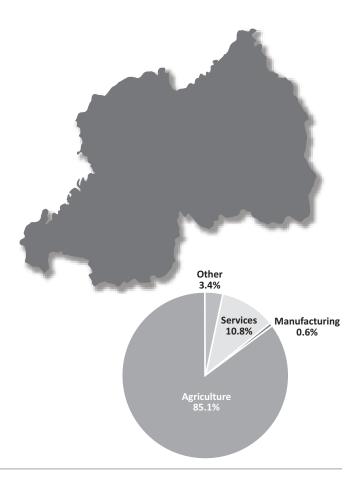
Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda has strengthened its legal framework against the worst forms of child labor by passing a Ministerial Order listing the prohibited worst forms of child labor. Despite this effort, Rwanda has not devoted sufficient resources to effectively enforce its child labor laws. Children continue to work in dangerous conditions, especially in agriculture and domestic service.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	6.1
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	82.9
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	24.1



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Rwanda are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture and domestic service. Children's work in agriculture commonly involves unsafe activities such as using dangerous machinery and tools, carrying heavy loads, and applying harmful pesticides. Children produce tea and are reportedly working in the production of coffee, potatoes, corn, beans, sorghum, bananas, rice and sugar. Children are herd livestock, sometimes working long hours outside. In Rwanda, children are found working in domestic service. Many child domestics do not attend school and may be vulnerable to sexual and other forms of abuse by their employers.

Reportedly, children produce charcoal and work as porters. They also work on construction sites and engage in heavy manual labor such as brick making, digging and mining. Children in rural Kigali also collect sand, exposing themselves to

waterborne diseases. 4894 In the town of Nachonga, in Gasabo District, in Rulindo District and in the city of Gikongoro, children working in quarries risk eye and lung damage from stone dust. 4895 In Rwanda, children living and working on the streets beg and carry goods. Children working on the streets may be exposed to multiple dangers including severe weather, criminal elements and may be involved in vehicle accidents. 4896

Prostitution and trafficking also occur in Rwanda. Older women sometimes coerce girls to provide sexual services in exchange for cash, protection, and living quarters. Loosely structured prostitution networks recruit children from secondary schools. Girls are known to be trafficked internally into domestic servitude and prostitution. Children are also trafficked to Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Europe for forced agricultural labor, commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. In a few isolated cases, children have been trafficked into Rwanda.

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Rwanda's Labor Law sets the minimum age for work at 16 and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18. The law prohibits children under age 18 from night work and work that is difficult, unsanitary or dangerous. 4902 It also prohibits children from working in the worst forms of child labor, which are defined as in ILO Convention 182 to include slavery or similar practices, forced or bonded labor, the use or recruitment of children into armed conflict, illicit activities or prostitution and any work whose nature is detrimental to the health, security or morals of a child. 4903 The 2010 Ministerial Order on the worst forms of child labor prohibits children from working at industrial institutions and in domestic service, mining and quarrying, construction, brick making and applying fertilizers and pesticides. 4904 In addition to the national laws, some districts have enacted laws against hazardous child labor, sanctioning employers and parents for violations. 4905

WIO!	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

Penalties for violations of the Labor Law provisions on the worst forms of child labor and hazardous work are stringent, with up to 20 years incarceration and fines. However, the Labor Law only covers contractual employment leaving most of Rwanda's working children unprotected. However,

The Labor Law also prohibits child trafficking and the Law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-Based Violence prohibits and provides penalties for gender-based human trafficking. 4908 The Law Relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence prohibits slavery; child rape; recruiting, using or profiting from child prostitution; and using children in pornographic publications or for illicit activities. 4909 The Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Children against Violence also prohibits children under age 18 from military service. 4910

