

In 2011, Morocco made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government ratified the UN Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, provided training on child labor to enforcement officials and conducted a study on child domestic workers in Casablanca. However, the latest draft bill to protect domestic servants and a separate draft bill to prohibit child labor in traditional artisan or handicraft sectors have not been adopted. Children in Morocco continue to engage in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in dangerous forms of agriculture and domestic service.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	4.5 (150,178)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	82.9
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	0.7
Primary Completion Rate		84.7

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 EPSF Survey, 2003.(2)

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Morocco are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, primarily in dangerous agricultural activities and domestic service. Results from a 2011 study by the Moroccan High Commission for Planning indicate a decline in the incidence of child labor.(3, 4) The results of this study were not available in time for analysis for this report and are not reflected in the table above. However, children continue to work, especially in dangerous forms of agriculture.(3-6) Activities in agriculture may include using dangerous machinery and tools, carrying heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides.(5)

Young girls are sent to work as live-in domestic servants, often before they reach age 10.(3, 5, 8-10) Parents sell their daughters or receive payment of wages in exchange for their daughters' service.(6, 7) These *petites bonnes* (little maids) often face conditions of involuntary servitude, including long hours without breaks; physical, verbal and sexual abuse; withheld wages and even restrictions on their movement.(3, 6, 8, 9) Frequently, they are sent from rural villages to more urban areas, and find it difficult to make their way home.(9) Most



petites bonnes are denied an education, and illiteracy rates are high among this population.(6, 10)

Children also work in automobile repair, carpentry and construction, where they may use dangerous tools and equipment and face exposure to chemicals, dust and high levels of noise.(11-13) Children may also work in cutting trees, tanning hides and fishing.(4, 11, 12, 14, 15) Fishing exposes children to risks such as drowning.(16) Children reportedly work with artisans, in producing handicrafts, textiles and carpets.(3-5) They are sometimes sent to be artisan apprentices before reaching age 12.(7) Some boys are subject to involuntary servitude, as apprentices for mechanics and artisans and in the construction industry.(9)

Street children are an ongoing concern; however, there is limited information available on the current scale of the problem. Children on the street engage in diverse forms of work, including selling cigarettes, begging, shining shoes, washing cars and working as porters and packers in ports.(14, 17) Children working on the streets are vulnerable to traffic accidents and crime.(18)

Some children are subject to commercial sexual exploitation.(8, 9) Child prostitution has been reported principally in the cities of Azrou, Beni Mellal and Mèknes, but also in Tangier, Agadir, Marrakech, Rabat and Casablanca.(19) Former child domestic servants are especially likely to engage in prostitution, as they frequently end up on the streets once they escape their domestic employer.(20, 21) Boys and girls are exploited for sex tourism, especially in Tangiers, Agadir, Marrakech and El Hajeb, which are popular tourist sites that attract customers from the Persian Gulf and Europe.(8, 19, 22) Children are also trafficked to countries in the Middle East and Europe for forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation and other illicit activities.(9)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code of 2004 establishes the minimum age for employment at 15 and limits the time of night that children under age 16 can work.(23) However, the Labor Code makes exceptions for children under age 16 to work beyond nighttime hourly restrictions in seasonal or time-sensitive agricultural activities.(23)

	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	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Labor Code does not apply to those who are self-employed, or to those who work in private residences, in traditional artisan or handicraft sectors for businesses with less than five employees. Therefore, it does not apply to domestic workers.(8, 12, 23, 24)

The Labor Code prohibits some hazardous activities for children under age 18, such as work in underground mines. Decree No. 2.10.183 refines and expands the list of hazardous activities prohibited to children under age 18 to better protect minors from dangerous activities.(12, 23, 25) The list addresses some work in agriculture, including hazards such as the use of pesticides and sharp blades. Working in tanneries and slaughtering animals is also prohibited.(25)

