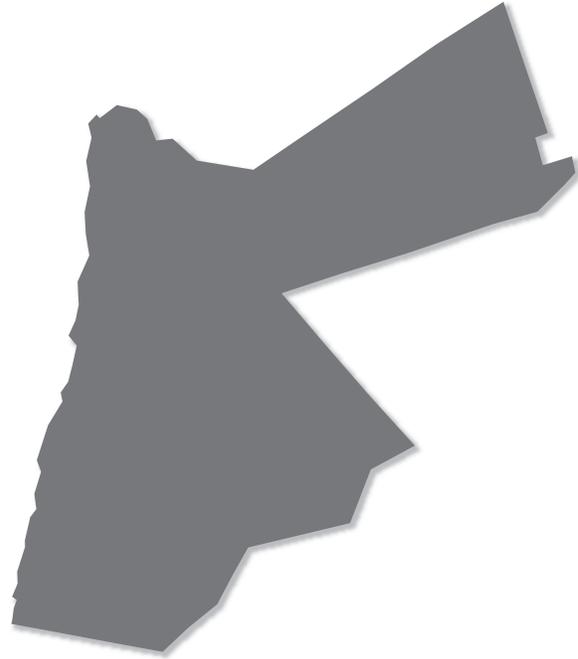


Jordan

The Government of Jordan has strengthened its legal framework to combat the worst forms of child labor by amending its Labor Code to include children working in agriculture. However, children working in family businesses are not covered. Although few children appear to engage in the worst forms of child labor, some children are exploited in hazardous work in small businesses.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Percent
Working	Unavailable
Attending School	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	Unavailable



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In Jordan, few children appear to engage in the worst forms of child labor.²⁵⁵³ However, children engaged in dangerous child labor may be found in small businesses. These children, mostly boys, engage in a variety of dangerous occupations that have been classified by the Government of Jordan as hazardous child labor. According to the country's 2007 Child Labor Survey and other sources, this includes work in auto maintenance and repair, vocational trade (such as blacksmiths, electricians, battery technicians, plumbers), agriculture, fishing, mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas, and water sectors, construction (carpenters, painters), hotels and restaurants, transport and storage, street work, and begging.²⁵⁵⁴ Some children engage in dangerous child labor in the tourism industry in Petra and the Dead Sea regions by working as street peddlers. Children working on the streets are exposed to a variety of dangers, which may include severe weather, accidents caused by proximity to vehicles, and vulnerability to criminal elements.

Children in these areas also work as scavengers.²⁵⁵⁵ Refugee children, including Iraqi children, are more likely to work in the worst forms of child labor.²⁵⁵⁶

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Ministry of Labor (MOL)'s Labor Code establishes the minimum age for work as 16.²⁵⁵⁷ The minimum age for hazardous work is 18. The 1997 Decision issued by the Ministry of Labor, concerning dangerous, tiring or harmful works to the health of juveniles, defines children engaged in hazardous work to include those who work in (1) specific sectors such as construction, electricity, gas, steam, water, mining and quarrying, hotels and restaurants, and streets; (2) specific occupations, such as protective services workers, waiters or bartenders, extraction and construction workers, and scavengers; and (3) specific working conditions, such as carrying heavy loads, operating heavy equipment/machinery, and working 43 hours or more per week.²⁵⁵⁸

The Labor Code affords protection to many working children, but it does not cover children working in family businesses and agriculture.²⁵⁵⁹

During the reporting period, the Labor Code was amended to cover all workers in agriculture and domestic work and establish fines for violations in these sectors.²⁵⁶⁰ The MOL has yet to enact proposed by-laws for agriculture giving labor inspectors the authority to cover agriculture.²⁵⁶¹

The Labor Code has been amended to include new articles prohibiting forced labor, harassment, and other forms of abuse.²⁵⁶² In March 2009, Jordan ratified the Anti-Human Trafficking Law. The Law prohibits human trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation, including prostitution. It also identifies the coordinating body on trafficking, procedures for processing trafficking violations, and specifies imprisonment and penalties for trafficking violations.²⁵⁶³

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

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The MOL through its Child Labor Unit (CLU) heads the National Committee to Combat Child Labor, which coordinates the activities of 13 governmental agencies and NGOs.²⁵⁶⁴ The CLU is responsible for creating new legislation on child labor and monitoring the scope and prevalence of child labor.²⁵⁶⁵ The CLU currently only has two full-time staff members, limiting its ability to execute its mandate.²⁵⁶⁶

The MOL has 140 labor inspectors. While all labor inspectors are charged with investigating child labor complaints, 10 labor inspectors have been appointed to act as regional leads on child labor and to work with government and non-governmental partners to investigate cases.²⁵⁶⁷

In addition, during the reporting period, the MOL created a public/private partnership to conduct child labor surveillance in eight governorates of Jordan. This partnership involves both MOL inspectors and community-based organization/NGO staff members working together to identify child labor violations.²⁵⁶⁸ As of March 2010, CHF trained 49 inspectors to identify child labor violations and assist child labor victims.

