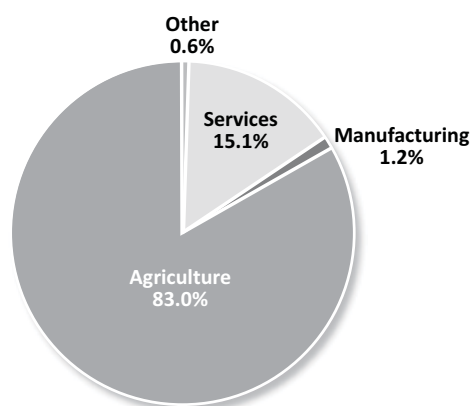


In 2011, Togo made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Regional child labor committees expanded their efforts by tracking the return of trafficking victims and improved coordination by sharing information with government officials during the reporting period. In addition, the Government continues to participate in donor-funded projects to combat the worst forms of child labor and operates a hotline to report child abuse. However, the Government has not devoted sufficient resources to enforce its child labor laws effectively. Children continue to work in dangerous conditions, especially in agriculture and domestic service.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	32.7 (663,914)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	72.4
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	27.2
Primary Completion Rate		73.7

Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14



Sources:

Primary completion rate: Data from 2010, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)

All other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from QUIBB Survey, 2006.(2)

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Togo are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in dangerous activities in agriculture and domestic service.(3-6) In 2010, the Togolese National Department of Statistics released the results of the 2009 child labor survey.



These data were not analyzed in time for use in this report, so data from 2006 are included above.(4) According to the 2010 report, 58.1 percent of children ages 5 to 17 are economically active, up from 32.7 percent in 2006.(4) Roughly half of all working children are engaged in agriculture, harvesting goods such as cotton, cocoa and coffee.(4, 7, 8) Limited evidence suggests that children also herd cattle and produce beans and corn.(6, 9-11) Children working in agriculture may perform physically arduous tasks and risk occupational injury and disease from exposure to dangerous tools, insecticides and herbicides.(3, 4)

Approximately 22 percent of working children are employed as domestic servants. The majority are girls ages 5 to 14.(4, 8, 12, 13) Child domestics may work long hours and be subjected to physical and sexual exploitation by their employer.(14-17) Reports also indicate that girls perform domestic duties, such as fetching water and laundry, for their schoolteachers.(18) This work may reduce the time children spend on learning and may put them in vulnerable situations while working in private homes.

Children earn money performing a variety of other activities, which could pose risks to their health and well-being. Such work includes handling gasoline, cutting sheet iron, capturing crabs at night, working in rock quarries, transporting heavy loads of stones and collecting sand for construction.(3, 7-9, 11, 19, 20) Children also work in the streets as porters and small-scale traders.(3, 9, 11, 21) Children working on the streets are exposed to multiple dangers, including severe weather, traffic accidents and crime.(22) Children are also involved in prostitution and in the sex tourism industry in Lome.(2, 23, 24)

Children are found in other activities constituting the worst forms of child labor, such as forced begging. The practice of sending Muslim boys to Koranic schools, or *daaras*, is a tradition in certain communities and is more common in Togo's Savanes region.(7, 11, 21, 25) While some boys receive lessons, others are forced by their teachers to beg in the streets and may be punished if they do not collect enough money by the end of the day.(25)

Children in Togo are trafficked for forced labor in domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation.(17, 26) In the Maritime, West, Central and Kara regions, girls are frequently trafficked for domestic service, market work and commercial sexual exploitation.(26-28) The customary practice of *confiage*, which involves sending a child to a relative or friend for school, may place children at risk of exploitation by internal trafficking.(14, 15) Children are also trafficked from Togo's central and northern villages to the Republic of the Congo and other West African nations, such as Nigeria, where they work in plantations, stone quarries, markets and homes.(26-30) Some Togolese boys are trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire for forced labor in construction and carpentry.(31)

Although education is free and compulsory until the age of 15, access to education services is still limited in Togo.(11, 32) In 2007, the ILO reported that 39 percent of classrooms in Togo were considered in unsatisfactory condition, and children might enter the workforce at a young age due to the limited number of schools.(3) In addition, in 2012 the United Nations reported that half of all children in Togo are not registered at birth, despite Government efforts in 2011 to register 140,000 children. Unable to prove citizenship, non-registered children are vulnerable to trafficking and may have difficulty accessing health and education services.(2, 33)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code of 2006 sets the minimum age for employment at 15.(34) Law 1464 sets the minimum age at 18 for certain industrial and technical employment including hazardous work. Law 1464 and the Labor Code also prohibit excessive work hours and night work for children.(34, 35) Although Law 1464 prohibits children from producing charcoal, lifting heavy loads and working in hotels, restaurants and bars, it also authorizes children 16 years and above to operate winches and pulleys and push heavy loads by wheelbarrow.(5)

