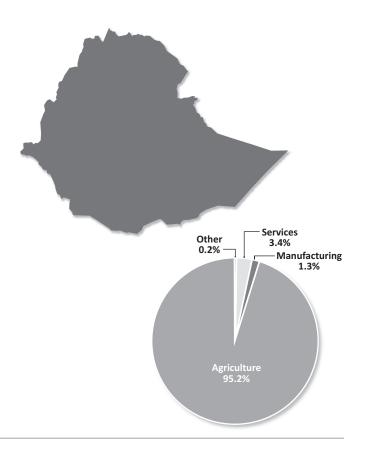
### Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia has supported programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor, such as providing services to children living and working in the street and child trafficking victims; however, its efforts did not target areas where the majority of children work, such as agriculture and domestic service. Ethiopia does not have a comprehensive policy to combat the worst forms of child labor and has not effectively enforced its child labor laws.

#### Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	70.0%
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	29.2%
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	0.3%



# Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children are exploited in the worst forms of child labor in Ethiopia, many of them in agricultural activities and domestic service. Roughly 89 percent of working children in rural areas are engaged in agriculture. Although evidence is limited, there is reason to believe that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of coffee, cotton, sugarcane, and tea. This children's work in agriculture may involve the use of potentially dangerous machinery and tools, carrying of heavy loads, and the application of harmful pesticides. Children, especially boys, engage in cattle herding, in which they work long hours.

In urban areas, children—mostly girls—work in domestic service, where they may be vulnerable to sexual and other forms of abuse. In Ethiopia studies have reported that such children suffer from depression and anxiety. Girls also collect firewood and water, activities requiring them to walk long distances and carry heavy loads. The suffer is the suffer of the suffer of the suffer is the suffer of the suffer is the suffer of the suffe

Limited evidence suggests that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of gold, especially in the Hararghe and Benishangul regions. Children working in small-scale gold mining may dig their own mining pits and carry over 40 liters of water daily.<sup>1776</sup>

Children work in petty trading, as taxi assistants and in construction, manufacturing, and weaving industries.<sup>1777</sup> Child weavers may work long hours, face physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by their employers, and may develop physical deformities as a result of crouching while working on traditional weaving looms.<sup>1778</sup> Anecdotal evidence suggests that some child weavers are exposed to starvation and debt bondage.<sup>1779</sup> Children working in sectors like construction and manufacturing typically do not use protective gear.<sup>1780</sup>

Children in Ethiopia are also found in other activities constituting the worst forms of child labor, such as prostitution, forced labor, and militias. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is more prevalent in urban areas, especially Addis Ababa. Young girls, some as young as age 11, are recruited to work in prostitution at brothels, hotels, bars, rural truck stops, and in resort towns. Girls are also sexually exploited by their teachers in exchange for favors, such as better grades. In Ethiopian cities,

there is a high prevalence of children working on the streets, which may expose them to severe weather, accidents caused by proximity to vehicles, and vulnerability to criminal elements. Reports suggest that children as young as age 14 may be recruited into government security forces and by local militias, predominantly in the Somali Regional state. Reports

Trafficking of children occurs in Ethiopia from Oromiya and SNNP to other regions for forced or bonded labor in domestic service. Children are also trafficked from rural to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, street vending, and manual labor. In addition, some children are trafficked to work in the weaving industry. Children are reportedly trafficked from Ethiopia to the Middle East, especially to Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Children are also trafficked to Djibouti and Sudan for commercial sexual exploitation and to Eritrea, where they may be conscripted into the armed forces.

### Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Proclamation sets the minimum age for employment at 14 and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18.<sup>1791</sup> The law forbids employers from using "young workers," defined as children ages 14 to 18, when the nature of the job or the conditions under which it is carried out might endanger the life or health of a child.<sup>1792</sup> The Labor Proclamation also prohibits children from working at night, overtime, and in occupations designated as the worst forms of child labor.<sup>1793</sup>

The Labor Proclamation does not cover unpaid work and work performed in the informal sector, where many children work in hazardous conditions. <sup>1794</sup> In addition, it allows children who are at least age 14 to engage in hazardous work such as in underground mines and quarries, if this work is performed following Government approved courses in vocational schools. Work underground in mines and quarries is hazardous to the health and safety of the children involved, even if this work is supervised. <sup>1795</sup> Children are required to attend school until age 12. This standard makes children ages 12 to 14 particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to be in school and are below the minimum age for work. <sup>1796</sup>

