

In 2022, Chad made minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund and the European Union to modernize the civil registry with the aim of increasing access to birth registration. In February 2022, the government also ratified the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. However, children in Chad are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor in domestic work and cattle herding. The government did not provide sufficient data on law enforcement efforts and does not have policies or programs to address all worst forms of child labor in the country, including in commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Chad. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	45.8 (Unavailable)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	39.1
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	27.0
Primary Completion Rate (%)		44.5

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2021, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2023. (1)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 6), 2019. (2)

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, activities unknown (3)
	Production of charcoal (4)
	Herding livestock, including camels and cattle (3-7)
	Fishing, including catching, smoking, and selling fish (4,8,9)
Industry	Brickmaking (10)
	Carpentry (4)
	Gold mining† (4,9,11)
Services	Domestic work (4,5)
	Working in restaurants as barmaids and servers (3,4,7,12,13)
	Street work, including vending, garbage scavenging, and carrying heavy loads† (3,4,7,10)
	Begging† (4,5,9)
	Working as tailors and seamstresses (10)
	Working in auto repair shops (3,4,7)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (4,8,9,14)
	Forced labor in agriculture, and herding cattle and camels (4,8,9)
	Forced labor in begging, domestic work, fishing, gold mining, charcoal production, and street vending (4,5,7-9,11,14,15)
	Recruitment of children by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict (4,16)

† 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.

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In the Lake Chad region, human trafficking networks exploit children in fisheries, and traffickers in rural areas sell children in markets for use in cattle or camel herding. (3,4,11,14) Human traffickers exploit children in forced labor as beggars in urban areas, agricultural laborers on farms, gold miners in the north of the country, laborers in charcoal production, and as domestic workers. (4,8,14) Child herders, some of whom are victims of forced labor, follow traditional routes for grazing cattle and may cross ill-defined borders across the Sahel. (8,14) Domestically, boys sent to Koranic schools, or *mouhadjirin*, may be forced to beg and surrender the money they receive to their teachers. (4,8,14,15) Girls travelling to larger towns in search of work may be subjected to commercial sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. (8) Children in Chad's refugee and IDP communities are also vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking due to their economic instability and lack of access to support systems. (8,14) During the reporting period, children in Chad were recruited by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict. (4,16) Furthermore, children were abducted and used for forced labor by terrorist groups Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province. (8)

Both the Constitution and the Law Orienting the Education System mandate free and compulsory education for all Chadian children who are citizens. (17,18) Chad was the first country in the region to integrate its network of refugee schools into the national education system; these schools are fully accredited and receive state funding. (19) Notwithstanding this positive development, Chad only guarantees education for children who are citizens or refugees, rather than for all under law. (17,18,20) While basic education is free by law, some schools require additional payment for textbooks and for supplemental fees. (3,4,21) Other barriers to education include shortages of schools, classrooms, and teachers. In addition, some schools do not offer all grade levels. (4) Girls also experience higher dropout rates than boys, and children with disabilities face barriers to school attendance. (22,23) In addition, poor access to birth registration documents hinders access to education in rural Chad. (4) During the reporting period, the government cooperated with UNICEF and the European Union to work toward modernizing the civil registry, including with the use of mobile phones, to help reduce the number of children lacking birth certificates. (4,24) In addition, a National Biometric Population Registry was established by ordinance in 2020 to centralize birth, death, identity, and other civil status records of residents and persons in transit through the Republic of Chad. However, research was unable to determine if the registry had been implemented in the reporting period. (4,25)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Chad 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	✓

In February 2022, the government ratified the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. (8,9)