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The National Advisory Committee on Child Labor coordinates government efforts relating to the worst forms of child labor and is responsible for reviewing child labor laws, advocating for the inclusion of child labor policies in national development plans, overseeing the implementation of child labor interventions and conducting field visits to assess child labor and raise awareness. 4911 This group meets quarterly and includes representatives from the Ministry of Public Service and Labor (MIFOTRA); the Rwandan National Police (RNP); the National Human Rights Commission; the Ministry of Youth; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF); the Ministry of Local Government; Community Development and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Sports and Culture; the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC); Rwandan trade unions; the ILO; UNICEF; the Private Sector Federation and Winrock International. 4912 At the

village level, 149 Local Child Labor Committees (LCLCs) monitor incidents of child labor. 4913

To enforce child labor laws, MIFOTRA also employs 30 labor inspectors, one per district, who are supervised by the district authorities and work with the RNP. However, some are constrained by a lack of resources, such as transportation. 4914 There is also one labor inspector at the national level supervised by the Directorate General in charge of labor. MIFOTRA trains labor inspectors at least twice a year to identify and investigate child labor violations. 4915 In 2010, the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, in collaboration with the Government, provided training to district labor inspectors on child labor and trafficking in persons.⁴⁹¹⁶ MIFOTRA assesses the labor inspectors' performance at least every six months. Several times a year, labor inspectors train employers and local authorities on child labor issues⁴⁹¹⁷ The Government reports that the criteria for conducting child labor inspections is based on whether the type of work may harm the child's health, physical and mental development, morals and education. 4918 Inspections can be conducted without prior notice, and labor inspectors may issue warnings, which must be corrected by the offender within seven days. Otherwise, the labor inspector may ask the authorities to close the institution under investigation temporarily. 4919 Data regarding child labor inspections, prosecutions and penalties is not available. 4920

Within villages, citizens can report instances of child labor to the local volunteer officer in charge of social affairs. ⁴⁹²¹ If the officer cannot resolve the problem, it may be referred to the village leader, who may contact the police. The district authorities' personal performance contracts include targets for increasing school enrollment, which is likely to reduce child labor. ⁴⁹²²

The RNP enforces criminal laws relating to the worst forms of child labor. Within the Criminal Investigation and Scientific Police of the RNP,

there is a Child Protection Unit with a network of investigators throughout the country responsible for cases of child abuse, including the use of children in commercial sexual exploitation.⁴⁹²³ In collaboration with MIGEPROF, the RNP established a gender desk at its headquarters to respond to complaints of gender-based violence. The RNP also operates a free hotline to report incidences of gender-based violence, which is also used for reporting child abuse, including child labor.⁴⁹²⁴

Trafficking cases are referred to the RNP and the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration. 4925 The Government trains the RNP specifically in the issues of sex crimes, crimes against children and preventing transnational child trafficking; however some officials lack awareness and training on laws pertaining to internal trafficking. 4926 In addition, there have been indications that some members of the RNP are not sensitized to the needs of child trafficking victims and that some children found engaged in commercial sexual exploitation were detained in Kigali's Gikondo transit center for months before being released. 4927 In January 2011, the RNP provided and supported various trainings on trafficking in persons to its officers.⁴⁹²⁸ In 2010, the police investigated a child trafficking and child prostitution case and, in both instances, the victims were returned to their families and received medical care. These investigations led to one conviction with the suspect serving a sentence of 30 years in prison. 4929

Immigration and customs officers assist with the enforcement of child trafficking laws and receive training on document verification and passenger profiling. Standard procedure requires these officials to verify that all children transported across the border are traveling with the permission of their parents or guardian. ⁴⁹³⁰ In 2010, police and immigration officials prevented 72 children from crossing the border without proper identification. ⁴⁹³¹

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The 2003 National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children includes strategies to address the worst forms of child labor by improving working conditions, providing support to needy families and strengthening the education system. 4932 In 2007, the Government adopted the National Strategic Plan of Action for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Rwanda (NSP) which provides a more detailed framework to achieve the objectives of the National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children. 4933 The services offered to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) include health care, shelter, education and psychological support. However, due to the sheer magnitude of the problem, threefourths of OVCs have not received government assistance.4934