	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	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	15
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Labor Code prohibits forced and obligatory labor and the worst forms of child labor as defined in ILO Convention 182.(34) However, these laws do not establish penalties for employing children in hazardous child labor, including work at night.(34, 35) The Labor Code does not define forced and obligatory labor and does not impose penalties sufficient to deter it. Violators of the Labor Code's forced and obligatory labor provisions can receive three to 6 months imprisonment, which can be doubled if it is a repeat offense, and a fine.(34)

The Child Code of 2007 further defines the worst forms of child labor, stiffens penalties for noncompliance with the minimum age law, and prohibits the trafficking of children as well as the recruitment of children into armed conflict and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The commercial sexual exploitation of children includes child pornography,

child sex tourism and the use of children in illicit activities.(36) The Law for the Repression of Child Trafficking and the Child Code prohibit the trafficking of children and establish penalties for violations.(36, 37)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

In 2001, the Government created the National Steering Committee for the Prohibition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor to coordinate and supervise national efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor. The Child Labor Unit of the Ministry of Labor (MOL) acts as its secretariat.(3, 7, 9, 10, 38) The National Steering Committee's responsibilities include promoting child labor legislation, mobilizing resources and collecting data. However, its actions to date have been limited to evaluating and approving NGO action programs to eliminate child labor.(10, 38) Members of the National Steering Committee attribute this shortcoming to their lack of financial resources. Its secretariat, the Child Labor Unit, is understaffed and has no budget.(3, 38)

At the regional level, child labor committees coordinate child labor efforts and raise awareness. These committees operate in a third of Togolese villages and include representatives from several ministries, the National Council of Employers, unions and NGOs.(7, 10, 33, 39) In 2011, child labor committees improved their coordination efforts by sharing information with officials in Lome about trafficking trends. Child labor committees also began working with the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity (MASSN) to track the return of trafficking victims.(33, 38)

The National Committee for the Reception and Social Reinsertion of Trafficked Children (CNARSEVT) is the focal point for trafficking information and statistics and coordinates actions against the worst forms of child labor. The MOL's Child Labor Unit is responsible for assisting CNARSEVT.(3, 7, 33) Reports indicate that CNARSEVT improved its overall coordination efforts and recordkeeping in 2011.(33)

The MOL is also responsible for inspecting work conditions throughout Togo. In 2011, the MOL employed 62 labor inspectors and monitored 500 businesses for labor violations.(7) During the reporting period, the Government provided training to labor inspectors, social workers, police, border guards, local committees and education officials on child labor issues.(7, 33) Six of the nine regional labor inspection offices received an annual operating budget of approximately \$5,525. The remaining three offices near the capital received roughly \$15,000.(7) At the local level, parent

and student associations and village development committees also monitor the child labor situation.(1, 10)

The Ministry of Justice, MASSN and the police's Child Protection Unit (CPU) are in charge of enforcing criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor. The MASSN maintains two social workers on-call 24 hours a day to assist trafficking victims.(7, 39, 40) The CPU—which consists of five police officers, two social service agents, a nurse, eight prison guards and one psychologist—manages child trafficking cases and, with the assistance of the Ministry of Justice, refers trafficking victims to appropriate services.(21, 40) In some cases, the CPU lacks resources to conduct investigations, and its employees must respond to calls in taxis and personal cars at their own expense.(41) In 2011, the Government reported 281 victims of child trafficking and intercepted 225 of these children prior to reaching their destination. Fifty-three of these children were repatriated from Nigeria, Benin and Gabon.(33) In addition, during the reporting period, Togolese police intercepted 26 children as they were being trafficked into Nigeria.(42)

No information is available on the number of child labor investigations conducted by the Government in 2011. In the first 8 months of 2011, 23 child traffickers were arrested.(7) Four traffickers received prison sentences up to 18 months and fines from \$600 to \$2000. There is no information about whether the other traffickers were convicted or if the rescued children received appropriate services.(7, 43) Furthermore, knowledge of the different laws protecting children among law enforcement personnel varies from region to region. The Maritime and Savanes regions' staff do not have copies of many child labor laws to guide law enforcement personnel.(10)

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The National Strategy on Eliminating Child Labor through Education, Training and Apprenticeship (2006) is the primary government policy instrument to prevent and eliminate child labor in Togo, although the Government is currently drafting the National Action Plan on Child Labor.(3, 7, 38, 44) The National Strategy addresses the root causes of child labor such as poverty, weak educational institutions and the lack of access to education due to high associated costs. Implemented by ILO-IPEC, this Strategy supports universal basic education and education reform and strengthens the capacity of parents and teachers to combat exploitive child labor through awareness raising.(44) The strategy includes specific interventions to assist working children and promote education. However, it does

not target all sectors in which children work, such as cattle herding, forced begging and prostitution, or include programs to withdraw children from exploitative labor.(44)