Multiple iterations of bills have been drafted to provide protections to domestic workers since the 2004 Labor Law was approved; however, legislation has not yet been enacted, which leaves children in domestic service without basic protections.(26) In October, a new draft bill on domestic service was approved by the Council of Government; however,

it is being revised to conform to the new Constitution before being submitted to Parliament for approval.(3, 12, 27) If passed, this bill would set the minimum age for domestic service at 15, outline the conditions of work, and establish monitoring mechanisms and penalties for violations.(12, 28) The bill also includes a provision for a list of hazardous activities prohibited to domestic servants under age 18.(12, 13, 28)

In May 2011, a draft bill to clarify Article 4 of the Labor Code regarding child labor in traditional artisan or handicraft activities was submitted to the Secretary General of the Government of Morocco for approval; it remains under review. The draft bill would apply the minimum age in the Labor Code to traditional activities, prohibiting work for children under age 15; it would also regulate apprenticeships in the sector.(12)

Forced or compulsory child labor is prohibited in the Labor Code and Penal Code.(23, 28, 29)

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including pornography and prostitution, is also prohibited under the Penal Code.(29) The Penal Code specifically forbids sex tourism.(22, 29)

Morocco does not have a specific trafficking in persons law, but child trafficking can be prosecuted using articles from the Penal Code and the Immigration Law.(9, 29, 30) In April 2011, the Government ratified the UN Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.(3)

Education is free and compulsory for children ages 6 until the age of 16.(3, 31)

The minimum age for voluntary military recruitment is 18, and there is no military conscription.(32)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MOSDFS) coordinates child labor efforts and oversees the National Plan of Action for Children (PANE), which addresses child labor, in cooperation with other ministries.(3, 12)

The Ministry of Employment and Professional Training (MOEPT) enforces the Labor Code and implements child labor laws.(3) The MOEPT Director of Work heads the Child Labor Task Force to coordinate this effort.(3, 14)

The MOEPT employed 463 general labor inspectors nationwide in 2011, all of whom have received training on child labor issues.(3) One inspector in 43 of the 51

inspectorate offices concentrates on children's issues and receives up to 14 weeks of specialized training on child labor.(3, 27) In 2011, MOEPT provided specialized training on child labor to these 43 child focal point officers and to 50 new labor inspectors.(3, 12) In 2011, labor inspectors investigated 383 enterprises for child labor issues; 9 fines were imposed for violations and 119 children under age 15 were found working.(12, 27) Information is not available regarding the specific penalties imposed on these employers in violation of child labor laws.

The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) is responsible for enforcing the Penal Code's prohibitions on prostitution and trafficking.(3, 14) There are 3,171 Judicial Police Officers responsible for Minors.(3) In addition, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) prosecutes criminal offenses, such as commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking.(3) Law enforcement and judicial officials received training on trafficking issues.(9) The National Observatory for Children's Rights operates a toll-free telephone number available for children who have been victims of violence, including sexual exploitation.(28)

According to the most recent available statistics from the MOJ, in 2011 there were 38 cases of child exploitation in begging, 10 cases of child exploitation in drug trafficking, 55 cases of prostitution of a minor and 11 cases of pimping of a minor.(27) A Moroccan woman was arrested for involuntary manslaughter in the beating death of her underage maid in July 2011.(33)

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Morocco, led by the MOSDFS, is carrying out the broad PANE 2006-2015, which focuses on children's health, protection, participation and education.(3, 12, 14) PANE includes the issue of child labor and sexual exploitation of children, and calls for pilot programs focusing on street children and domestic child labor.(3, 13, 14) In May 2011, the MOSDFS held a conference to review PANE and begin developing the second phase of the policy.(3) In support of the PANE, the Government allocated a specific budget line-item for approximately \$180,000, to combat child labor annually from 2009 through 2011.(3, 12)

The issue of child labor has been mainstreamed into government policies and programs, such as the King's National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD), Second Phase, 2011-2015. The NIHD serves as a framework to reduce poverty through improved education and health facilities,

access to electricity and drinking water, attention to the needs of girls and women, and income and employment initiatives, such as microfinance.(3, 14, 34, 35) Reducing child labor, with particular attention to street children, is one of the goals of the NIHD initiative.(3, 36)

Many students, especially girls, do not have access to schools, despite the fact that education is compulsory for 9 years.(5, 38, 39) Middle and secondary schools are particularly scarce in rural areas.(3) To address the issues of education access and quality, the Government is implementing the Emergency Plan (2009-2012) for education reform.(13, 37) This Plan includes the creation of 6,800 new classrooms to accommodate 330,000 additional students, as well as increased school access for rural students including scholarships, transportation and dormitories.(13) Intermediate results indicate that the Plan has improved enrollment and completion rates; however, with a 64 percent secondary school completion rate in 2010, universal education has not yet been attained.(38) The direct impact this policy may have on child labor does not appear to have been assessed.

