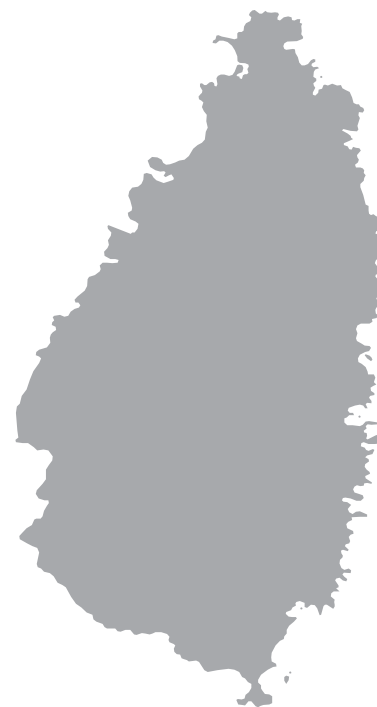


In 2016, Saint Lucia made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government implemented a National Framework and accompanying National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons. A rapid assessment conducted by the International Labor Organization in 2016 revealed limited evidence of children engaging in the worst forms of child labor in Saint Lucia, including in commercial sexual exploitation and the sale and transportation of drugs. Saint Lucia's law does not fully protect children from hazardous work and illicit activities.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Although research is limited, evidence suggests that children in Saint Lucia engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and the sale and distribution of drugs.(1-3) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Saint Lucia.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

| Children | Age | Percent |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Working (% and population) | 5 to 14 | 7.5 (2,017) |
| Attending School (%) | 5 to 14 | 99.7 |
| Combining Work and School (%) | 7 to 14 | 8.2 |
| Primary Completion Rate (%) | | 107.6 |

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2007, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(4)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4, 2012.(5)

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 |
|---|---|
| Services | Street vending, including selling food and handicrafts in markets (2, 6, 7) |
| Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor [‡] | Commercial sexual exploitation (3, 8-10) |
| | Sale and distribution of drugs(3, 7) |

[‡] Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a)-(c) of ILO C. 182.

Saint Lucia lacks current data on the prevalence of child labor, including its worst forms.(12) Limited evidence indicates that children engage in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes in exchange for rides, clothing, or cell phones or with the knowledge or encouragement of parents in situations of financial need.(3, 11) Limited evidence also suggests that children are used to transport and sell drugs.(3) Local and foreign children are also subjected to sex trafficking, including by parents and caregivers.(12, 13)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Saint Lucia has ratified most 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 | ✓ |

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Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor (cont)

| | Convention | Ratification |
|---|--|--------------|
|  | 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). However, gaps exist in Saint Lucia's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

| Standard | Meets International Standards: Yes/No | Age | Legislation |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----|--|
| Minimum Age for Work | Yes | 15 | Article 122 of the Labor Code (14, 15) |
| Minimum Age for Hazardous Work | Yes | 18 | Articles 2 and 23 of the Employees (Occupational Health and Safety) Act (16) |
| Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children | Yes | | Article 23 of the Employees (Occupational Health and Safety) Act (16); Article 214 of the Labor Code(14) |
| Prohibition of Forced Labor | No | | Article 4 of the Constitution; Article 6 of the Labor Code (14, 17) |
| Prohibition of Child Trafficking | Yes | | Articles 3(a), 5, and 10(c) of Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 (18) |
| Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children | No | | Articles 141 of the Criminal Code; Articles 2 and 5 of Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 (18, 19) |
| Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities | No | | Articles 141 and 560 of the Criminal Code (19) |
| Minimum Age for Military Recruitment | | | |
| State Compulsory | N/A**† | | |
| State Voluntary | N/A**† | | |
| Non-state Compulsory | No | | |
| Compulsory Education Age | Yes | 15 | Article 27 of the Education Act (20) |
| Free Public Education | Yes | | Article 16 of the Education Act (20) |

* No conscription (21)

† No standing military (21)