Togo's National Plan of Action on Child Trafficking calls for legal and health services, including providing meals and psychosocial support for child trafficking victims and awareness raising activities for local communities and border officials. The plan prioritizes the education of children and improvement of livelihoods for families, and calls for the establishment of structures to monitor the trafficking of children.(45)

The National Labor Policy aims to raise awareness among parents, employers and community leaders on child labor, provide labor inspectors with additional training on child labor and calls for the adoption and implementation of the National Action Plan on Child Labor.(46, 47)

Child labor concerns are also mainstreamed into national development agendas and key policy documents including: Togo's Education for All Program, Decent Work Country Program, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and United Nations Development System Framework (2008-2012).(10, 22, 48-51)

The establishment of child labor policies and the inclusion of child labor as a priority in development goals are important accomplishments; however, some of the policies lack concrete action plans, including timeframes and budgets, making it difficult to assess the ability of these policies to combat the worst forms of child labor.(44, 45)

In addition, Decree 2008-129 established the right to free and compulsory primary education until the age of 15; however, in practice the costs of uniforms and books prohibit many families from sending their children to school.(11, 32, 52, 53)

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

In 2011, Togo began participating in the USDOL-funded 4-year Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues Project. This \$15 million regional Project aims to build the capacity of national governments and develop strategic policies to address the elimination of child labor and forced labor. This Project also aims to improve the evidence base through data collection and research and strengthen legal protections and social service delivery for child domestic workers.(54)

Togo continued to participate in the 4-year, USDOL-funded \$5 million Combating Exploitive Child Labor in Togo Through Education Project. Launched in 2007, this project aims to withdraw 4,000 children and prevent 6,000 children from exploitive child labor in urban informal sectors, domestic service, rural agriculture, trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.(3) Togo also maintained its engagement in two additional USDOL-funded regional projects, including a 4-year, \$7.95 million project, and a 3-year, \$5 million project. These projects are designed to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in West Africa by strengthening sub-regional cooperation through ECOWAS.(55, 56)

The MASSN continued its campaign to disseminate the Child Code of 2007 and managed Allo 111, a hotline to report child abuse.(7, 9, 26) In 2011, MASSN also began managing the Tokoin Community Center, which receives victims referred by Allo 111 and is used as a temporary shelter.(33) Togo also recognized the World Day Against Child Labor by participating in awareness raising activities in Anié, Kolokopé, Hahotoé and Agoméglou.(6)

During the reporting period, UNICEF and the Togolese Government launched a new project to prevent child labor and child trafficking by providing families with young children, identified as high-risk, with cash transfers.(7) The Government also hosted a seminar for local businesses and enforcement personnel on child labor and trafficking issues.(7) In addition, the Government in cooperation with Terres des Hommes contributed to an ongoing project to prevent child trafficking and reintegrate victims.(7, 57)

Despite the initiatives described here, Togo's social programs to combat the worst forms of child labor do not match the scope of the problem and rely largely on NGOs and international organizations for implementation and as a result many of these interventions may not be sustainable over the long term.(2)

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

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Establish penalties for violations of the laws governing hazardous child labor, including requiring children to work at night.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Amend Law 1464 to prohibit all work, which is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children, including operating winches and pulleys and pushing heavy loads by wheelbarrow.	2011
	Clearly define forced and obligatory labor, and include sufficient penalties for violations of forced labor provisions.	2009, 2010, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Provide the Child Labor Unit with sufficient financial and human resources to implement their mandate and carry out daily tasks.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Strengthen measures to investigate, prosecute and convict individuals involved in the worst forms of child labor, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing training for all personnel charged with the enforcement of child labor laws. • Ensuring that all law enforcement personnel have access to child labor law reference materials and are aware of the different laws protecting children. • Providing sufficient resources to the police's CPU. 	2009, 2010, 2011 2009, 2010, 2011 2011
	Publish data on inspections, criminal investigations and prosecutions on the worst forms of child labor.	2010, 2011
	Adopt a policy that addresses all relevant worst forms of child labor such as domestic service, cattle herding, forced begging and prostitution.	2010, 2011
Policies	Strengthen the National Strategy on Eliminating Child Labor through Education, Training and Apprenticeship and the National Plan of Action on Child Trafficking by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing programs to withdraw children from the worst forms of child labor. • Ensuring that it targets all sectors where children work. • Developing timeframes and budgets for each intervention. 	2009, 2010, 2011
	Implement Decree 2008-129 fully, which establishes free education.	2010, 2011
	Ensure the Government's social protection programs to combat the worst forms of child labor are sufficient to address the scope of the problem and to promote the long-term sustainability of project initiatives.	2009, 2010, 2011
Social Programs	Improve access to education by building additional schools and rehabilitating schools in poor condition.	2010, 2011
	Provide additional training to teachers to stop the practice of using students for domestic labor.	2010, 2011
	Provide more resources to the birth registration campaign to ensure children are registered at birth.	2011

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