In June 2011, the High Commission for Planning released the results of a labor force survey, which included some information on child labor that revealed a decline in the incidence of child labor from 1999 through 2010.(3, 4, 12, 14) While these data will contribute to the knowledge base on child labor, information gaps remain in the understanding of child labor in Morocco. During the year, MOSDFS conducted a study on *petites bonnes* in Casablanca, to follow up on a preliminary study in 2001.(13) The results of that study have not yet been released.

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

As part of the PANE, Inqad, a national pilot program implemented through MOSDFS with ILO-IPEC, was tasked with combating domestic child labor through judicial reform and cooperation with civil society.(6, 13, 14, 39) Inqad activities through 2010 included national awareness-raising campaigns on the exploitation risks for domestic servants; however, information on activities in 2011 is not available.(6, 13, 14, 39) MOSDFS also piloted the INDIMAJ Program, as set forth in the PANE, to provide services to street children.(40)

Through the PANE, the Government allocated \$180,000 to fund anti-child labor programs implemented by local NGOs in 2011.(3, 12) Research did not identify either the scale or the results of these programs, or whether they addressed child labor in agriculture or other sectors where it is known to occur.

Morocco

The Government of Morocco is participating in an UNDP-funded multi-sector program targeting women and girls against gender-based violence and abuse, including trafficking, that is being implemented in partnership with the ILO-IPEC from 2008 through 2012.(41, 42) In 2011, the Government began participating in a new regional ILO program combating child domestic labor, funded through 2014 by the Government of France.(42)

Livelihood projects implemented under NIHD have resulted in improved employment, housing and access to education and medical services for Moroccans.(34, 43) Programs aimed at increasing school enrollment and reducing dropout rates include the Tayssir Program, focused on primary school reform and reducing dropout rates, and the Iqtane Program, focused on secondary schools.(11, 12, 44) Limited information is available regarding these programs in 2011; specific

interventions and results are not known. The direct impact these projects may have had on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been assessed.

In November, the Government began cooperation with UNICEF on a new \$32 million program through 2016 focusing on providing education for vulnerable children, health services for mothers and socio-economic development.(3)

The National Observatory for the Rights of the Child, along with MOSDFS and the Ministry of Health, operate 75 centers to provide services to child victims of violence, abuse or neglect. In 2011, the centers assisted victims in 520 cases of sexual abuse and neglect. These data are not disaggregated to indicate the number of those children who were victims of commercial sexual exploitation or of the worst forms of child labor.(3) There were no reported programs to raise awareness of child prostitution and sex trafficking.(9)

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

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Amend legislation to restrict nighttime work hours of children in seasonal or time-sensitive agricultural activities.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Approve legislation to protect domestic workers from hazardous work and to prevent children under the legal working age from domestic servitude. Also approve legislation to prohibit children under the legal working age from employment in traditional sectors and to regulate apprenticeships in traditional sectors.	2009, 2010, 2011
Policies	Fully implement the Emergency Plan for educational reform to provide all children ages 6 to 15 access to education.	2010, 2011
	Assess the impact that existing educational reform policies may have on reducing child labor. Conduct further comprehensive research or surveys on the trends of child labor in Morocco.	2010, 2011
Social Programs	Building on the best practices of past and current projects, develop or expand programs addressing the worst forms of child labor to protect a greater number of affected children, with a special focus on children involved in domestic service, agriculture, and other sectors where children are known to work.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Implement programs to raise awareness of child prostitution and child trafficking.	2011
	Assess the impact that existing education and livelihoods programs may have on reducing child labor in the interest of disseminating results and expanding effective programs to further reduce the worst forms of child labor in Morocco.	2010, 2011

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