

Although research found no evidence that child labor exists in Niue, in 2022, the government made minimal advancement in efforts to prevent the worst forms of child labor. The government partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund to launch the Pacific Islands Inclusive Educational Review to ensure that all children, including those with disabilities, have access to quality education. However, the government has not established adequate legal protections to prevent the worst forms of child labor. The law does not criminally prohibit the use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution; the production of pornography, or pornographic performances, or the use of children for illicit activities, including for the production and trafficking of drugs. In addition, Niue has not established a minimum age for work and lacks a law that prohibits hazardous occupations and activities for children.

## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Table 1 provides one key indicator on children's education in Niue.

**Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Primary Completion Rate (%)		130.8







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

In 2022, the Government of Niue, in partnership with UNICEF, conducted a survey on the state of inclusive education. (2) The Pacific Region Inclusive Education Review, chaired by Niue's Minister for Social Services, found that handwashing and sanitation facilities are available at all schools, but menstrual hygiene management facilities are only accessible at about half of schools. (3)

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Niue is self-governing in free association with New Zealand. (4,5) Since 1988, no treaty signed, ratified, accepted, approved, or acceded to by New Zealand extends to Niue, unless it was done expressly on behalf of Niue. (4) Niue has ratified one key international convention concerning child labor (Table 2).

**Table 2. 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 3). However, gaps exist in Niue's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including a failure to criminalize using children in illicit activities.

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**Table 3. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor**

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	No		Article 24 of the Niue Public Service Regulations (6)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	No		
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	No		
Prohibition of Forced Labor	No		
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	No		Articles 3 and 37 of the Terrorism Suppression and Transnational Crimes Act (7)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	No		
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	17	Article 33 of the Government of New Zealand's Defense Act (8)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	N/A*†		
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Articles 2 and 24 of the Education Act (9)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 19 of the Education Act (9)

\* Country has no conscription (10)

† Country has no standing military (8)

New Zealand is responsible for the defense of the territory at Niue's request; therefore, Niue has no standing military or conscription. (8, 11) However, although there are no armed forces in Niue, the law does not criminally prohibit non-state armed groups from recruiting children under age 18. (12) Additionally, while Niue's Public Service Regulations prohibit the permanent employment in public service of any person under age 18, a minimum age for work in the private sector has not been established. (6, 12) Niue has not determined the minimum age for hazardous work nor the types of work that are hazardous for children. (4) The government also does not prohibit slavery or slavery-like practices such as forced labor. Niue's human trafficking provision does not clearly criminalize domestic trafficking or the trafficking of children in the absence of force, fraud, or coercion. (7) In addition, the government does not criminalize the use, procuring, or offering of children for prostitution, pornography, or pornographic performances. Niue has also not criminalized the use of children in illicit activities, including in the production and trafficking of drugs. (12)

### III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for enforcement actions to address child labor, including its worst forms. However, the Government of Niue has established relevant institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 4).

**Table 4. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role & Activities
Niue Police Department	Enforces all laws, including those related to child labor, on behalf of the Government of Niue. Niue's Department for Community Affairs handles case intake and referral of children's matters to the Niue Police Department, including allegations of child labor. (4)
Department of Justice	Investigates crimes, including cases involving the worst forms of child labor. (12)

### IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for a mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor. However, the Government of Niue has established a key mechanism to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 5).

**Table 5. Key Mechanism to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor**

Coordinating Body	Role & Activities
National Coordinating Committee	Coordinates the implementation of the UN CRC, monitoring and implementing child protection policies at the national level. (4) Research was unable to determine whether the National Coordinating Committee was active during the reporting period.

## V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for policies to address child labor. However, the Government of Niue has established a policy related to child labor (Table 6).

**Table 6. Key Policies Related to Child Labor**

Policy	Description & Activities
United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018–2022)	The United Nations Pacific Strategy was a multi-national strategic framework program comprising 14 South Pacific nations. The strategy aimed to address, develop, and implement strategic economic development priorities in the South Pacific, including eliminating child labor and the worst forms of child labor. (13) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the strategy during the reporting period.

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for programs to address child labor.

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

## VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the continued prevention of child labor in Niue (Table 7).

**Table 7. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ratify ILO Convention 182, the convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.	2019 – 2022
	Ratify the UN CRC Protocol on Armed Conflict.	2022
	Ratify the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children.	2021 – 2022
	Ratify the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.	2021 – 2022
	Establish a minimum age for work of at least age 16 that equals the compulsory education age.	2013 – 2022
	Establish age 18 as the minimum age for hazardous work and identify hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children.	2013 – 2022
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit forced labor, including debt bondage and slavery.	2016 – 2022
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit the use, procuring, and offering of a child for prostitution, the production of pornography, and pornographic performances.	2016 – 2022
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit the trafficking of children domestically and internationally for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, and do not require that the use of force, fraud, or coercion be established for the crime of human trafficking.	2016 – 2022
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit the use of children in illicit activities, including in the production and trafficking of drugs.	2013 – 2022
Coordination	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the forced or compulsory recruitment of children under age 18 into non-state armed groups.	2016 – 2022
	Ensure the National Coordinating Committee is active and has the resources necessary to implement child protection policies at the national level and implement the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.	2020 – 2022

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**Table 7. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor (Cont.)**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Government Policies	Ensure that activities are undertaken to implement the United Nations Pacific Strategy and that data on these activities are published during the reporting period.	2020 – 2022
Social Programs	Ensure that all schools have menstrual hygiene management facilities that are safe and accessible to all female students.	2022

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