The Constitution protects children from trafficking, slavery, and forced labor. The Criminal Code also prohibits trafficking, child pornography, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and the use of children in illicit activities. However, there is no evidence of a legal framework or institutional structure to ensure that all children are registered at birth, which reports suggest may facilitate the trafficking and recruitment of children in armed conflict. The Criminal Code sets the minimum age for conscription and voluntary recruitment into the military at 18. 1800

Ser to	C138, Minimum Age	✓
AIIIOIA	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	No
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	12
	Free Public Education	No

## Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence of coordinating mechanisms to combat child labor in Ethiopia. 1801 However, the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Environment Department (OSHWED) within the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) is responsible for data collection, analysis, and policymaking for labor purposes. 1802 MOLSA is also the lead agency for trafficking-in-persons programming. 1803 In November 2009, the Government convened its Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking to coordinate government anti-trafficking efforts. This was the first time the group had met since June 2007. 1804

In addition, MOLSA is the primary federal agency responsible for labor inspections, which are organized through federal and regional offices. OSHWED enforces occupational safety, health, and minimum labor conditions of industrial enterprises in Addis Ababa and Dere Dawa, which include child labor laws. 1805 OSHWED employs 120 labor inspectors; none are exclusively dedicated to child labor. 1806 ILO reports that this department is understaffed and lacks sector-specific occupational health and safety guidelines, which weakens enforcement efforts. 1807 The Regional Bureaus of Social and Labor Affairs (BOLSAs) and City Administration are responsible for labor inspections at the zonal offices and regional and city levels. 1808 Both OSHWED and BOLSAs lack equipment and inspectors do not have access to suitable transportation, often relying on employers and trade union representatives for rides. 1809 Labor inspectors' salaries are not competitive and turnover is high. There was no evidence of training during the reporting period. 1810

Labor inspectors visit enterprises both to conduct investigations and carry out dispute settlements. Inspection visits are commonly unannounced, with the inspectors using checklists specific to small, medium, and large enterprises. Is If a labor violation is found, labor inspectors may require the employer to correct the situation within a given timeframe or may report the incident to the Minister of Labor. Labor inspectors do not have the authority to impose immediate sanctions, and fines can only be issued by a court. Outreach to and inspection of the formal sector of the economy has been limited, with the majority of inspections conducted on flower and vegetable farms. IsII

In addition, the labor relations board, an institution which settles labor disputes, receives labor complaints from regional and federal offices and issues case verdicts. On average, the labor relations board has a 1–3-year backlog of cases. <sup>1814</sup> There is no information on how many child labor investigations were opened, how many citations issued, and whether appropriate penalties were applied. <sup>1815</sup>

Police departments in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Dere Dawa have special Child Protection Units (CPU) that are staffed by one social worker and two police officers who identify and refer victims of the worst forms of child labor to support services. 1816

During the reporting period, CPUs identified 1,134 trafficked children, referred 116 of these children to shelters, and reunified 757 children with their parents or guardians. The police, in collaboration with the Forum for Street Children Ethiopia (FSCE), also operate a hotline to report trafficking cases. This hotline's impact is unknown. The street of the street children is the street case of the street children is the street case of the stree

Child Protection Committees and Child Clubs, which promote children's rights, were established in the SNNP. During the reporting period, 1,882 committee and club members were trained on the protection of trafficking victims, trafficking case management, and international and Ethiopian trafficking laws. 1819

In 2009, a Human Trafficking and Narcotics Section was established in the Organized Crime Investigation Unit by the federal police to collaborate with the prosecutor's office to conduct investigations, prosecute offenders, and report and collect trafficking data. In 2009, this unit investigated 63 cases and referred 39 cases to the prosecutor's office. It is not known how many of these cases involved the trafficking of children. 1820

## Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2009, MOLSA drafted the National Action Plan on Child Labor (2010-2015) and a Protocol and Guideline that would direct the implementation of new child labor identification, withdrawal, reintegration, and educational policies. However, these have not yet been adopted. <sup>1821</sup>

The National Plan of Action on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (2006-2010) outlines targets for reducing the number of children working in the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation. The National Action Plan against Trafficking and National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2010) also include provisions to reduce the worst forms of child labor. The National Plan of Action for Children document was not adequately disseminated among authorities responsible for its implementation. No additional information was available on these policies, including whether or not they were being implemented effectively.

