

Chad

In 2011, Chad made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, particularly by eliminating the use of child soldiers in the Chadian army. During the year, the Government worked with both its national army and with rebel groups on demobilization. Although children may have continued to be used by rebel groups, no evidence was found that child soldiers have remained in the national army. In April 2011, the Government of Chad signed the joint Government of Chad-UN Action Plan on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups in Chad to prevent children from being recruited in the future. However, the Government has not enacted laws that would improve its weak legal framework on child labor, has not enforced laws to protect children from the worst forms of child labor and lacks programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor. The Government continues to lack laws criminalizing the use of children as child soldiers and addressing the use of children for illicit or pornographic purposes. In addition, the lack of a clear compulsory education age continues to put children at risk of exploitative labor. Children continue to be involved in worst forms of child labor particularly in dangerous activities in herding.



Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	53.0 (1,535,025)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	39.6
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	30.7
Primary Completion Rate		32.9

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 DHS Survey, 2004.(2)

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children are engaged in the worst forms of child labor in Chad, including work as cattle herders.(3, 4) Many children work in agriculture, which may involve tasks such as carrying heavy loads or using dangerous tools.(4-7) Numerous children also work as herders, in poor conditions such as without shelter and risk injury while working in isolated areas.(4, 8-10) Some such children are sold into forced labor in herding by their families.(11) Children working in the fishing sector risk drowning, disease and injury from sharp tools.(4, 12)

Many children work in the urban informal sector. Some of them work as manual laborers and risk injury from dangerous tools.(4, 13) In several towns and especially in the capital, N'Djamena, street children are found begging, doing odd jobs and working in markets. These children are vulnerable to harassment and injury from traffic accidents.(8) Children also work as domestic servants, and some suffer physical and sexual abuse from their employers.(14, 15) Some of these children are sold or bartered by their families and are forced to engage in these activities.(16) Some boys, sent to Koranic teachers to receive education, are forced to beg and surrender the money they have earned or risk being beaten.(17)

While government forces no longer recruit children as child soldiers in Chad, children may continue to be used by rebel groups.(6, 18, 19) In 2011, Chad continued to experience insecurity as a result of bandits and large populations of internally displaced persons and refugees from neighboring conflicts. In contrast to the previous 5 years, there was no rebel activity in Chad in 2011.(20-22) The Government stopped recruiting children as soldiers into the national army midway through 2010.(6, 18) In 2011, UNICEF and a number of other humanitarian aid organizations working in Chad found no evidence that children had remained in the ranks of the national army.(18, 23) However, some rebel groups may have continued to use children.(4, 18, 19) There were also reports

of children around military camps, including national army camps, doing odd jobs for the soldiers there.(18)

Within Chad, some children are trafficked for prostitution and forced labor in domestic service, herding, begging and fishing. Chadian children are also trafficked to the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Cameroon for forced labor in cattle herding.(11) Children from Chad are trafficked to Saudi Arabia to work in forced labor as beggars and street vendors.(24)

The reporting period was marked by poor harvests in Chad causing severe food shortages.(25) This increased children's vulnerability to the worst forms of child labor.

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

According to the Labor Code, the minimum age for work is 14; however, exceptions permit light work in agriculture and domestic service from age 12, and apprenticeships starting at age 13.(26-28) The Labor Code also permits exceptions to be established through decrees issued by either the Ministry of Labor and Social Security or the Ministry of Public Health.(26, 28) A decree from 1969 establishes a list of hazardous activities specifically prohibited for children under the age 18, such as working in a slaughterhouse or mine.(27, 29) However, such protections apply only to work in formal enterprises and do not protect children working in informal activities such as domestic service.(27, 30)

	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	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	No
	Free Public Education	Yes

Chadian law makes attending primary and middle school compulsory. Primary school is organized as three cycles that each last 2 years, while middle school has an expected period of 4 years. The law permits children between ages 6 and 12 to commence primary school, but does not clearly set a required age to begin schooling.(28, 31) The lack of a clear age for children to enroll in school puts the children at risk of the worst forms of child labor prior to fulfilling their compulsory education requirement. Chadian law also establishes the right to free education.(31) However, Chad faces many challenges in providing access to education, including shortages of functioning schools, teachers and teacher absenteeism.(3, 17, 32)