Research did not reveal the total number of child labor inspections conducted during the reporting period. MOL labor inspectors identified 375 child laborers in small businesses, such as mechanic shops and restaurants, and referred them to informal and nonformal educational services.²⁵⁶⁹ MOL community surveillance teams identified 285 cases requiring children to be withdrawn from the worst forms of child labor. Research did not reveal whether the community surveillance cases are inclusive of total MOL child labor violations. Despite these identified violations, the Government fined only 33 businesses for child labor violations and did not bring any court actions relating to any child labor offenses.²⁵⁷⁰

The Ministerial Committee on Trafficking coordinates Government of Jordan's anti-human trafficking efforts. This Committee includes members from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Justice, Labor, Social Affairs, Trade and Industry, and the Public Security Department.²⁵⁷¹ During the reporting period, the Government of Jordan's efforts to prevent trafficking included establishing a joint labor inspector and police anti-trafficking unit.²⁵⁷² In 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of State—with collaboration from the Jordanian Judicial Institute—trained Jordanian judges and prosecutors on international and national legislation related to human trafficking.²⁵⁷³

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Jordanian National Strategy for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2006-2015) is the main policy framework for actions to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. This Strategy was drafted by the MOL in consultation with the ILO and other stakeholders. During the reporting period, MOL created the National Committee for Child Labor (NCCCL) to operationalize the Strategy and create an action plan, key stakeholders, and timeframe.²⁵⁷⁴

The Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children (NPA) (2004-2013) prioritizes children in general and includes a child labor component. The child labor component aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in Jordan by 2013 and to decrease the number of child laborers. The NPA's child labor objectives are to (1) eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2013 and decrease the number of child laborers under age 16; (2) rehabilitate and reintegrate working children; (3) conduct research studies on the worst forms of child labor; (4) offer alternatives for increasing the income of families whose children work; (5) develop national legislation in harmony with international conventions on the prevention of child labor, including ILO Convention 182; and (6) raise awareness on child labor and its impact on the child's physical and psychological development.²⁵⁷⁵ UNICEF reported that the NPA will spend approximately \$10 million dollars to combat child labor. While the NPA does include a child labor component, research indicates that the NPA prioritizes the drafting of a children's rights law, not an anti-child labor law, and, in general, lacks ministerial coordination.²⁵⁷⁶

The National Agenda (2006-2015) is the overall Government of Jordan development agenda and indirectly supports the elimination of child labor by calling for strengthening of the labor inspectorate and the provision of vocational training opportunities.²⁵⁷⁷

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

The Government of Jordan has participated in government- and donor-funded projects to combat the worst forms of child labor in informal and small businesses, agriculture, and street work.

The Government of Jordan is currently participating in a \$4 million project with support from USDOL. This 2008-2012 project aims to withdraw and prevent 8,000 children from the worst forms of child labor through the provision of educational and other social services.²⁵⁷⁸ This project aims to ensure long-term sustainability by partnering with the National Aid Fund (NAF) in order to provide conditional cash transfers and loans to families of child laborers.²⁵⁷⁹

The Government of Jordan is also currently providing \$352,609 to the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) to provide social and other services to MOL-referred child laborers.²⁵⁸⁰ The GOJ's Ministry of Education (MOE) is assisting CECLE with an awareness-raising program to stop child begging.²⁵⁸¹

During the reporting period, through financial and technical assistance from USDOL and ILO, MOL released a summary report from a 2007 Child Labor Survey. MOL has made this report publicly available on its Web site.²⁵⁸²

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend the Labor Code to cover children working in family enterprises.
- Approve proposed by-laws for agricultural workers which will enable labor inspectors to investigate child labor violations in the agriculture sector.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Increase the number of Ministry of Labor/Child Labor Unit administrative staff in order to carry out its mandate of effectively monitoring the scope and prevalence of child labor and creating new legislation on child labor.
- Prosecute violators of labor laws that pertain to child labor and impose sanctions such as imprisonment and fines where appropriate.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- As administrative capacity is appropriately increased within committed Government stakeholders, continue to provide social programs that will aim to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

²⁵⁵³ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used by USDOL. 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. For more information on sources used for these statistics, 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.