In addition, child labor issues have been mainstreamed into the following Ethiopian development agendas

and policies: Development Social Welfare Policy, the Education Sector Development Program III, Decent Work Country Program, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. However, in general, these policies do not have budgets, detailed action plans, or targets related to the worst forms of child labor.<sup>1824</sup>

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

In Ethiopia, social programs specifically designed to eliminate the worst forms of child labor are a recent development with most being internationally sponsored initiatives. In the past, many child-centered interventions such as programs to provide teachers with training and students with school meals indirectly contributed to the elimination of child labor.<sup>1825</sup>

The Government recently placed priority on anti-trafficking interventions, with the bulk of nationally sponsored initiatives in this realm. For instance, in 2009, the Government included information about trafficking in public school curricula and provided free air time on government-owned radio and television stations for anti-trafficking messages. The Government also provided land and assistance for young female trafficking victims to establish self-help projects and businesses. In addition, the Government in partnership with a local NGO operated a temporary shelter for trafficking victims and rescued 23 mainly child trafficking victims.

Internationally-sponsored initiatives to combat the trafficking of children include the Regional Program for Eastern Africa (2009-2012). This program includes activities that support the ratification and

implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols and the development of a border control system. The Ethiopian Government also supported and participated in the launch of the African Union Commission Initiative against Trafficking Campaign. 1830

To address the role of HIV-AIDS as a root cause of child labor, Ethiopia participated in the 4-year Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together (KURET) Project, funded by USDOL at \$14.5 million and World Vision at \$5.8 million through March 2009. The project withdrew or prevented children from exploitive labor in HIV/AIDS-affected areas of these four countries. 1831

Additionally, the Ethiopian Government in partnership with UNICEF is providing over 6,000 street children with formal and non-formal education and access to free health care in Addis Ababa and 14 other major towns. The Government in partnership with Save the Children also completed a pilot survey in January 2010 on child labor and exploitation in seven towns. The Central Statistical Agency also completed a survey on child labor in late 2009, with results expected by mid-2010. 1833

While the Government participates in numerous initiatives and implements several of its own programs to combat the worst forms of child labor, areas where the majority of children work, such as agriculture and domestic service have not been targeted. The Government also has not linked internationally-sponsored projects to existing social protection programs to ensure the long-term sustainability of initiatives.

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

#### IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Conduct an investigation into the recruitment practices of government security forces and local militias to ensure that children are not engaged by these groups.
- Raise the age for compulsory education to 14, the established minimum age for work.
- Amend the Labor Proclamation to:
  - Prohibit children ages 14 to 17 from engaging in all worst forms of child labor, such as working underground in mines and quarries, even if this work is performed following courses in vocational school.
  - Cover unpaid work and work performed in the informal sector.
- Create a legal framework and institutional structure to monitor the registration of all children at birth.

#### IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.
- Ensure the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons meets regularly.
- Develop sector-specific occupational health and safety guidelines.
- Strengthen the capacity of labor law enforcement officials by:
  - Providing labor inspectors with competitive salaries to reduce turnover.
  - Providing high-quality and regular training on child labor laws to enforcement personnel.
  - Providing sufficient resources to the labor relations board to reduce the backlog of cases.
  - Ensuring that labor inspectors in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs have the resources, such as vehicles, to conduct systematic inspections in all sectors of the economy.
  - Dedicating labor inspectors with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to child labor.

#### IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt and implement the National Action Plan against Child Labor and its Protocol and Guideline.
- Make publically available information regarding the National Plan of Action for Children.
- Include budgets, action plans, and targets related to the worst forms of child labor in development agendas and policies.
- Gather and make publicly available information about the implementation of national policies to combat child labor, how many child labor investigations are open, how many citations and criminal prosecutions are initiated and issued, and whether appropriate penalties applied.

#### IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Develop social protection programs for the withdrawal or prevention of children working in agriculture and domestic service.
- Link internationally sponsored projects to existing social protection programs to ensure the long-term sustainability of initiatives.