The government has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Chad's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the lack of prohibition against the use of children in illicit activities.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	14	Article 52 of the Labor Code; Article 1 of the Decree Relating to Child Labor (26,27)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Articles 6 and 7 of the Decree Relating to Child Labor (26)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 6 and 10 of the Decree Relating to Child Labor; Articles 5, 19, and 22 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons (26,28)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 20 of the Constitution; Chapter 1, Article 5 of the Labor Code; Articles 5 and 15 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons; Articles 292 (e), 292 (c), 327, 328, 330, and 331 of the Penal Code (18,27-29)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 3, 5, 6.2, and 7.1 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons; Articles 10, 330, and 331 of the Penal Code (28,29)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 335, 336(a), 362, 364, 443, and 446 of the Penal Code; Articles 81–85 of the Law on Cyber Security and Fight Against Cyber Criminality; Articles 5, 16, and 22 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons (28-30)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 32 of the Law on the Organization of the Armed Forces; Article 1 of the Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Children in Armed Conflict; Article 52 of Military Statute N° 006/PR/06; Article 5 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons; Articles 10, 286 (cc), 288 (g), and 370 of the Penal Code (28,29,31-33)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Article 32 of the Law on the Organization of the Armed Forces; Article 22 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; Articles 5, 18, and 22 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons; Articles 10, 286 (cc), 288 (g), and 370 of the Penal Code (28,29,31,34)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 1 of the Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Children in Armed Conflict; Articles 5, 18, and 22 of the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons; Articles 10, 286 (cc), 288 (g), and 370 of the Penal Code (28,29,32)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16‡	Articles 21, 23, 25, and 28 of the Law Orienting the Education System; Article 35 of the Constitution (17,18)
Free Public Education	No		Article 9 of the Law Orienting the Education System; Article 35 of the Constitution (17,18)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (17)

Chad lacks a specific legal prohibition on children being used, offered, or procured for illicit activities. (4) Furthermore, as the minimum age for work is lower than the compulsory education age, children may be encouraged to leave school before completion of compulsory education. (15-18,26,27) Lastly, while Chad's laws provide for free basic education for citizens and refugees, they do not meet the international standard because they do not cover foreign-born children without refugee status. (18,20)

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 enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role & Activities
Ministry of Public Service, Employment, and Social Dialogue (MOPS)	Oversees Chad's labor inspectorate and enforces child labor laws. (12) Administers a directorate charged with addressing the worst forms of child labor, and maintains a specific point of contact to assist in coordinating child protection and human trafficking issues. (12)
Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Guardian of the Seal (MOJ)	Drafts and enforces laws and coordinates efforts to protect human rights. Through its Directorate for Protection and Legal Monitoring of Children, enforces laws related to child labor and child trafficking. (12,14)

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Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement (Cont.)

Organization/Agency	Role & Activities
National Police's Child Protection Brigade (CPB)	Enforces and investigates allegations of child exploitation, including human trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. (3,11,14) Evacuates children to its headquarters in N'Djamena, from where they may be moved to Ministry of Women and Childhood Protection (MWCP) temporary shelters in Koundoul. (12) Includes 100 "focal points" spread throughout all 23 provinces. These focal points are not trained investigators, but they are responsible for coordinating investigations with hub offices and referring allegations to investigators. (3,4,14) CPB is active in Chad's largest cities (N'Djamena, Moundou, Sarh, Mongo, Mao, and Abéché). (14) CPB or other local authorities notify MOJ's Directorate for Protection and Legal Monitoring of Children, UNICEF, and local NGOs when there is a case of child trafficking or abuse. (14) Allegations may be submitted directly by the public or by MWCP, MOPS, or MOJ. The government's regional child protection technical committees also identify and refer child trafficking survivors to CPB. (3) During the reporting period, began operating out of a UNICEF-funded headquarters in N'Djamena, which hosts the coordinating service between CPB, MWCP, MOPS, and MOJ. (4)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2022, labor law enforcement agencies in Chad took actions to address child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including a lack of sufficient resources, funding, and administrative capacity.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2021	2022
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Labor Inspectors	36 (3)	36 (4)
Mechanism to Assess Civil Penalties	Yes (27)	Yes (27)
Training for Labor Inspectors Provided	Yes (3)	No (4,7)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted at Worksite	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (27)	Yes (27)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (3)	Yes (4)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (3)	Yes (4)