In Saint Lucia, the law prohibits children from engaging in hazardous activities except for children between the ages of 16 and 18 who are adequately instructed and supervised through an apprenticeship or vocational training program.(14, 16) In addition, although the Criminal Code prohibits the use of children in some illicit activities, such as street work, the use, procuring or offering of children for the production and trafficking of drugs is not criminally prohibited.(19) Laws related to forced labor are not sufficient as forced labor is not criminally prohibited. Finally, the law does not sufficiently prohibit commercial sexual exploitation, as the use or offering of children for commercial sexual exploitation is not criminally prohibited.(18)

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). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

| Organization/Agency | Role |
|--|---|
| Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, and Labor | Enforce laws on child labor, in part through labor inspections conducted by its Department of Labor.(10, 22, 23) |
| Royal Saint Lucia Police Force | Enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor. In the case of the Vulnerable Persons Unit, investigate cases of child labor, abuse, and neglect, and work in collaboration with the Division of Human Services.(6, 24) Use a specific manual for the investigation of crimes related to children.(22) |

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in Saint Lucia 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 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Labor Inspectorate Funding | Unknown* (2) | Unknown* (3) |
| Number of Labor Inspectors | 9 (6) | 7 (3) |
| Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties | No(25) | No (3) |
| Training for Labor Inspectors | | |
| Initial Training for New Employees | No (25) | N/A |
| Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor | N/A | N/A (3) |
| Refresher Courses Provided | No (6) | No (3) |
| Number of Labor Inspections | 300(25) | 250 (3) |
| Number Conducted at Worksite | Unknown | Unknown |
| Number Conducted by Desk Reviews | Unknown | Unknown |
| Number of Child Labor Violations Found | 0 (6) | 0 (3) |
| Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed | N/A (6) | N/A (3) |
| Number of Penalties Imposed that Were Collected | N/A (6) | N/A (3) |
| Routine Inspections Conducted | Yes (6) | Yes (3) |
| Routine Inspections Targeted | No (6) | No (3) |
| Unannounced Inspections Permitted | Yes (6) | Yes (3) |
| Unannounced Inspections Conducted | Yes (6) | Yes (3) |
| Complaint Mechanism Exists | Yes (6) | Yes (3) |
| Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services | Yes (6) | Yes (3) |

* The Government does not publish this information.

Although inspectors look for child labor and forced labor violations during inspections, insufficient funding hampers the labor inspectorate’s capacity to enforce child labor laws.(6, 10) In 2016, the number of labor inspectors—as well as the number of inspections conducted—decreased.(3) Inspectors can make recommendations to the Labor Commissioner but cannot assess penalties, and existing penalties are insufficient to deter employers from committing child labor violations.(3, 25)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in Saint Lucia 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 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|----------|---------|
| Training for Investigators | | |
| Initial Training for New Employees | Yes(25) | No (3) |
| Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor | N/A | N/A |
| Refresher Courses Provided | Yes (11) | Yes(13) |
| Number of Investigations | 0 (11) | 0 (3) |

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Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor (cont)

| Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|----------|---------|
| Number of Violations Found | 0 (11) | 0 (3) |
| Number of Prosecutions Initiated | 0 (11) | 0 (3) |
| Number of Convictions | 0 (11) | 0 (3) |
| Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services | Yes (11) | Yes (3) |

Although the local police can enforce laws against the worst forms of child labor, it is the vulnerable persons units—two units of twelve officers each—who lead this effort.(3) Insufficient resources, including transportation and equipment, hamper the police’s capacity to enforce child labor laws.(3) In September and October 2016, immigration and police officers were trained by Interpol to combat human trafficking.(13)

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. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

| Coordinating Body | Role & Description |
|--|--|
| Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services, and Gender Relations | Refer potential child labor cases to the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force.(22) |
| Trafficking in Persons Task Force | Coordinate the identification and referral of human trafficking cases among law enforcement, social service, and immigration officials pursuant to the Counter-Trafficking Act. Comprises public servants, including representatives from the Ministry of Labor, the police force, and victim service NGOs.(7, 18, 22) |
| Office of Gender Relations | Provide referrals to human trafficking victims for health, advocacy, crisis and legal services.(9) |

