

In 2015, Cabo Verde made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government adopted a National List of Dangerous Work for Children and Adolescents and amended the Penal Code to criminalize child trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation. The Government funded several social programs that address child labor, including awareness campaigns. However, children in Cabo Verde are engaged in child labor, including in agriculture and domestic work. Law enforcement data on labor inspections and criminal investigations is not widely available. 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 are engaged in child labor, including in agriculture and domestic work.(1-5) A child labor study conducted in 2012 found that the majority of working children are male and work in rural areas.(4) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in Cabo Verde.

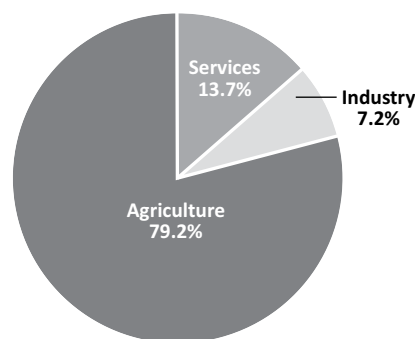
Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	10-14 yrs.	3.2 (2,392)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	90.1
Combining Work and School (%)	10-14 yrs.	1.7
Primary Completion Rate (%)		99.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2014, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(6)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children’s Work Project’s Analysis of Statistics from Inquérito as Despesas e Receitas Familiares, 2001–2002.(7)

Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14



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 (2-4, 8)
	Raising livestock (2, 4, 5)
	Fishing, activities unknown (2, 4, 8)
Industry	Treating water* (4)
	Construction, including extracting sand*† (9)
Services	Domestic work (1-5)
	Street work, including vending,† garbage scavenging,† car washing, and begging (1-3, 5)
	Working in hotels and restaurants* (4)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking* (2, 3, 10)
	Use in illicit activities,* including drug trafficking* (2, 11)

* Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown.

† 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.

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The commercial sexual exploitation of both boys and girls, including in the tourism industry, occurs in Cabo Verde. Evidence indicates that children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Santa Maria, Praia, and Mindelo.(2, 3, 10) Children are trafficked for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation within Cabo Verde and to Guinea.(3) Children begging and vending goods on the street are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking.(12)

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).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 261 of the Labor Code (13)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 264 of the Labor Code; Article 133 of the Civil Code (13, 14)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Yes		Articles 264 and 267 of the Labor Code; National List of Dangerous Work for Children and Adolescents (13, 15)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 14 of Chapter 1 of the Labor Code; Articles 149, 271, and 271-A of the Penal Code (13, 16, 17)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 149 and 271-A of the Penal Code (16, 17)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 144, 145, 148–150, and 271-A of the Penal Code (16, 17)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 8 of the Drug Trafficking Law (18)
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 2 of the Legislative Decree on Military Service (19, 20)
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Yes	17	Article 31 of the Legislative Decree on Military Service (19, 21)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15‡	Articles 13 and 20 of the Education Law (22)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 14 of the Education Law (22)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (22)

In July 2015, the Government approved the National List of Dangerous Work for Children and Adolescents, which prohibits children from engaging in 48 activities in agriculture, fishing, mining, manufacturing, construction, domestic work, and services.(5, 15) In November 2015, the Government amended the Penal Code to criminalize child trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation, as well as commercial sexual exploitation of children.(17)

The law's minimum age protections do not apply to children who are self-employed or engaged in unpaid work.(13, 23) Article 262 of the Labor Code provides for an exception to the minimum age provisions for children under age 15 who are engaged

in light household chores, agricultural work, or other types of labor that contribute to their physical and mental development, organizational skills, and self-discipline; however, the law does not establish a minimum age for light work, prescribe the number of hours per week permissible for light work, or specify the conditions under which light work may be undertaken.(13, 23)

Laws related to forced labor are insufficient because debt bondage is not criminally prohibited.(16)

The Education Law states that children begin primary school at age 6, and that education is compulsory until grade 10.(22) Thus, education is compulsory until age 15.

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).

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 Ministry of Justice and the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA).(24, 25)
Ministry of Justice, including the Judicial Police and the National Police	The Judicial Police conduct criminal investigations and the National Police make arrests related to the worst forms of child labor, including human trafficking.(25, 26)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2015, 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	2014	2015
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Labor Inspectors	14 (8)	14 (5)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (8)	Yes (27)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Yes (5)
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (5)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (28)	Yes (5)
Number of Labor Inspections	1,482 (20)	Unknown (5)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	0 (8)	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A	Unknown
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	N/A	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (8)	Yes (5)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown	Yes (5)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (20)	Yes (5)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Unknown	Yes (5)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (8)	Yes (5)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (5)

According to the Government, labor inspectors have adequate office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other resources to adequately carry out inspections; however, the Inspector General for Labor (IGT) does not have national coverage because the office only has representation on Sal, Santiago, and São Vicente Islands.(5)

When IGT inspectors find a case of child labor, they inform the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA) of the case and ICCA reports it to the Ministry of Justice for judicial procedures.(5) In 2015, ICCA provided social services to 37 victims of child labor, 2 of which were referred by the Government's national hotline, *Disque Denuncia*.(29)

