Russia

In 2011, the Federation of Russia made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. During the reporting period, the Offices of Children's Rights offices, which advocate for the protection of children, were established in all regions. However, the law in Russia still lacks law provisions that define child pornography and criminalize its possession. Despite the expansion of the Offices of Children's Rights Ombudsman, Russia lacks a mechanism to coordinate nationwide efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor. Children in Russia continue to engage in the worst forms of child labor, including street work and commercial sexual exploitation, and many of these children are victims of human trafficking.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Primary Completion Rate		97.9

Sources:
Primary completion rate: *Data from 2009, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)*
All other data: *Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis.(2)*

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Russia are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, many of them working in the street and being subjected to commercial sexual exploitation. Street children, including those who are homeless and orphaned, are vulnerable to involvement in illegal activities such as prostitution, pornography, and selling drugs or stolen goods.(3-5)

There is limited evidence that children, including street children, perform potentially dangerous activities such as servicing automobiles, physical hard labor, and collecting trash (which may contain toxic or injurious materials.(6) There is also limited evidence of children working in the construction and textile industries.(5) A significant portion of child labor in Russia reportedly comprises migrant children, who are particularly vulnerable due to language and cultural barriers that may make it difficult to seek or receive social assistance.(6)

Commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially in large cities, remains a concern.(6, 7) Moscow and St. Petersburg are hubs of child trafficking and child commercial sexual exploitation. Children, both boys and girls, are trafficked internally from rural to urban centers and between regions; they are forced into begging or prostitution.(6)

Although evidence is limited, children are found working in the agricultural sector.(5, 6) This may involve risk to their safety and health, such as using potentially dangerous machinery and tools, carrying heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides.(8)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code sets the minimum age of employment at 16, with exceptions for 15-year-olds who have completed general education and children under age 14 working in the performing arts, if such work will not harm their health or moral development.(9) Children under age 18 are prohibited from engaging in night work, dangerous work, underground work, or work that may be harmful to their health or moral development. This includes carrying heavy loads and producing, transporting, and selling toxic substances (including tobacco, alcohol, and drugs).(9)

The Constitution prohibits forced labor and the Criminal Code explicitly outlaws engaging a known minor in slave labor.(10, 11) Article 127.1 of the Criminal Code prohibits the purchase, sale, recruitment, transportation, harboring and receiving of a person for the purpose of exploitation, with higher penalties imposed when the victim is a known minor. Involving a minor in a crime is punishable under article 150 of the Criminal Code.(11) Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code prohibits using a minor to make, sell, or send illegal narcotic drugs or other psychotropic substances.(11)

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	15
	Free Public Education	Yes

Involving a minor in prostitution and creating or circulating pornography depicting a known minor are also punishable under the Criminal Code.(11) However, Russian law does not criminalize the possession of child pornography, nor does it provide a definition of the term "child pornography. Although there was a proposal for amending the Criminal Code for defining and criminalizing possession of child pornography in the first half of 2011, the authorities officially declined the original draft on February 7, 2012 by proposing a new legislation.(12) The new legislation that went into effect on February 29, 2012 includes a broader range of penalties for child exploitation and tougher penalties for crimes committed against children under age 14 and crimes that are committed against minors by their parents or other official guardians.(12) However, the law excludes the initial bill's main objectives of defining child pornography and criminalizing its possession.(6, 12) This lack of clear guidance regarding what can be prosecuted as child pornography may hamper enforcement efforts.

The minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory military recruitment in Russia is 18.(13) Education is free and compulsory for children up to age 15.(14)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Government of Russia has not established mechanisms to coordinate efforts specific to the worst forms of child labor, but has a federal office to protect children's rights in the Office of the Children's Rights Ombudsman. In 2011, all existing 83 regions in Russia had respective Offices of the Children's Rights Ombudsman, which is a significant increase from 2009 when it had only 18 Offices.(6) Regional Ombudsmen have the authority to investigate potential violations of children's rights, inspect institutions and offices dealing with minors, and conduct evaluations of legislation affecting children.(5)

The Federal Labor and Employment Service (FLES) is responsible for enforcing child labor laws. Reportedly, FLES employs approximately 1,700 labor inspectors whose responsibilities include enforcement of child labor laws.(6)

In 2010, the most recent period for which statistics are available, 5,100 child labor violations were reported by FLES.(5) FLES noted that the most child labor violations included a lack of an obligatory medical exam, absence of written labor agreements, children working in hazardous conditions and children working excessive hours.(5) Research did not reveal information on the number of child labor inspections or penalties assessed during this reporting period.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), the Federal Security Service, Investigative Committee and other law enforcement entities are responsible for enforcing criminal laws against forced child labor, trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and the use of children in illicit activities.(6) FLES and the Public Prosecutor are charged with enforcing laws related to hazardous child labor. Since June 3, 2011, all criminal charges of sexual nature against minors are handled by the Investigative Committee of the Procurator General.(6)

In 2011, the Federation Council released a report indicating a substantial increase of the number of child pornography sites on the Internet since 2000.(6) In the first 3 months of 2011, MVD registered 128 preliminary investigations into the distribution of child pornography, compared with 569 in all of 2010.(5)

In recent years, the Government of Russia stepped up efforts to monitor and combat child pornography, initiating several criminal cases against individuals suspected of producing and disseminating child pornography.(6) In 2011, it successfully convicted several of these individuals after establishing Cybercrime Departments in almost all regional police departments.(6) In addition, the Government closely cooperates with the Friendly Runet Foundation, which operates a hotline for reports of illegal content. The Foundation identified and removed 9,739 Web addresses with illegal content, enabling authorities to initiate 24 criminal cases based on article 242.1 of the Criminal Code in 2010.(6)

However, official data are unavailable on the number of investigations, prosecutions, or convictions for child trafficking or other crimes relating to the worst forms of labor.(6) The ILO Committee of Experts has noted that the Government repeatedly failed to provide information on the impact of its efforts to prevent child trafficking, as required of signatories to the ILO Convention 182.(15)

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Russia does not have a national plan or policy that specifically addresses the worst forms of child labor. In addition, the Government does not collect national statistics on child labor that would systematically inform policy and program designed to combat the worst forms of child labor.(6)

Russia has engaged in multilateral discussions on cross-border trafficking policy; in December 2010, the authorities signed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Program to Combat Human Trafficking for 2011-2013.(7) The Program commits the Government to establishing a national trafficking structure and fund NGOs to provide victim protections. To comply with this Program, the Government of Russia created an inter-agency coordinating committee including anti-trafficking NGOs that specifically address human trafficking.

During the reporting period, the Government provided regular training designed to guide officers in handling trafficking cases.(7) However, there was no formal framework to direct officials on how to proactively identify the victims or to refer them to available services.(7) In addition, the authorities do not have a legal framework for either repatriating the victims or supporting them as witnesses in prosecutions.(7)

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Russia does not have specific programs to combat the worst forms of child labor. However, the Government continued the Child Support Fund, a child welfare program it initiated in 2008. Among other goals, the Fund helps rehabilitate orphans and disadvantaged and homeless children, through social programs and activities. The Child Support Fund's budget increased from $4 million in 2010 to $7 million in 2011.(6)

The Fund implemented 109 regional programs in 2010 and, upon implementation of these programs, 486 new centers were launched, adding to the 405 existing centers to provide services to families with children in difficult life circumstances.(6, 16)

No assessment of these programs' impact on the worst forms of child labor has been identified.

