

Kiribati

During the reporting period, the Government ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182. Children sell goods on the street and girls are trafficked for prostitution. There does not appear to be any programs to address the worst forms of child labor.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

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

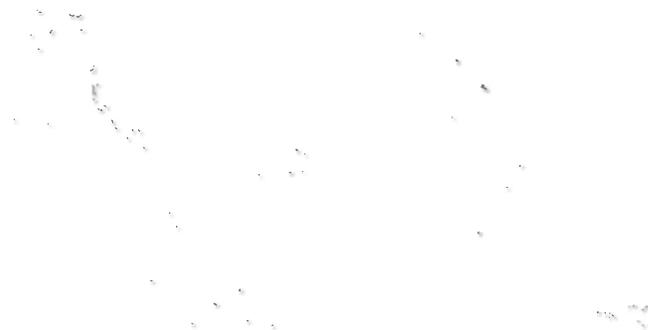
Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Kiribati are exploited in the worst forms of labor.²⁷⁰⁸ Children sell goods on the street.²⁷⁰⁹ Street vending exposes children to dangers such as road accidents, air pollution, and extreme weather. Girls are also trafficked internally for prostitution and child pornography may be produced as a result.²⁷¹⁰ Crewmembers of fishing vessels are reported to be common clients.²⁷¹¹

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Employment Ordinance sets the minimum age for employment at 14, and the Employment (Amendment) Act 2008 sets the minimum age for hazardous work at 18.²⁷¹² The Penal Code prohibits forced labor²⁷¹³ and trafficking in persons.²⁷¹⁴ The Penal Code also prohibits the procurement of any girl under age 18 for prostitution, or procurement of any male regardless of age for this purpose.²⁷¹⁵ Kiribati has no regular military force.²⁷¹⁶

The Government ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182 during the reporting period.²⁷¹⁷



	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	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	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	14
	Free Public Education	Yes

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Government of Kiribati has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor. The Government has not taken any action to investigate, arrest, prosecute, or convict traffickers during the reporting period.²⁷¹⁸

The Ministry of Labor and Human Resources Development is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.²⁷¹⁹ The Ministry received no complaints of child labor during the reporting period.²⁷²⁰ In addition, no child labor inspections were conducted during the reporting period.²⁷²¹ No trainings on issues related to the worst forms of child labor were held.²⁷²²

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The National Advisory Committee on Children, which is made up of representatives from government agencies and NGOs, has drafted a National Children's Plan that awaits Cabinet approval.²⁷²³

The Kiribati Country Program Action Plan, developed with UNICEF Pacific, provides the basis for the Child Protection Program (2008-2012); one goal of the Child Protection Program is to reduce exploitation of children in the Pacific Islands.²⁷²⁴

The question of whether these policies have an impact on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

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

Research found no evidence of any programs to address the worst forms of child labor.

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

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.
- Increase law enforcement efforts to target trafficking and the commercial sex sector.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Assess the adequacy of current policies to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.
 - Take steps to reduce the demand for commercial sex exploitation of children by fishing crews.
- Assess the impact that the Child Protection Program may have on addressing the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Develop programs to address the needs of children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation and street vending.
- Consider a comprehensive study of children's activities to determine whether they are engaged in at risk for other worst forms of child labor.

²⁷⁰⁸ 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.

²⁷⁰⁹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention*, CRC/C/KIR/CO/1, Geneva, September 29, 2006, 11-12; available from [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/54c00eda0882cbf0c125722d002c60c9/\\$FILE/G0645200.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/54c00eda0882cbf0c125722d002c60c9/$FILE/G0645200.pdf).

²⁷¹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 9, 2010.

²⁷¹¹ U.S. Department of State, “Kiribati,” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, “Kiribati,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010, Section 6; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eap/135994.htm>. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Kiribati: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth*, Suva, 2005, 56; available from http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/Kiribati_Sitan.pdf.

²⁷¹² Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment Ordinance*, (April 22, 1966), article 84; available from http://www.pacii.org/ki/legis/consol_act/ea149/. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment (Amendment) Act 2008*, (May 15, 2008), section 8;

available from <http://www.parliament.gov.ki/act/2008/Employment%20%28Amendment%29%20Act%202008.pdf>.

²⁷¹³ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Employment Ordinance*, article 75. See also Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Penal Code*, (October 18, 1965), article 249; available from http://www.pacii.org/ki/legis/consol_act/pc66/.

²⁷¹⁴ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Kiribati,” section 6.

²⁷¹⁵ Government of the Republic of Kiribati, *Penal Code*, articles 136, 155.

²⁷¹⁶ Central Intelligence Agency, “Kiribati,” in *The CIA World Factbook*, 2010; available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>.

²⁷¹⁷ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, February 2, 2010.

²⁷¹⁸ U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Kiribati.”

²⁷¹⁹ U.S. Department of State, “Kiribati,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119042.htm>.

²⁷²⁰ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, February 2, 2010.

²⁷²¹ U.S. Embassy- Suva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, September 9, 2010.

²⁷²² Ibid.

²⁷²³ UNICEF Pacific, *Protect me with love and care: A Baseline Report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Kiribati*, Suva, October 2009, 2; available from http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/UNICEF_KIRIBATI_Feb.pdf.

²⁷²⁴ Ibid., 1, 5.