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

| Policy | Description |
|--|--|
| National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2015–2018)† | Identifies the strategic goals and objectives for combating human trafficking, as well as the means to achieve them, and establishes the coordination of counter-trafficking measures and the effective cooperation between all actors.(3, 13) In 2016, the Government made progress on the following strategic goals: coordination structures; review, monitoring and evaluation; and awareness-raising and education.(7) |
| National Framework for Combating Trafficking in Persons† | Outlines government response and roles in combating and preventing human trafficking.(3) |
| National Social Protection Policy (2014–2024) | Establishes a social protection system in Phase I (2014–2019) by consolidating the Social Safety Net programs. In Phase II (2019–2024), implements wider reforms for creating a coherent Social Protection System.(3) Child protection policies are incorporated into poverty reduction concepts and promote access to education.(6, 26) In 2016, the Government completed needs assessments and established the inter-agency dialogue mechanism.(7) |

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In 2016, the Government approved the National Action Plan and Framework for Combating Trafficking in Persons, and finalized a human trafficking prevention campaign.(3, 12) The Government also joined the Regional Initiative for Latin American and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor.(27) However, child labor elimination and prevention strategies are not integrated into the National Social Protection Policy.(7) Research did not reveal policies addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government funded programs that may contribute to the prevention or elimination of child labor (Table 10).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor[†]

| Program | Description |
|--|--|
| ILO Decent Work Program | Promotes decent work and advances the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.(3) In 2016, the Government, with support from the ILO, worked on the development and adoption of National Safety and Health policies.(7) |
| Educational Programs [‡] | The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund and Public Assistance Program fosters school attendance; the Community Empowerment's After School Program aims to improve academic performance and maintains school attendance of children ages 8 to 16; the Upton Garden Girls Center provides education, training, and self-development opportunities to teenage girls; the Center for Adolescent Renewal and Education provides second-chance education, training, and self-development services to adolescents; the Boys Training Center supports boys ages 10 to 18 who have come in contact with the law or require care and protection; and the <i>Koudmen Sent Lisi</i> program funds textbook rentals, a book bursary, a school feeding program, and a transportation subsidy program at most secondary schools.(2, 3, 6) |
| Strengthening Capacity to Accelerate Eradication of Child Labor in Latin America and the Caribbean | Government of Spain-funded \$603,070, 2-year project implemented by ILO-IPEC that aims to strengthen public policies and government capacity to combat child labor in over 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Saint Lucia.(28) In 2016, a diagnostic study was completed in Saint Lucia.(28) |

[†] Program is funded by the Government of Saint Lucia.

[‡] The Government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms.(28)

Research found no evidence of any programs with the specific goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms.

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 Saint Lucia (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 laws criminally prohibit the forced labor of children. | 2016 |
| | Ensure that laws criminally prohibit the use or offering of a child for commercial sexual exploitation. | 2016 |
| | Ensure that laws prohibit procuring or offering a child for illicit activities, including drug trafficking and production. | 2011 – 2016 |
| | Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under 18 by non-state armed groups. | 2016 |
| | Authorize labor inspectors to assess penalties for labor law violations. | 2016 |
| Enforcement | Collect and publish information on labor inspectorate funding. | 2012 – 2016 |
| | Ensure that new labor inspectors receive training on child labor law enforcement and that refresher courses are provided for all labor inspectors. | 2015 – 2016 |
| | Strengthen the labor inspectorate by initiating targeted inspections based on analysis of data on risk-prone sectors and patterns of serious incidents. | 2015 – 2016 |
| | Ensure that the labor inspectorate receives sufficient funding for conducting labor inspections. | 2015 – 2016 |
| Government Policies | Ensure that child labor elimination and prevention strategies are integrated into economic development and social protection policies. | 2015 – 2016 |
| | Adopt a policy that addresses all relevant worst forms of child labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children. | 2010 – 2016 |
| Social Programs | Design and implement social programs that specifically target and assist children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities such as the sale and transportation of drugs. | 2013 – 2016 |

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