

In 2015, Oman made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government established a study group to conduct research on child labor and how to combat it, drafted regulations outlining the conditions in which children may engage in light work, and set up a mechanism to receive complaints of child labor, including its worst forms, and refer them to the Royal Oman Police for investigation. Although the problem does not appear to be widespread, children are engaged in child labor, including in the agricultural sector in Oman. The Government lacks a policy to address all worst forms of child labor, and information on the enforcement of child labor laws is not publicly available.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Although the problem does not appear to be widespread, children are engaged in child labor, including in the agricultural sector in Oman.(1) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Oman. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Primary Completion Rate (%)		108.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2014, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(2)
Data were unavailable from Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis, 2015.(3)

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 (1)
	Fishing,* activities unknown (1)




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

The Ministry of Social Development set up a study group, in cooperation with the Sultan Qaboos University, to research how to combat child labor in Oman.(1)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Oman 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	16	Article 46 of the Child Law (4)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 76 of the Labor Law; Article 45 of the Child Law (4, 5)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Yes		Article 76 of the Labor Law (5)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Law to Combat Human Trafficking; Article 3bis of the Labor Law (5, 6)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Law to Combat Human Trafficking (6)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Law to Combat Human Trafficking; Articles 220, 221, and 224 of the Penal Code (6, 7)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 99 and 229 of the Penal Code; Article 58 of the Child Law (4, 7)
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Yes	16	Article 55 of the Child Law (4)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16‡	Article 36 of the Child Law (4)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 13 of the Basic Law; Article 36 of the Child Law (4, 8)

* No conscription (9)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (10)

In 2015, the Ministry of Manpower drafted regulations that specify under what conditions children may be engaged in light work, pursuant to the Child Law.(1)

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
Ministry of Manpower	Monitor and enforce child labor laws, conduct labor inspections, and share information with the Royal Oman Police on labor and criminal law violations when penalties are pursued.(11)
Ministry of Social Development	Enforce the Child Law, including receiving complaints and referring cases to the Royal Oman Police and Public Prosecution.(1)
Royal Oman Police	Monitor and enforce the Child Law, including its provisions related to child labor; refer cases to the Public Prosecution.(11, 12)

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement (cont)

Organization/Agency	Role
Public Prosecution	Prosecute human trafficking and sexual exploitation cases in court with assistance from the Royal Oman Police.(11, 13)
Child Protection Committee	Protect the child from exploitation and receive complaints and reports of violations of child rights, including the worst forms of child labor.(4)

In 2015, the Ministry of Social Development established a mechanism to receive complaints from the public regarding child labor, including its worst forms, and refer them to the Royal Oman Police for investigation.(1)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in Oman 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	200 (10)	160 (1)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Unknown	Unknown (1)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	Unknown
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Labor Inspections	Unknown	Unknown (1)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown (1)
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown (1)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown	Unknown
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	Unknown	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (14)	Unknown (1)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (14)	Unknown
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (15)	Yes (15)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	No (14)	Yes (1)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	No (10)	Yes (1)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	No (10)	No (1)

In 2015, the Ministry of Manpower provided training on child labor issues in cooperation with the ILO. The specific type of training is unknown.(1)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in Oman 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	No (10)	No (1)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	No (10)	No (1)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	No (10)	No (1)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Convictions	Unknown	Unknown
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Unknown	No (1)

Oman

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

There was no evidence of child trafficking in the reporting period.⁽¹⁶⁾ Research found no evidence of formal mechanisms or procedures to proactively identify children engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Although the Government has established the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, research found no evidence of 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 Combating Human Trafficking	Oversee the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking. Includes the Royal Oman Police; the Public Prosecution; the Ministries of Information, Education, Manpower, Health, Social Development, Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Legal Affairs; and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. ⁽¹³⁾
National Committee on Implementing the UNCRC	Led by the Ministry of Social Development to oversee the implementation of the UN CRC, including its provisions related to child labor and its worst forms. Other members include representatives from the Ministries of Health and Education, and the Royal Oman Police. There are subcommittees in all 11 governorates. ⁽¹⁰⁾

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking	Establishes roles and responsibilities of governmental organizations involved in combating child trafficking and describes procedures for applying the Law to Combat Human Trafficking. ⁽¹³⁾

Although the Government of Oman had adopted the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking, research found no evidence of a policy to address all forms of child labor, including in farming and fishing.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of Oman funded 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
Programs of the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking†	Government programs under the National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking. Includes implementation of awareness-raising activities on human trafficking in schools and among the general population, provision of social services for trafficking victims, and coordination with international organizations on human trafficking developments. ⁽¹³⁾
Trafficking Victims' Shelter†	Government-run shelter that provides accommodations and social, psychological, legal, and medical services for up to 50 women and children who are victims of trafficking. ^(17, 18)

† Program is funded by the Government of Oman.

The exclusion of migrant workers and their children from public social services, including education and housing benefits available to citizens, may increase their vulnerability to the worst forms of child labor.⁽¹⁹⁾

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 Oman (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Collect and make publicly available data on the labor inspectorate funding, whether inspectors are authorized to assess penalties, the types of training for labor inspectorate, the number of inspections and whether they were conducted at the worksite or via desk review only, the number of violations, the penalties including those imposed, and whether routine and targeted inspection were conducted.	2013 – 2015
	Establish a referral mechanism between law enforcement and social services.	2014 – 2015
	Ensure that investigators receive training on the worst forms of child labor.	2015
	Collect and make publicly available data on the number of criminal investigations, violations, prosecutions, and convictions.	2013 – 2015
	Develop formal mechanisms and procedures to proactively identify victims of all worst forms of child labor.	2011 – 2015
Coordination	Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat child labor, including in its worst forms.	2009 – 2015
Government Policies	Develop a national policy to address all worst forms of child labor.	2013 – 2015
Social Programs	Ensure that migrant workers' children are afforded protection from exploitation through access to social services.	2011 – 2015

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