²⁵⁵⁴ CHF International, *2009 Baseline Report: Jordan Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education (CECLE)*, 2009. See also Government of Jordan, *Human Resources*, [online] [cited January 5, 2010]; available from <http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/resources5.html>. See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting*, February 11, 2010, para 9. See also CHF International *Project Document Under USDOL and CHF International Cooperative Agreement: Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education*, 2008, 9. See also Government of Jordan, *Working Children in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Results of the 2007 Child Labour Survey*, Geneva, 2009, 1, 4. See also CHF International official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 13, 2010.

²⁵⁵⁵ CHF International *CECLE Project Document*, 9.

²⁵⁵⁶ CHF International, *2009 Baseline Report Jordan*.

²⁵⁵⁷ CHF International, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education (CECLE)*, Technical Progress Report, March 15, 2009, 5-6. See also Government of Jordan, *Labour Code, Law No. 8 of 1996 and its Amendments*, (March 2, 1996), article 73; available from <http://www.mol.gov.jo/Portals/1/labor%20law%20english.pdf>.

²⁵⁵⁸ ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Decision issued by the Ministry of Labour concerning dangerous or tiring or harmful works to the health of juveniles, 1997*.

Official Gazette, 1997-02-01, No. 4181, January 21, 2010. See also Government of Jordan, *Labour Code*, article 74. See also Government of Jordan, *Working Children in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Results of the 2007 Child Labour Survey*.

²⁵⁵⁹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Jordan (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2009 [cited January 5, 2010]; available from [http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=23533&chapter=9&query=\(Jordan\)+@ref+%2B+%23YEAR%3E2008&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0](http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=23533&chapter=9&query=(Jordan)+@ref+%2B+%23YEAR%3E2008&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0). See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*, para 18.

²⁵⁶⁰ Government of Jordan, *Labour Administration and Compliance in Jordan: A Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration*, October 2009, 16, 17; available from http://www.jordanembassyus.org/new/aboutjordan/jordanpdf/LaborReport_Oct2009.pdf.

²⁵⁶¹ U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, January 20, 2010.

²⁵⁶² Government of Jordan, *Government of Jordan Labor Administration and Compliance Progress Report*.

²⁵⁶³ United Nations, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, [online] [cited January 20, 2010]; available from http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en. See also Government of Jordan, *Anti-Trafficking-in-Persons Law*, (March 31, 2009); available from hard copy. See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 18, 2009*.

²⁵⁶⁴ U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*, para 16.

²⁵⁶⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request Concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Jordan (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2009 [cited January 20, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=23533&chapter=9&query=%28Jordan%29+%40ref+%2B+%23YEAR%3E2008&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*.

²⁵⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*, para 15.

²⁵⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁶⁸ CHF International, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education (CECLE)*, Technical Progress Report, September 30, 2009, 8.

²⁵⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*.

²⁵⁷¹ ILO, *Eliminating Forced Labour and Trafficking in Jordan*, [online] [cited January 23, 2010]; available from http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Projects/lang--en/WCMS_104064/index.htm.

²⁵⁷² U.S. Department of State, “Jordan (Tier 2),” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 16, 2009, 172; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm>.

²⁵⁷³ U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting*, October 21, 2009.

²⁵⁷⁴ CHF International official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, August 12, 2010. See also CHF International, *CECLE, Technical Progress Report, September 30, 2009*.

²⁵⁷⁵ Government of Jordan, *The Jordanian National Plan of Action (2004-2013)*, 2004; available from <http://www.ncfa.org.jo/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=jcn9iwyG758%3d&tabid=71&mid=402>.

²⁵⁷⁶ CHF International, *2009 Baseline Report Jordan*, 26. See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*, para 24. See also CHF International official, Meeting with USDOL official, September 9, 2010.

²⁵⁷⁷ U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, para 2.

²⁵⁷⁸ CHF International, *CECLE, Technical Progress Report, March 15, 2009*. See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*.

²⁵⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*.

²⁵⁸⁰ Government of Jordan, *Jordanian National Plan of Action*.

²⁵⁸¹ U.S. Embassy - Amman, Email communication to USDOL Official, November 12 2010.

²⁵⁸² Government of Jordan, *Working Children in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Results of the 2007 Child Labour Survey*. See also U.S. Embassy- Amman, *reporting, February 11, 2010*, para 10.