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Criminal Law Enforcement

Research did not find information on whether 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	2014	2015
Training for Investigators		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	No (5)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	No (5)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (25)	Unknown (5)
Number of Investigations	0 (8)	Unknown (5)
Number of Violations Found	N/A	Unknown (5)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	0 (8)	Unknown (5)
Number of Convictions	0 (8)	0 (5)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (25)	Yes (5)

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. 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, ensure that national laws comply with international conventions on child labor, and produce yearly reports on child labor issues for the National Assembly. Comprises representatives from 30 institutions, including government agencies, civil society groups, unions, the ILO, and UNICEF.(26, 30) Supervised by ICCA, meets four times a year with other collaborating institutions to discuss implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor.(5, 31)
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. Committee members meet yearly.(26) Comprises representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Institute for Gender and Equality, the Association of Cabo Verdean Journalists, the Solidarity Foundation, the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship, and NGOs.(25)
ICCA's National Unit for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor	Promote child's rights, coordinate and monitor the implementation of all national programs and activities to prevent and combat child labor.(31, 32) ICCA delegates are in certain municipalities on the islands of Santiago, Fogo, Sal, São Vicente, and Santo Antão.(30)
Municipal Committee for the Defense of Rights of Children and Adolescents (CMDDCA)	Assist and monitor vulnerable children and their families in municipalities in which no ICCA delegate is present.(1, 30) Seventeen CMDDCAs operate under municipal jurisdictions; they include representatives from the Ministry of Education and Sports, municipalities, health departments, the National Police, courts, and other offices.(1)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor

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.(1, 30) Aims to engage multiple stakeholders, such as government agencies, workers' organizations, and child workers and their families, in efforts to achieve these goals.(1, 30)
Regional Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor	Aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in West Africa by 2015.(33, 34)
The Code of Ethics Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents	Guides and governs all agencies involved in the tourism sector in Cabo Verde.(35) Approved in July 2014 during a workshop organized by the Ministry of Youth, Employment, and Development of Human Resources and the Chamber of Commerce of Leeward Islands, in partnership with the ILO.(25) Allows the tourism sector to play a prominent role in the fight against the exploitation of children and adolescents, particularly sexual exploitation.(25, 35)

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor (cont)

Policy	Description
Poverty Reduction and Growth Plan III (2012–2016)	Identifies strategies to reduce poverty, foster economic development, and bolster education to reduce child labor.(31, 36) Includes plans to develop educational materials on child labor and the sexual exploitation of children.(30)
National Action Plan for Human and Citizenship Rights	Proposes the development of mechanisms to identify cases of child labor involving children under age 14, as well as programs and necessary measures to end these situations. Also plans to develop and increase programs that combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.(30)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of Cabo Verde funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. 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. In 2015, ICCA released 4,600 copies of a “Stop Child Labor” comic book to students on Santiago island, and published the third edition of the Educational Guide on Violence and Sexual Abuse against Children and Adolescents.(37)
Help for At-Risk Children†	Government program implemented by ICCA 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.(38) In 2015, assisted 297 vulnerable children.(37)
Child Emergency Centers and Social Protection and Reintegration Centers†	ICCA-run program that operates emergency centers for child victims of abuse and sexual exploitation on Santiago and São Vicente Islands.(3, 26, 30) In August 2015, the Government opened another emergency center on Santo Antão island.(38) 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.(3, 5, 26, 38)
Study on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Adolescents	Government program in collaboration with UNICEF that analyzes the causes and socio-cultural factors behind child sexual abuse and exploitation. The 2015 report includes a legal and institutional framework analysis to help develop effective policies to combat the problem.(35, 39)
Government Efforts to Increase Access to Education†	Government program supported WFP and UNICEF, led by the Cabo Verdean Foundation for School and Social Support, that ensures school access for disadvantaged children by paying for school fees, school materials, and meals.(27) Secondary education is free for children whose families earn less than \$1,670 annually.(2)

† Program is funded by the Government of Cabo Verde.

Although Cabo Verde has programs that target street children, research found no evidence that the Government has programs to assist children involved in agriculture, fishing, and domestic work.

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
	Establish a minimum age for light work and prescribe the number of hours per week and conditions under which light work may be undertaken.	2015
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit debt bondage.	2015
Enforcement	Make law enforcement data publicly available, including information on the labor inspectorate’s funding, number and type of labor inspections conducted, and training for investigators, as well as the number of criminal investigations undertaken, violations found, prosecutions initiated, and convictions achieved.	2011 – 2015

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms (cont)

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Ensure that initial training is provided to new investigators and that all investigators receive training on new laws related to the worst forms of child labor.	2015
	Ensure that the IGT receives adequate funding to conduct labor inspections on all islands.	2014 – 2015
Social Programs	Conduct research to determine specific activities related to children’s work in agriculture and fishing, in order to inform policies and programs.	2013 – 2015
	Institute programs to address child labor in agriculture, fishing, and domestic work.	2010 – 2015

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