The minimum age for compulsory military recruitment is 20. The minimum age for voluntary military recruitment without parental consent is 18. However, a minor with a guardian's consent may volunteer for military service prior to age 18 and the law does not establish a clear minimum age for these children.(33, 34) No clear, uniform penalties exist for contravening the ordinance that establishes the minimum age for recruitment.(29, 35, 36) Although the UN Action Plan calls for a law criminalizing all use of child soldiers, to date no such law has been enacted.(36, 37) The lack of a law criminalizing the use of child soldiers and the lack of adequate penalties for using child soldiers increase the risk that children could be used as child soldiers in future conflicts.

Under the Penal Code prostitution is illegal, and penalties are more stringent for exploiting minors.(29) However, under this law only those who procure children are considered offenders. Those who use children under age 18 for sexual services are not considered offenders, and the law does not establish offenses related to pornography or pornographic performances by a child under age 18.(30) The Labor Code prohibits forced labor.(11, 26), Chad lacks a law protecting children from being used, offered or procured for illicit activities.(3)

There is no specific law on human trafficking in Chad. However, traffickers can be prosecuted under charges of kidnapping, sale of children or labor statute violations.(16, 29, 38) A draft Criminal Code was developed in 2002 that included provisions to address trafficking and make more types of child sexual exploitation illegal.(29, 39) However, this draft code has not yet been adopted. Likewise, a code on the protection of children was drafted in 2009, but it has not yet been adopted.(38, 40, 41) Similarly, in 2009 Chad began drafting regulations to regulate domestic work but, to date, no regulation has been issued. If these new laws are enacted and enforced they would provide more protection for children than the country's Penal Code provides.(30)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence of a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor. However, there is a National Committee to Fight Against Trafficking, which consists of several government agencies partnered with international agencies.(6) This committee implements the national action plan on trafficking but has limited resources.(6) Each of the 22 regions of Chad reportedly has a technical committee responsible for addressing the worst forms of child labor, but there is no coordination at the national level. These regional committees include representatives from the Ministries of Education, Public Works, Justice, and Social Affairs and Family, as well as a representative from the police.(16, 42)

Inspectors and comptrollers from the Office of Labor Inspection in the Ministry of Labor are responsible for implementing and enforcing child labor laws.(39, 43) In 2011, Chad trained 10 new inspectors. This increased the total number of labor inspectors and comptrollers to 102.(43) No statistics are available on the number of inspections that were conducted, the results of any such inspections, or the amount of training provided for labor inspectors.(6)

The National Committee to Fight Against Trafficking and special police units are responsible for both investigating and enforcing laws that relate to the offenses of prostitution and trafficking.(16, 39) Inspectors from the Chadian National Army are responsible for investigating reports of child soldiers. Ministry of Human Rights officials have also been trained to help identify child soldiers.(39, 42)

No statistics on law enforcement for the worst forms of child labor are available. Some crimes, especially in rural areas, are dealt with under traditional and tribal justice systems, and statistics are not centrally compiled.(6) There is no evidence of prosecutions for trafficking or other worst forms of child labor during the reporting period.(11, 40) In 2010, Chad's Defense Ministry did report that military discipline has been brought to bear against some perpetrators of child soldiering.(44) However, a lack of statistics on enforcement precludes effective targeting of enforcement, hampers programming and undermines efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labor.

