

Yemeni Responses to Information Sought by U.S. Department of Labor on Child Labor and Forced Labor

Yemen Child Labor Update

1) 1. According to International Labor Organization [ILO] Convention 182, concerning the prohibition of the worst forms of child labor, all activities that harm the child's health and that are inconsistent with the child's physical and mental abilities are among the worst forms of child labor. The Unit for Combating Child Labor in the Ministry [of Social Affairs and Labor] issued Ministerial Decree No. 11/2013. The decree contains a list of the prohibited activities where children under the age of 18 are not allowed to work and the exempted activities. Prohibited activities fall in 42 occupational and activity sectors that are inappropriate for children. The most prominent prohibited activities include spraying agricultural pesticides; working in tobacco, *narghile* tobacco, and cloth dyeing factories; working in x-ray and nursing establishments; working with iron and aluminum saws; working in all fishing and diving activities; descaling of fish with sharp instruments; and other hazardous occupations included in Decree No. 11/2013.

1) 2. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor conducted a national comprehensive Child Labor Survey in Yemen in cooperation with ILO, UNICEF, and the Social Fund for Development. The survey was carried out by the Central Statistical Organization in 2010. The results were published in 2013. The survey shows that there are 1,614,000 working children in the 5-17 age group. The survey results were disseminated through a workshop dedicated to publishing the results. All stakeholders were invited to the workshop. The results were also included in a book that was distributed to entities that can benefit from the data.

The following may be contacted regarding the raw data (data sets): the Central Statistical Organization CSO1@y.net.ye or the executive director of the survey, Sam al-Bashiri, sam.4454@gmail.com .

2) In 2004, Ministerial Decree No. 56/2004 was issued. It contains a list of the prohibited work activities for children under the age of 18. The decree was amended and improved, becoming Decree No. 7/2013. That decree includes a list of the prohibited work activities for children under the age of 18 and the exempted activities according to ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor and ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work. The decree includes the minimum age for employment, the minimum age for admission to hazardous jobs, and a prohibition on the involvement of children in hazardous work.

3) 1. Regarding child labor, a steering committee was formed for the Program to Combat Child Labor since 2004. In 2009, based on new developments, the committee was restructured by adding new representatives of entities concerned with children's issues. The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood is also adopting a protection network whose members include a number of official agencies concerned with children's issues.

4) [text appearing beneath note:] Personnel of the Ministry of Interior and Security were given training regarding the worst forms of child labor. They were introduced to the ILO conventions

which have been ratified by the government to enable them to help labor inspectors enforce child labor laws with respect to the worst forms of child labor. They were given copies of the laws and the decrees containing lists of hazardous occupations in which children are prohibited from working.

4) 2. The Unit for Combating Child Labor. Communication and coordination are conducted through labor inspectors regarding filing complaints about child labor. The unit resolves cases through the concerned frameworks.

4) 4. Previously, there were 57 labor inspectors. Around 2013, the number was increased to 150 male and female inspectors. They are the same labor inspectors but have been trained in the laws against child labor.

4) 5. In view of the unavailability of funds and resources, labor inspectors face many difficulties in their fieldwork. Therefore, the inspection results appear somewhat weak.

4) 6. Yes, inspectors have received a number of trainings in cooperation with the ILO, which sent an expert in the field of inspection. He trained the inspectors in labor inspection and occupational safety. The training included all inspectors in the Republic. Training programs were conducted in four governorates – Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, and Hodeida.

4) 7. In some governorates (e.g. Aden, Taiz, and Hodeida), the inspection team goes into the field to the workplaces of children, [conducting] two visits per month. Many violations are discovered. The violations are resolved immediately during the visit by making the employer aware of the danger of employing children in hazardous work while [taking into account the need for] preserving the jobs of children in such establishments, because of the consequences for the child's obligations to his family [to contribute to alleviating the family's stress] due to poverty.

4) 8. Such systems do not exist.

4) 9. There are two such cases. Most violations are resolved amicably during the inspector's field visit.

5) 1. The Ministry of Interior as well as human rights institutions and organizations.

5) 3. The answer was provided previously.

5) 5. They were mentioned previously in connection with the training of personnel of the Ministry of Interior, i.e., they work in the police departments and handle investigations involving children.

5) 6. There were two cases that were handled amicably, in which the agency responsible for the investigation received a letter of appreciation. Otherwise, no information was included or documented in this regard.

5) 7. Assistance was provided in only two cases. There were 457 cases of removal [of children] from hazardous work during 2012.

5) 8. None.

6) 1. The government certainly has policies and plans that specifically address child labor and its worst forms through various activities undertaken by the Unit for Combating Child Labor. Such activities include capacity building for child labor workers, the enactment and amendment of legislations that protect children in the labor market, and intensive efforts to raise awareness of the seriousness of the problem. Field studies are also conducted in cooperation with international donor organizations. The outputs of these studies facilitate the formulation of plans and programs to limit the phenomenon and to eliminate its worst forms. In addition, the National Labor Plan for 2013-2015, which was adopted by the government, is based on the results of the survey conducted in 2010.

6) 2. Attached.

6) 3. Report of 2013 attached.

6) 4. Yes.

7) 1. The following table responds to this question:

Table Showing the Number of Beneficiaries of the Unit's Activities during 2013

	Type of activity	Beneficiary group	Location of activity	Number
1	World Day Against Child Labor, June 12	Children working in fishing	Governorate of Aden, al-Burayqah	90 children
		Children working in the smuggling of goods	Governorate of Hajjah, Harad	120 children
2	Day Without Work	Children working in agriculture	Governorate of Taiz, Mawiyah	50 children
		Children working on the streets	Sanaa Capital Secretariat	70 children
3	Awareness-raising workshops	Workers in the field of children	Sanaa Capital Secretariat	40 participants
		Students of the schools in Sanaa Capital Secretariat		65 students
4	Resolution of legal cases	Governorate of Sanaa	Bani al-Harith District	2 children
Total number of beneficiaries				437