Cabo Verde

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

In 2017, Cabo Verde made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government drafted a national action plan to combat human trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation and published information related to its labor law enforcement efforts. The Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents also expanded coverage by establishing an office on Boa Vista Island. However, children in Cabo Verde engage in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. In addition, social programs to assist children involved in agriculture and domestic work are not sufficient to address the scope of the problem.

I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

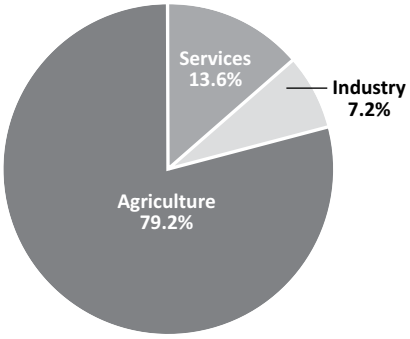
Children in Cabo Verde engage in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. (1; 2) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Cabo Verde.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	10 to 14	3.2 (2,392)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	90.1
Combining Work and School (%)	10 to 14	1.7
Primary Completion Rate (%)		85.3

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2016, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2018. (3)
Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Inquérito as Despesas e Receitas Familiares, 2001–2002. (4)

Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 10-14



Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children's work by sector and activity.

Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Farming, including carrying heavy loads† (1; 5)
	Raising livestock (1)
	Artisanal fishing in small boats† (6; 5)
Industry	Construction, including extracting sand (7; 6)
Services	Domestic work (2)
	Street work, including vending, garbage scavenging,† car washing, and begging (2; 1)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (8; 9; 2)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking (10)

† Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182.
‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor per se under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182.

Limited research found that commercial sexual exploitation of both boys and girls, including in the tourism industry, occurs in the cities of Mindelo, Praia, and Santa Maria. (2)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Cabo Verde has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

	Convention	Ratification
	ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
	ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	UN CRC	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The government has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Cabo Verde's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor, including acceptable light work for children.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	No	15	Article 261 of the Labor Code (11)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 264 of the Labor Code; Article 133 of the Civil Code (11; 12)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		National List of Dangerous Work for Children (13)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 14 of Chapter 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 149, 271, and 271-A of the Penal Code (11; 14)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 149 and 271-A of the Penal Code (14)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 144–145, 148–150, and 271-A of the Penal Code (14)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 8 of the Drug Trafficking Law (15)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes	18	Article 2 of the Military Service Law (16)
State Voluntary	Yes	17	Article 31 of the Military Service Law (16)
Non-state	Yes	18	Article 268-C of the Penal Code (14)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15‡	Articles 13 and 20 of the Education Law (17)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 14 of the Education Law (17)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (17)

The Civil Code includes a list of light work activities that children age 14 are allowed to perform however, the law does not prescribe the number of hours per week permissible for light work, or specify the conditions under which light work may be performed. (12; 18)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Inspector General for Labor (IGT) that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Inspector General for Labor (IGT)	Monitor and enforce child labor laws, working closely with the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA). (19; 20)
Judicial Police and National Police	Judicial Police conduct criminal investigations; National Police make arrests related to the worst forms of child labor, including human trafficking. (20; 21)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2017, labor law enforcement agencies in Cabo Verde took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the IGT that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including financial resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown	$26,100 (22)
Number of Labor Inspectors	14 (23)	14 (1)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (24)	Yes (22)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	N/A
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Yes (22)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	Unknown	1,470 (22)
Number Conducted at Worksites	Unknown	771 (22)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown	3 (22)
Number of Child Labor Violations for which Penalties were Imposed	Unknown	0 (22)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that were Collected	Unknown	N/A
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (23)	Yes (22)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (23)	Yes (22)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (23)	Yes (1)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (23)	Yes (22)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (23)	Yes (1)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (23)	Yes (1)

IGT does not have national coverage because there is only representation on Sal, Santiago, and São Vicente islands. (23; 5) According to the government, enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging due to the lack of resources for inspections. (22) When IGT inspectors find a case of child labor, they inform the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA) of the case for referral to social services providers. (25)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2017, criminal law enforcement agencies in Cabo Verde took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including a lack of published information.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	N/A
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Yes (22)
Number of Investigations	1 (9)	Unknown

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (cont)

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Convictions	Unknown	Unknown
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (23)	Yes (22)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8).

Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role and Description
National Committee for Child Labor Prevention and Eradication in Cabo Verde (CNPETI)	Coordinate the execution of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor. Supervised by ICCA. (21; 26)
ICCA	Coordinate and monitor the implementation of all national programs and activities to prevent and combat child labor. (1) In 2017, established an office on Boa Vista island and investigated for referral to social services providers 16 cases of children who were engaged in domestic and agricultural work and street vending. (1)
Children and Adolescent Committee to Prevent and Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	Contribute to the prevention and elimination of child sexual exploitation by coordinating the activities of member organizations and public and private services. (21) Led by ICCA. (27)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies that are consistent with relevant international standards on child labor (Table 9).

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor	Prioritizes the eradication of child labor. Outlines specific objectives, including data collection, institutional capacity building, and enhancement of measures to prevent, protect, and remove children from involvement in child labor. (26)
National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (2017–2019)	Aims to prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children. (28)
Code of Ethics Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children	Guides and governs agencies involved in the tourism sector to combat the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. (29)

In 2017, the government drafted a national action plan to combat human trafficking. (30)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2017, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating and preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the adequacy of efforts to address the problem in all sectors.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Child Labor Awareness Campaigns†	Government program implemented by ICCA and the National Committee for Child Labor Prevention and Eradication that conducts national awareness campaigns on the worst forms of child labor. (31) In 2017, ICCA worked with the local government on a project to remove children from street vending on Santiago island. (32)

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor (cont)

Program	Description
Help for At-Risk Children†	ICCA-implemented program that provides education, health services, and professional training to vulnerable children and their families. Eight day centers for street children vulnerable to sexual and labor exploitation operate on Boa Vista, Fogo, Sal, Santiago, Santo Antão, and São Vicente islands. (31)
Child Emergency Centers and Social Protection and Reintegration Centers†	ICCA-implemented program that operates emergency centers for child victims of abuse and sexual exploitation on Santiago, Santo Antão, and São Vicente islands. (21; 26; 31) The government also operates five social protection and reintegration centers that provide support and educational integration services to children who have experienced long-term trauma. (25; 21; 2)
Government Efforts to Increase Access to Education†	Donor-funded programs implemented by the government that ensure access to education for disadvantaged children by paying for school fees, materials, and meals. (24)

† Program is funded by the Government of Cabo Verde.

Research found that programs to assist children involved in agriculture and domestic work are not sufficient to address the scope of the problem.

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor in Cabo Verde (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Prescribe the number of hours per week and conditions under which light work may be undertaken.	2015 – 2017
Enforcement	Make law enforcement data publicly available, including information on the number of criminal investigations, violations found, prosecutions initiated, and convictions achieved.	2011 – 2017
	Ensure that IGT receives sufficient resources to enforce child labor laws on all islands.	2014 – 2017
Social Programs	Institute programs to address child labor in agriculture and domestic work.	2010 – 2017

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