The government did not provide information on its labor law enforcement efforts for inclusion in this report, including labor inspectorate funding, inspector training on child labor, the number and type of inspections conducted, whether violations were found, penalties imposed, and fees collected. (4) Research indicates that Chad does not have an adequate number of labor inspectors to carry out their mandated duties. (4,35,36) In addition, the government does not maintain a central database for routine inspections, including child labor violations. (4) Furthermore, while a complaint mechanism exists for the public to report suspected child labor violations to be addressed by the Child Protection Brigade, this mechanism is not well known or frequently used. (4)

Labor inspectors lacked sufficient resources, including equipment, transportation, and fuel, to conduct investigations outside the city in which they are based. The ability to conduct inspections is also constrained by limitations in both administrative capacity and funding. (4) Research indicates that the informal sector, which employs the most children in Chad, is also largely unmonitored. (3,5,7)

Criminal Law Enforcement

Research did not find information on whether criminal law enforcement agencies in Chad took actions to address child labor.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2021	2022
Training for Criminal Investigators Provided	No (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Investigations	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Number of Convictions	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown (3)	Unknown (4)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Unknown (3)	Yes (4)

The government does not maintain a centralized criminal records database. All criminal records are handwritten, and hard copies are stored at courts and regional tribunals. (4) As a result, the government did not provide information on its criminal law enforcement efforts for inclusion in this report, including whether training was provided for criminal investigators and the number of criminal investigations conducted, violations found, prosecutions initiated, convictions made, and penalties imposed. (4) In addition, many judicial officials remain unaware of Chad's laws on trafficking in persons, including the 2018 President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons. (9,14) However, the IOM trained 48 judicial authorities and members of security forces in Tibesti and 51 persons in Batha on the identification, referral, and protection components of the national anti-human trafficking law during the reporting period. (4,37)

In collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Childhood Protection, civil society organizations typically assist with providing temporary shelter, legal assistance, and family reintegration services to trafficking survivors. (9,11) Resource constraints, including lack of electricity and internet at judicial facilities and erratic and insufficient funding allocations, pose barriers to criminal investigation and prosecution. (3,4,9,11) Corruption is also a concern. Reporting indicates that high-ranking military officials, who profit from human trafficking, may impede the implementation of anti-trafficking measures and that security forces sometimes interfere in attempts to prosecute suspected traffickers through intimidation. (9)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established a key mechanism to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including efficacy in accomplishing mandates.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Activities
Working Group on the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Coordinates government efforts to address the worst forms of child labor, provides training to enforcement personnel, and conducts awareness-raising activities. Chaired by MWCP Child Protection Directorate and includes representatives from four other ministries, including MOPS. (3) Research was unable to determine whether the working group was active during the reporting period, and whether it received funding to carry out its mandate. (4)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies related to child labor (Table 9). However, policy gaps exist that hinder efforts to address child labor, including a lack of implementation of existing policies.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description & Activities
National Road Map to Implement the President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons	Adopted in 2019, with the ultimate goal of implementing a National Action Plan. Coordinates interagency enforcement of the 2018 President's Ordinance on Trafficking in Persons. (4) Includes provisions for training members of the courts, local authorities, traditional and religious leaders, members of civil society, and members of enforcement agencies. (4) Components of this policy relating to child labor were inactive during the reporting period. (7)

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (4,7)

