In 2012, Saint Lucia made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government adopted the amended Labor Act of 2006, raising the minimum age for employment to 15. In addition, the Government continued to support an afterschool program for underprivileged youth. Despite these efforts there is no evidence of any policies to address the worst forms of child labor and there is no indication that research has been conducted by the Government to assess the scope of the problem. Although information on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor in Saint Lucia is limited, children are reported to be engaged in dangerous activities in agriculture.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>5-14 yrs.</td>
<td>Unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending School</td>
<td>5-14 yrs.</td>
<td>Unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Work and School</td>
<td>7-14 yrs.</td>
<td>Unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Completion Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>93.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
Primary completion rate: Data from 2011, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2013.(1)
All other data: Understanding Children’s Work Project’s analysis, 2013.(2)

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Although information on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor in Saint Lucia is limited, children are reported to be engaged in dangerous activities in agriculture.(3-5) There is some information that children in rural areas harvest bananas after school and during the holidays.(3-5) Children working in agriculture may be engaged in dangerous activities. They may use dangerous tools, carry heavy loads, and apply harmful pesticides.(6, 7)

There are reports of children working on the streets, but specific information on hazards is unknown.(4, 5, 8)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2012, the Government adopted the amended Labor Act of 2006, which repeals the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Law Revised Ordinances of 1957.(9-11) The amended Act sets the minimum age for employment at 15 and prohibits the employment of children who have not yet reached the minimum age for compulsory education.(9-11) The Labor Act of 2006 and the Education Act of 1999 both prohibit the employment of children under the age of 16 during the school week, unless for vocational training, but allows children above the age of 13 to be engaged in light work during the weekends and on holidays.
The Government has identified, among other occupations, car washing, delivering newspapers, cake sales, and other fundraising school activities to constitute light work. (9, 12)

The Occupational Health and Safety Act prohibits the employment of persons under age 18 in industrial undertakings. (3, 13, 14) This includes, but is not limited to, cleaning, lubricating, or adjusting any machinery while in motion; working on a steam boiler, a kiln, an oven, and other equipment that involves high temperature exposure; working on machine tools and other high speed machinery; and operating cranes, winches, and other lifting appliances. Young persons—those who have attained the age of 16 but not yet 18—are also prohibited from engagement in these hazardous activities unless they are being supervised as part of an apprenticeship or vocational training program. (3, 13, 14) Research found no evidence that there are prohibitions on hazardous work in other sectors of the economy.

Saint Lucia does not have a military force, as the police force is responsible for the security of the country. The minimum age for recruitment to the police force is 18. (15, 16)

The Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, and forced labor for children of all ages. (17) The Criminal Code bans prostitution and the procurement of or engagement in sexual relations with any male or female under age 18. (18) The Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 criminalizes the trafficking of children for labor and commercial sexual exploitation. (3, 19)

However, the Government lacks adequate protections for children used in child pornography and drug trafficking. (14)

The Education Act No. 41 (1999) mandates compulsory primary and secondary schooling from ages 5 to 15. (11, 12) Under the Act, tuition is free for children attending public institutions; however, other unspecified charges can be applied if approved by the Minister. (12) Although school is compulsory for all children under the age of 15, the Ministry of Education reports that truancy has led to child labor in the informal sector. In an effort to keep children from entering the labor force and in school, an additional Truancy Officer has been hired. (11) It is unknown whether this is sufficient to address the problem. (11)

**Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

Research found no evidence of a specific coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor in Saint Lucia.

Child labor law enforcement is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labor, and the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations. (3, 4) The Department of Labor, within the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labor, conducts workplace inspections to ensure compliance with the labor law. (11) Seven labor inspectors are in charge of all aspects of labor violations, including child labor. Inspectors conduct spot investigations, check records to verify compliance with the law, and take legal action against employers found employing underage workers. (3) Ministry representatives noted that the current number of inspectors is insufficient to carry out their responsibilities. The amount of funding allocated for child labor inspections is unknown. (3) During the reporting period, there were no reports of inspections being conducted regarding child labor or of penalties and citations issued for child labor violations. (3, 11)

Enforcement of all criminal laws, including those involving the worst forms of child labor, is the responsibility of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force. They have a Vulnerable Persons Unit to investigate all cases of child abuse and neglect, including child labor, and work in collaboration with the Division of Human Services. (3, 4) The Vulnerable Persons Unit did not receive specific child labor training during the reporting period. (3)

The Government of Saint Lucia had previously established the National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons, which was meant to detect, investigate trafficking cases, and protect victims. Research found no evidence that the Coalition was in place during the reporting period. (20) No formal training was provided to the Saint Lucia police, immigration authorities, health workers, or child protection officials in recognizing trafficked victims. (21)

**Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Research found no evidence of any policies to address the worst forms of child labor, including in dangerous activities in agriculture or street work, nor of any research conducted by the Government to assess the scope of these problems.

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

The Government supported efforts that may indirectly address child labor through initiatives to keep children in school. In particular, it continued to support an afterschool pilot program initiated in 2009 to target underprivileged children between ages 8 and 16. (22) Enacted by the Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth, and Sports, the program engages
children in three poor communities in various afterschool activities. As of the writing of this report, it was expected to continue until 2013. The impact of the program on child labor is unknown.

Research found no evidence that the Government of Saint Lucia carried out programs during the reporting period to assist children involved in dangerous forms of agriculture or street work.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Suggested Actions</th>
<th>Year(s) Action Recommended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Draft and adopt legislation to prohibit procuring or offering a child for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.</td>
<td>2011, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Draft and adopt legislation to prohibit procuring or offering a child for illicit activities, including drug trafficking and production.</td>
<td>2011, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Enforcement</td>
<td>Increase the number of labor inspectors so that child labor laws are adequately enforced.</td>
<td>2011, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide child labor and human trafficking training to relevant authorities working with vulnerable populations, including child laborers.</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make information on inspections for child labor and results of those inspections publically available.</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adopt policies to combat the worst forms of child labor in dangerous forms of agriculture and street work.</td>
<td>2010, 2011, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Programs</td>
<td>Determine the impact of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth, and Sports afterschool program on child labor.</td>
<td>2011, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use the results of any studies conducted on the worst forms of child labor to assess the need for social programs to assist children working in agriculture and other identified worst forms.</td>
<td>2009, 2010, 2011, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. UNESCO Institute for Statistics. *Gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary Total.* accessed February 4, 2013; http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/default.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN. Data provided is the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary school. This measure is a proxy measure for primary completion. For more information, please see the “Children’s Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions” section of this report.

2. UCW. *Analysis of Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Statistics from National Household or Child Labor Surveys.* February 5, 2013. Reliable statistical 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 on children’s work in general are reported in this chart, 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.

Saint Lucia

6. International Labour Office. Children in hazardous work: What we know, What we need to do. Geneva, International Labour Organization; 2011. While country-specific information on the dangers children face in agriculture is not available, research studies and other reports have documented the dangerous nature of tasks in agriculture and their accompanying occupational exposures, injuries and potential health consequences to children working in the sector.