There are only 150 judges in Chad and there is a lack of physical infrastructure for the judiciary, such as courthouses. As a result, the judicial system is ill-equipped to prevent the worst forms of child labor.(4, 6)

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

During the reporting period, the Government of Chad did not establish a policy framework for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Although a national action plan was drafted in 1999, it still has not been adopted.(3, 42) With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Justice drafted an "Integrated Action Plan to Fight the Worst Forms of Child Labor" (2008-2010). Although this Plan was never adopted, the government ministries continued to support its goals.(3, 16, 39, 43) Chad also has a draft national plan to address the trafficking of women and children, which has not yet been adopted.(9) Within its poverty reduction strategy, Chad has focuses on reducing the exploitation of child herders.(9) A 10-year plan from 2004 to 2015 exists for reforming the education system, and the Chadian education system policy includes a focus on ensuring equitable access to education for child domestic workers, child herders, child soldiers street children, among others.(3, 41, 45) However, Chad continues to face a widespread shortage of functioning schools and teachers.(3, 17, 32)

In 2007, the Government of Chad and UNICEF signed an agreement to demobilize child soldiers from various armed groups engaged in conflicts in Chad and to repatriate Sudanese children who have been forcibly recruited.(46, 47) In June 2010, Chad signed the N'Djamena Declaration, a regional agreement binding its signatories to eliminate the use of child soldiers in their territories.(48, 49) In April 2011, the Government of Chad signed the joint Government of Chad-UN Action Plan on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups in Chad. The Plan provides concrete steps for eliminating the use of child soldiers in Chad.(18, 37)

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

Programs to combat the worst forms of child labor remain few and limited in scope compared to the magnitude of the problem, particularly in agriculture, herding and domestic service.(3, 41)

During the reporting period, Chad worked with social partners to reduce the worst forms of child labor. Chad has worked with partner organizations, such as UNICEF, to implement programs to demobilize, rehabilitate and reintegrate child soldiers.(15, 46) In 2011, to prevent the future recruitment of child soldiers, Chad provided training to 91 members of its armed forces.(43) The Ministry of Public Service and Labor promoted awareness raising campaigns about the worst

forms of child labor, especially the use of child herders.(6)
In coordination with government officials, NGOs also worked on a 2-year project to reduce the number of children being trafficked into domestic service and herding by raising awareness and by collecting statistics on the extent of the problem.(15)

The Government of Chad is implementing a child survival and development program. However, an evaluation of whether this

program has an impact on the worst forms of child labor has not been conducted.(28)

The Government is taking some steps to improve access to education by building additional schools and permitting local communities to hire and pay their own teachers.(32, 50) These steps have not been sufficient and a lack of access to education across Chad makes children vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.

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

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Draft and adopt a law that criminalizes all use of children under age 18 in armed conflict and provides appropriate penalties.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Adopt the draft Child Protection Code and legislation pertaining to domestic workers.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Adopt the draft Penal Code provisions designed to protect children from trafficking and sexual exploitation.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Enact a law to prohibit the use, procurement or offering of children for illicit or pornographic purposes.	2011
	Review and update the list of hazardous occupations, ensuring that it covers all sectors where children are at risk of injury, and impose appropriate penalties for violations.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Amend the education law to establish a clear age for compulsory education that ensures children are in school until they have attained at least the minimum age 14 for employment.	2009, 2010, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Continue to work toward fulfilling the responsibilities committed to in the June 2010 N'Djamena Declaration on eliminating all use of child soldiers in Chad.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Establish a national coordination mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Provide law enforcement officials and judges with adequate resources to enforce laws against the worst forms of child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Gather and publish statistics regarding the enforcement of the worst forms of child labor laws, including the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences.	2009, 2010, 2011
Policies	Adopt a National Action Plan to effectively target all worst forms of child labor in Chad.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Assess the education reform plan to ensure equitable access for former child domestic servants, herders and soldiers.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Implement the N'Djamena Declaration and eliminate the use of child soldiers across Chad by holding accountable those who recruit and use child soldiers.	2009, 2010, 2011
Social Programs	Assess the impact that existing development programs may have on addressing child labor.	2011

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Social Programs	Develop programs to prevent the recruitment of children into armed forces and demobilize those currently engaged in child soldiering.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Establish and expand programs providing services to children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, especially in agriculture, herding, domestic service and forced begging by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the livelihoods of families of child laborers, • Raising awareness of the importance of education and • Addressing the lack of schools and trained teachers, as well as teacher absenteeism. 	2009, 2010, 2011

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