- <sup>1770</sup> 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, 2005-2010. Data on working children and school attendance are from 2005. Data on children combining working and schooling are from 1999-2000. 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.
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- <sup>1772</sup> U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12, 2010*, para 1-2.
- <sup>1773</sup> Tassew Woldehanna, Bekele Tefera, Nicola Jones, and Alebel Bayrau, Child Labour, Gender Inequality and Rural/Urban Disparities: How Can Ethiopia's National Development Strategies be Revised to Address Negative Spill-over Impacts on Child Education and Wellbeing?, Working Paper No. 20, London, 2005, 15, 30; available from http://www.savethechildren.org/uk/younglives/data/ publications/pdfs/WP20Labour.pdf [hard copy on file]. See also U.S. Department of State, "Ethiopia," in Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009, Washington DC, March 11, 2010, section 7d; available from http://www. state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/index.htm. See also People in Need Ethiopia, A study on the situation of child labour in Ethiopia: Review of existing studies and brief assessment, Addis Ababa, July 2009, 13; available from http://www. rozvojovka.cz/download/pdf/pdfs 194.pdf.
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- <sup>1775</sup> Tassew Woldehanna, Bekele Tefera, Nicola Jones, and Alebel Bayrau, *Child Labour, Gender Inequality, and Rural/Urban Disparities: Ethiopia*, 15-17, 30. See also U.S.

- Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Ethiopia," section 7d. See also People in Need Ethiopia, *A study on the situation of child labour in Ethiopia*, 12.
- <sup>1776</sup> U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting*, *February 12*, 2010, para 1, 19.
- <sup>1777</sup> Ibid., para 1, 2. See also People in Need Ethiopia, *A study on the situation of child labour in Ethiopia*, 11, 13.
- <sup>1778</sup> U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12,* 2010, para 1, 15. See also People in Need Ethiopia, *A study on the situation of child labour in Ethiopia*, 13, 23.
- <sup>1779</sup> U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12,* 2010, para 29.
- <sup>1780</sup> Ibid., para 1, 2. See also People in Need Ethiopia, *A study on the situation of child labour in Ethiopia*, 11, 13. See also Government of Ethiopia, *Ethiopia Child Labour Survey Report 2001*, 68.
- <sup>1781</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Ethiopia," section 7d. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Ethiopia*, accessed December 29, 2009; available from http://www.ecpat.net/EI/Csec\_onlineDatabase.asp. See also Government of Ethiopia, *Report on Progress in Implementing the World Fit for Children: Plan of Action in Ethiopia*, Addis Ababa, June 2007, 58; available from http://www.unicef.org/worldfitforchildren/files/Ethiopia\_WFFC5\_Report.pdf.
- <sup>1782</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Ethiopia," section 7d.
- <sup>1783</sup> ECPAT International, *Global Monitoring Report on the Status of Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Ethiopia*, Bangkok, 2007, 12; available from http://www.ecpat.net/A4A\_2005/PDF/AF/Global\_Monitoring\_Report-ETHIOPIA.pdf.
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- <sup>1788</sup> World Vision, *Kenya*, *Uganda*, *Rwanda*, *and Ethiopia Together (KURET)*, Technical Progress Report, September 26, 2008, Annex G. See also U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12, 2010*, para 5.
- <sup>1789</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Ethiopia (ratification: 2003)*, [online] 2009 [cited December 29, 2009]; available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloilc&d ocument=1419&chapter=16&query=C182%40ref%2B%23 YEAR%3D2009&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0. See also U.S. Embassy- Addis Ababa, *reporting, March 23, 2010*, para 4b, 5a.
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- <sup>1791</sup> Government of Ethiopia, *Labour Proclamation*, (February 26, 2004), chapter II, section 89, article 1-3; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/31977/64870/E93ETH10.htm. See also U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12, 2010*, para 7.
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- <sup>1807</sup> U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12, 2010*, para 6, 26. See also ILO, *Technical Memorandum: Ethiopian Labour Inspection Audit*, 9.
- <sup>1808</sup> ILO, *Technical Memorandum: Ethiopian Labour Inspection Audit*, 5, 8.
- 1809 Ibid., 17.
- <sup>1810</sup> Labour Administration and Inspection Programme (LAB/ADMIN), *Labour Inspection Structure and Organization*, 1-2. See also U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, *reporting, February 12, 2010*, 6, 26. See also Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs official, Interview, June 9, 2009.
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