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Although Chad has a policy to address human trafficking, research could not find whether it had a policy to address all worst forms of child labor in the country. (9)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2022, the government funded and participated in programs that may contribute to eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the inadequacy of programs to address the full scope of the problem.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description & Activities
Refugees and Host Communities Support (2018–2025)	\$60 million World Bank-funded project to improve access to health and education services for refugees and host communities by rehabilitating and constructing primary schools. (3,38,39) During the reporting period, cash transfers reached an additional 45,000 participants (80 percent of whom were women), and there were an additional 5,250 students (50 percent of whom were female) attending new or rehabilitated schools. (38,40)
UNICEF Programs	Multifaceted humanitarian action targeting children, including refugees and internally displaced children in Chad. Includes interventions in education, healthcare, nutrition, and other areas of basic need. (41) Through its \$21 million Education Cannot Wait (2020–2023) program, supports education for 446,744 at-risk children. (4,42) The program was developed under the Ministry of National Education's Transitional Education Plan, Program to Strengthen Literacy, Humanitarian Response Plan, and Education Cluster Strategy. (43,44) Interventions include early childhood education, in addition to non-formal education and literacy programs for out-of-school adolescent children (ages 9 to 14). (43,44)
WFP Strategic Plan (2019–2023)	Aims to provide food security and educational outcomes in Chad among crisis-affected and vulnerable populations. (4,45,46) Seeks to promote resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems. Prioritizes strengthening national institutions to manage food security and coordinating cooperation with humanitarian and development partners in Chad. (45) Through joint initiatives Breaking Barriers to Girls' Education and Education Cannot Wait, provides meals to school children. (46,47) During the reporting period, provided unconditional food assistance and cash transfers to 2.1 million crisis-affected people, supported 232,200 children and school staff in school-based programs, and reached 138,600 people through asset creation and livelihood programs. (48)

For information about USDOL's projects to address child labor around the world, visit <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/ilab-project-page-search>

Although Chad has programs that target child labor, they do not address all relevant forms of child labor, particularly regarding the use of child labor in herding cattle, forced child labor in domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation. (3,4,14,49)

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 Chad (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that laws specifically prohibit children from being used, offered, or procured for illicit activities.	2011 – 2022
	Raise the minimum age for work from 14 to 16 to align with the compulsory education age.	2018 – 2022
	Ensure that laws providing free basic education include all children in Chad, including non-citizens.	2022
Enforcement	Ensure that the role of the Child Protection Brigade's child trafficking and child labor complaint mechanism is well-known and understood by the public.	2016 – 2022
	Ensure that the labor inspectorate provides inspectors with sufficient resources—including training, transportation, and budget allocations—to conduct inspections in both the formal and informal sectors.	2014 – 2022
	Collect, store, and publish data on law enforcement efforts in a central database, including information about labor inspectorate funding, the number and type of inspections conducted, whether violations were found, penalties imposed, and fees collected, and whether criminal investigators received training, the number of criminal investigations conducted, violations found, prosecutions initiated, convictions obtained, and penalties imposed.	2014 – 2022
	Increase the number of labor inspectors from 36 to 139 to ensure adequate coverage of the labor force.	2012 – 2022

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor (Cont.)

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Ensure that criminal law enforcement agencies are sufficiently funded, have sufficient access to electricity and internet at judicial facilities, that law enforcement officers are trained, and that existing penalties are enforced according to the law.	2015 – 2022
	Ensure that the judicial system receives sufficient resources, including training and funding for infrastructure, to effectively prosecute cases and manage data on the worst forms of child labor.	2021 – 2022
	Ensure that judges continue to prosecute child labor offenses to the full extent of the law and that officials who interfere with legal mechanisms and processes are penalized.	2022
Coordination	Ensure that the Working Group on the Worst Forms of Child Labor is active and receives adequate resources to carry out its mandate.	2014 – 2022
Government Policies	Adopt a policy to address all relevant worst forms of child labor in Chad, including human trafficking.	2009 – 2022
	Ensure that activities are undertaken to implement key policies related to child labor during the reporting period and that data on these activities are published.	2020 – 2022
Social Programs	Ensure access to education for all children by eliminating school-related fees; increasing the number of schools, grade levels, classrooms, and teachers available throughout the country; implementing programs to increase enrollment of girls; and providing accommodations for students with disabilities.	2014 – 2022
	Ensure that all children are issued birth certificates, which may be required for school enrollment.	2014 – 2022
	Ensure that the National Biometric Population Registry receives adequate funding and is implemented as intended.	2016 – 2022
	Establish or expand programs to provide services to children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, such as forced child labor in herding cattle, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation.	2009 – 2022
	Conduct research to determine the activities carried out by children working in agriculture to inform policies and programs.	2022

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