2014), \$4 million USDOL-supported project with the goal of reducing the number of children engaged in exploitative child labor in the following sectors in Jordan: the construction, workshops, manufacturing and storage industries as well as domestic service.(8, 48) The project targets 3,500 children for withdrawal, 3,500 children for prevention and 3,500 families for livelihood support.(8) Serving beneficiaries in poverty stricken areas including East Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq and Ma'an, the project delivers nonformal education, including vocational training, and livelihood services.(8, 48) Over the reporting period, the project conducted a baseline survey in East Amman to determine the prevalence and nature of child labor, and began to implement its nonformal education program with a local partner.(8, 49, 50)

Jordan instituted many youth capacity-building, livelihood and education programs over the reporting period, including the

Mustaqbali.(51-53) This project delivers a package of career exploration and preparedness activities to adolescents at various youth and women's centers.(53) It also provides community awareness raising for parents of adolescents and private sector employers.(53)

The Government of Jordan continued to operate the Second Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy (2009-2015) Project and the Jordan Education Reform Support Program, which include reforms of Jordan's vocational education system to reflect the occupational requirements of the country's economic sectors.(54, 55) The Vocational Educational and Training Project aims to improve labor market information systems.(51) During the reporting period, the Government of Jordan, with support from Japan's International Cooperation Agency, worked to establish a more efficient vocational training center model to better meet the demands of Jordan's labor market.(52)The impact of these programs on child labor has not been assessed.

The Government implements a project aimed at reducing school violence, which research suggests deters children from going to school.(56) The Ma'an Campaign (2009-2012) aims to reduce violence towards students by promoting new disciplinary techniques.(56) Research found no evidence of the impact of school violence programs on the reduction of child labor.

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

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Enact laws to increase the protection of children who work in family businesses and the agriculture sector.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Amend the Penal Code to ensure that the prostitution of males less than age 18 is prohibited.	2010, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Increase funding to the CLU to increase its child labor inspection and reporting capacity.	2011
	Increase the capacity of government officials to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence perpetrators of trafficking offences, especially among vulnerable and hidden populations of underage third-country domestic workers.	2011
	Develop and implement strategies to effectively increase reporting on trafficking offences.	2010, 2011
Policies	Assess the impact that existing social protection policies may have on addressing child labor.	2010, 2011

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Policies	Analyze and address the disparities among governorates in education enrollment rates.	2011
	Take measures to eliminate barriers for those children deterred from attending school.	2011
Social Programs	Assess the impact that existing programs may have on addressing child labor.	2010, 2011
	Increase protection programs for working children in vulnerable sectors, such as domestic servitude, street work, and agriculture.	2009, 2010, 2011

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