

In 2018, Cabo Verde made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government approved and published its first National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and revised the Education Law to extend free tuition up to the eighth grade. In July, the national government established the Observatory for Monitoring and Rapid Identification of Situations of Trafficking in Persons, a major coordinating body created to respond to all human trafficking situations around the archipelago, which convened twice during the year. However, children in Cabo Verde engage in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. Law enforcement officials lack the necessary resources to follow up on investigations, and communication between enforcement agencies is limited. 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.

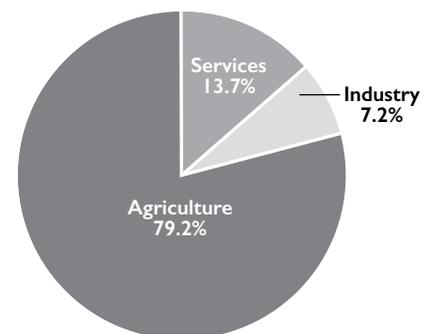
Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

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 (%)		80.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2017, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (3)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization’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† (2,5,6)
	Raising livestock (2)
	Artisanal fishing in small boats† (2)
Industry	Construction, including extracting sand (7,8)
Services	Domestic work (1,2,5,6)
	Street work, including vending, garbage scavenging,† car washing, and begging (1,2,5,6)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1,6,9,10)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking (2)

† 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.

Cabo Verde

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

Limited research found that commercial sexual exploitation of both boys and girls, including in the tourism industry, occurs on the islands of Brava, Santiago, Fogo, Sal, and Boa Vista. (1)

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's laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	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 (11,13)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		National List of Dangerous Work for Children (14)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 14 of Chapter 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 149, 271, and 271-A of the Penal Code (11,15)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 149 and 271-A of the Penal Code (15)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 144–145, 148–150, and 271-A of the Penal Code (15)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 8 of the Drug Trafficking Law (16)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	17	Article 31 of the Military Service Law (17)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Article 2 of the Military Service Law (17)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 268-C of the Penal Code (15)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15‡	Articles 13 and 20 of the Education Law (18)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 14 of the Education Law (18)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (18)

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. (13,19)

During the reporting period, the government extended free tuition from sixth grade up to eighth grade by revising the Education Law. (2,20)

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 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	Monitors and enforces child labor laws, working closely with the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA). (21,22)
Judicial Police and National Police	Judicial Police conducts criminal investigations; National Police makes arrests related to the worst forms of child labor, including human trafficking. (22,23)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, 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 and human resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$26,100 (24)	\$26,000 (2)
Number of Labor Inspectors	14 (25)	14 (2)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (24)	Yes (2)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	N/A	N/A
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (24)	Yes (2)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	1,470 (24)	1,131 (2)
Number Conducted at Worksite	771 (24)	1,131 (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	3 (24)	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	0 (24)	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	N/A	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (24)	Yes (2)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (24)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (25)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (24)	Yes (2)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (25)	Yes (2)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (25)	Yes (2)

Although the total number of child labor violations is unknown for the reporting period, the Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA) reported 10 cases of child labor violations in 2018. (2,26)

The IGT conducted labor inspections in the formal sector throughout the country and received several trainings during the year, including on child labor; however, reports indicate that inspectors lack the necessary resources to perform inspections in sectors in which child labor is known to occur, including the informal sector. (2)

When IGT inspectors find a case of child labor, they inform the ICCA for referral to social services providers. (27)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, 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 allocating human resources.

Cabo Verde

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	N/A	Yes (2)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	Yes (2)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (24)	Yes (2)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Convictions	Unknown	Unknown
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	0 (24)	Unknown
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (24)	Yes (2)

During 2018, UNODC led two training workshops on human trafficking for various law enforcement and government personnel, including representatives of civil society organizations from all over the country. The trainings prioritized the investigation and prosecution of cases, and the protection and assistance of victims. An annual work plan was developed to incorporate objectives of the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. (28) Law enforcement officials attended and participated in several other human trafficking trainings, including a training at the West Africa Regional Training Center in Ghana. (29)

Although the government did not provide specific data on child trafficking, reports indicate that the Judicial Police investigated a labor trafficking case involving two Chinese minors, ages 16 and 17, on the island of Sal. Three suspects were detained, a Cabo Verdean female and two Asian males, in connection to the case; as of the end of the reporting period, the case was still pending in Cabo Verdean courts. (2,30) In February 2018, convictions were secured for the first cybercrime case prosecuted in the country known as the *quadrilha*, which involved four defendants, two men and two women, who targeted and coerced 13 victims online and forced them into prostitution, including a 13-year-old girl. (31,32) The sentences given to the two male defendants were the highest given in Cabo Verdean courts; however, in April 2019, the sentences were reduced. (32,33)