Rwanda has also made policy commitments to combat child labor in its National Employment Policy and Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2012) (EDPRS).⁴⁹³⁵ The Government of Rwanda's long term development plan and Vision 2010 also includes child protection issues.⁴⁹³⁶ The question of whether these programs have an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed. In addition, the Nine Years Basic Education (9YBE) policy mandates that the first nine years of basic education are free and compulsory, even though in practice, the costs of uniforms and school supplies are prohibitive for many families.⁴⁹³⁷

In addition, the Government still has not finalized its 2008 National Policy for the Elimination of Child Labor and 2007 5-year Action Plan to Combat Child Labor.⁴⁹³⁸

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

In 2010, the RDRC operated a rehabilitation center in Muhazi for 111 former child combatants and in collaboration with UNICEF, 43 former child combatants were rehabilitated and 90 reunited with their families. 4939 The Government also raised public awareness of child soldiers' issues with the hope that communities will be more welcoming to children returning from armed conflict. 4940 There were no reports in 2010 that children were being recruited into armed conflict by the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 4941

Rwanda continued to operate a rehabilitation center for street children, which offers psychosocial counseling, education and reintegration services to more than 300 boys. The Government also partnered with private organizations to support 30 childcare institutions across the country that provided shelter, basic needs and rehabilitation for approximately 1,988 street children. The Government also launched a two-week educational camp for children living and working on the streets. 4943

The Government continued to participate in the project Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children (REACH), which is funded by USDOL at \$4.5 million from September 2009 to March 2013. The project aims to withdraw 4,800 children and prevent 3,500 children from exploitative child labor, particularly in the agricultural sector, by providing educational services, strengthening child labor and education policies and ensuring the sustainability of these efforts.⁴⁹⁴⁴

The Government also built more than 3,000 classrooms to accommodate additional students. 4945 It is too early to determine the impact the additional classrooms will have on the worst forms of child labor.

During the reporting period, the Government, in partnership with international organizations and NGOs, established a center to provide gender-based violence victims, including child domestics and children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, with free medical, psychosocial support and police assistance.⁴⁹⁴⁶ The Government

of Rwanda also initiated a high-profile public campaign to discourage intergenerational sex and sexual procurement.⁴⁹⁴⁷ In addition, the MIFOTRA raised public awareness of the worst forms of child labor through radio shows,

television announcements and skits. 4948 Despite these initiatives, Rwanda's social programs are not sufficient to assist vulnerable children, including children working on the streets.

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

Ensure protection for children working in exploitative noncontractual labor activities.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Improve measures to investigate, prosecute and convict individuals involved in the worst forms of child labor, including by:
 - Increasing resources and the capacity of labor inspectors.
 - Making information publicly available on child labor investigations and prosecutions.
 - Increasing training among enforcement officials on internal child trafficking and the rights of trafficking victims, specifically underage girls engaged in prostitution.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Finalize, adopt and implement the National Policy for the Elimination of Child Labor and 5-year Action Plan on child labor.
- Assess the impact that policies such as the National Employment Policy, Vision 2010 and Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, may have on addressing child labor.
- Ensure that school costs, such as fees and the cost of uniforms, do not diminish the impact of the Nine Years Basic Education policy.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

 Develop additional social protection programs to assist vulnerable and orphaned children and children working on the streets. ⁴⁸⁸⁸ 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, 2005-2011. Data on working children and school attendance are from 2008. Data on children combining working and schooling are from 2008. 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. See also Government of Rwanda, Rwanda National Child Labour Survey, Kigali, 2008, 29-31, 37, 40; available from http://statistics.gov.rw/ images/PDF/Rwanda_child_labour_report_english_NISR. pdf. See also Winrock International, Forum for African Women Educationalists, and Netherlands Development Organization, Baseline Assessment on Child Labor in Seven Districts: Nyarugenge, Nyaruguru, Gicumbi, Nyamasheke, Rubavu, Kayonza, and Nyagatare, November 2010, 73-74, 91. See also Mary Strode, Emily Wylde, and Yussuf Murangwa, Labour Market and Economic Activity Trends in Rwanda, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2008, 3, 20; available from http://statistics.gov.rw/images/PDF/EICV%20 Labour%20Market%20and%20Economic%20Activities%20 Trends.pdf.

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