In 2010, the Government of Russia provided scant finance to victim shelters and little funding for anti-trafficking efforts by NGOs and other governmental organizations. There is no available information about any government financial assistance provided to Trafficking in Person(TIP)-related programs and efforts in 2011.(6, 7)

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Russia:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Criminalize possession of child pornography.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Codify a legal definition of child pornography.	2009, 2010, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Establish a coordinating mechanism to specifically combat the worst forms of child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Gather, report and make publicly available complete and timely statistics on the investigation and prosecution of violations of the child labor and worst forms of child labor, in particular.	2009, 2010, 2011

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Policies	Assess the impact of the Child Support Fund on addressing the worst forms of child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Collect data on the nature and prevalence of child labor to guide the design of policy and programming.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Develop formal procedures at the national level to educate and guide law enforcement officials, labor inspectors and other professionals on trafficking cases, victim identification and assistance and referrals.	2011
	Implement a formal policy to prevent trafficking victims from being punished or deported for crimes that result from their being trafficked.	2011
Programs	Implement programs to combat all relevant worst forms of child labor, including programs for children, especially children working in the street and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.	2010, 2011
	Increase funding for anti-trafficking efforts by NGOs and relevant government agencies that include continuous and increased financing to shelters for victims of human trafficking.	2011

REFERENCES

1. UNESCO Institute for Statistics. *Gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary. Total.* March 29, 2012. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/default.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN. Data provided is the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary school. This measure is a proxy measure for primary completion. For more information, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.
2. UCW. *Analysis of Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Statistics from National Household or Child Labor Surveys*. February 2, 2012. Reliable statistical data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics on children's work in general are reported in this chart, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.
3. International Labour Organization. *A 'vector' of hope for street children in St. Petersburg*, International Labour Organization, [online] [cited January, 22 2012]; http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/insight/WCMS_071238/lang--en/index.htm.
4. Elena Tjurjukanova. *Human trafficking in the Russian Federation: Inventory and analysis of the current situation and responses*. Moscow; March 2006. www.undp.ru/download.php?403.
5. U.S. Department of State. "Russia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2011*. Washington, DC; May 24, 2012; http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper.
6. U.S. Embassy- Moscow. *reporting, January 20, 2012*.
7. U.S. Department of State. "Russia (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2012*. Washington, DC; June 19, 2012; http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm.
8. International Labour Office. *Children in hazardous work: What we know, What we need to do.* Geneva, International Labour Organization; 2011. International Labour Office. Children in hazardous work: What we know, What we need to do. Geneva, International Labour Organization; 2011. While country-specific information on the dangers children face in agriculture is not available, research studies and other reports have documented the dangerous nature of tasks in agriculture and their accompanying occupational exposures, injuries and potential health consequences to children working in the sector.
9. Government of Russia,. *Labor Code of the Russian Federation* 197-FZ, enacted December 31, 2001. http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/60535/65252/E01RUS01.htm.
10. Government of Russia,. *The Constitution of the Russian Federation*, enacted December 25, 1993. http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-01.htm.
11. Government of Russia,. *Criminal Code of the Russian Federation*, 63-FZ, enacted June 13, 1996. http://www.legislationline.org/download/action/download/id/1697/file/0cc1acff8241216090943e97d5b4.htm/preview.
12. U.S. Embassy-Moscow. E-mail communication to USDOL official. June15, 2012.
13. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. "Russia." *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, (2008); http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf.
14. UNESCO. *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*. 2010. para.340. http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/pdf/gmr2010/gmr2010-annex-04-stat-tables.pdf.
15. ILO Committee of Experts. *ILCCR: Examination of individual case concerning Convention No. 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 Russian Federation (ratification: 2003) Published: 2009*, ILO Committee of Experts, [online] [cited January 23, 2012]; http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=851&chapter=13&query=%28C182%29+%40ref+%2B+%28Russian+Federation%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0.
16. U.S. Embassy- Moscow. E-mail communication to USDOL official. March 1, 2012.