Reports indicate that the Judicial Police and the National Police lack the necessary financial and human resources to follow up on investigations, including cases of child labor. The Judicial Police is present on only three of the islands, hindering its ability to address all child labor investigations. (2,34) Furthermore, the government did not maintain comprehensive anti-trafficking law enforcement and victim protection data among its criminal enforcement agencies, and awareness-raising efforts on human trafficking, including child sex tourism, remained insufficient on some islands. (35) Although law enforcement agencies work well together, information sharing and confirmation of case status is extremely limited. (2)

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 & Description
National Committee for Child Labor Prevention and Eradication in Cabo Verde	Coordinates the execution of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and provides a functional mechanism for reciprocal referrals between law enforcement and social services. Led by ICCA. (23,36) It is unknown whether this committee was active in 2018. (2)
ICCA	Coordinates and monitors the implementation of all national programs and activities to prevent and combat child labor. (25) In 2018, worked with UNICEF on a draft law addressing the sexual exploitation of children and on a child protection policy that will be aligned with the UN CRC objectives. (29) In addition, established a hotline for sexual abuse and exploitation cases of children during the reporting period. (29) The hotline received 1,182 reports, including 24 child labor-related cases. (37)

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Children and Adolescent Committee to Prevent and Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	Contributes to the prevention and elimination of child sexual exploitation by coordinating the activities of member organizations and public and private services. (23) Supervises, monitors, and evaluates the National Plan to Combat Violence Against Children and Adolescents. (2) Led by ICCA. (38) Research was unable to determine whether any activities were undertaken by this committee in 2018.
Observatory for Monitoring and Rapid Identification of Situations of Trafficking in Persons	Coordinates and monitors all efforts to combat human trafficking. Comprises law enforcement, NGOs, civil society and various government agencies. (2,39) Led by the Ministry of Justice and Labor. Met twice in 2018. (29)

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. (36) During the reporting period, ICCA implemented the Plan. (40)
National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (2017–2019)	Aims to prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children. The plan incorporates five principle themes: participation of children and adolescents; prevention of situations of vulnerability; mobilizing material and social resources; treatment for both victims and perpetrators; and accountability. (2,41) In February 2018, the first evaluation of the situation in the country was conducted. Results indicated a need for a more comprehensive approach to the treatment of child victims and their families. (42)
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. (43) Remained in force during the reporting period. (29)
National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018–2021)†	Prioritizes five strategic areas: prevention, awareness, protection, investigation, and coordination. (44) Establishes the Trafficking in Persons Observatory, a coordination mechanism dedicated to monitoring responses to all human trafficking situations around the country. (2,39)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2018, 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. (45) In 2018, ICCA continued to work with the government on a project to remove children from street vending on Santiago Island and combat child labor in the rural parts of the island. ICCA also began a second project to combat school dropout rates by raising awareness of the importance of education by addressing parents, children, and educators. (5,46)
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. (45) Active in 2018. (2)
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. (23,36,45) 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. (1,23,27) Active in 2018. (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. (47) Active in 2018. (31)

† Program is funded by the Government of Cabo Verde.

Cabo Verde

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

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 I I).

Table I I. 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 – 2018
Enforcement	Ensure that the Inspector General for Labor receives sufficient resources to enforce child labor laws on all islands, including in the informal sector.	2014 – 2018
	Ensure the National Police and Judicial Police have sufficient financial and human resources to follow up on child labor cases, and that all inhabited islands benefit from the presence of the Judicial Police.	2018
	Ensure information sharing between law enforcement agencies for better coordination of active child labor cases.	2018
	Develop a system to compile and share comprehensive anti-trafficking law enforcement and victim identification data among agencies.	2018
	Conduct awareness raising activities on human trafficking, including child sex tourism, on all islands.	2018
	Make law enforcement data publicly available, including information on the number of child labor violations found, penalties imposed and collected, criminal investigations conducted, convictions secured, and whether penalties were imposed for violations related to the worst forms of child labor.	2011 – 2018
Coordination	Ensure the National Committee for Child Labor Prevention and Eradication in Cabo Verde is active and able to carry out its intended mandate.	2018
	Ensure the Children and Adolescent Committee to Prevent and Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation is active and able to carry out its intended mandate.	2018
Social Programs	Institute programs to address child labor in agriculture and domestic work.	2010 – 2018

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