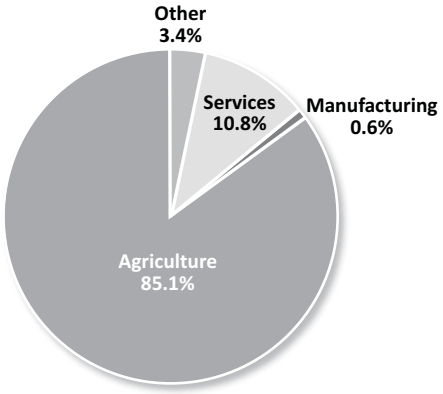
Rwanda

In 2011, Rwanda made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Rwanda increased the number of years of free education from 9 to 12, and more than tripled the number of specialized officers working on gender-based violence and child labor issues. It also launched an Integrated Child Rights Policy and Strategic Plan (ICRP) to address all children's issues, which includes a budget dedicated to child labor. Despite these efforts, Rwanda has not devoted sufficient resources to enforce its child labor laws. In addition, social programs are not sufficient to assist the numerous orphans and vulnerable children and children working on the streets. Children also continue to be engaged in the worst forms of child labor and exposed to dangerous conditions in agriculture and domestic service.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	6.1 (142,523)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	82.9
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	6.1
Primary Completion Rate		69.6

Working Children by Sector, ages 5-14



Sources:
Primary completion rate: *Data from 2010, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)*
All other data: *Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from SIMPOC Survey, 2008.(2)*

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Rwanda are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture and domestic service.(3-7) Children produce tea and are reportedly working in the production of coffee, potatoes, corn, beans, sorghum, bananas, rice and sugar.(3, 4, 8-12) Children's work in agriculture commonly involves using dangerous tools, carrying heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides.(6) Children also reportedly herd and care for cattle. In 2011, ICF International reported that approximately 20 percent of children tending to livestock in Rwanda were injured.(3, 11, 13)

In Rwanda, children work in domestic service.(3-5) Many child domestics do not attend school, work long hours and are vulnerable to sexual and other forms of abuse by their employers.(14) Children also work on construction sites and engage in heavy manual labor such as brickmaking. Limited evidence suggests that children mine coltan.(3, 15-18) Children working in quarries risk eye and lung damage from stone dust.(15) Some children reportedly produce charcoal.(18-20) Children working on the streets beg, carry goods, and may be exposed to dangers including severe weather, traffic accidents and crime.(21-24)

Prostitution and trafficking also occur in Rwanda. Older women sometimes coerce girls to provide sexual services in exchange for cash, protection and living quarters.(25) Loosely structured prostitution networks recruit children from secondary schools. Girls are known to be trafficked internally into domestic service and prostitution.(25) Children are also trafficked to Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia, South Africa, Europe and China for forced agricultural labor, commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service. In a few isolated cases, children have been trafficked into Rwanda.(25-30)

There were no reports during 2011 that children were abducted and conscripted within Rwanda for armed conflict in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo.(18, 31) However, the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) continues to provide assistance to former child combatants returning from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.(18, 31)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Rwanda's Labor Law sets the minimum age for work at 16 and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18. The law prohibits children under age 18 from night work and work that is difficult, unsanitary or dangerous.(32) It also prohibits children from working in the worst forms of child labor, which are defined in ILO Convention 182 to include: slavery or similar practices, forced or bonded labor, the use or recruitment of children into armed conflict, illicit activities or prostitution and any work whose nature is detrimental to the health, security or morals of a child.(32) The ministerial order determining the list of the worst forms of child labor prohibits children from working at industrial institutions and in domestic service, mining, quarrying, construction, brick making, and applying fertilizers and pesticides.(33) In addition to the national laws, some districts have enacted laws against hazardous child labor that sanction employers and parents for violations.(34)

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

Penalties for violations of the Labor Law provisions on the worst forms of child labor and hazardous work are stringent, with up to 20 years incarceration and fines.(32) However, the Labor Law only covers contractual employment, leaving most of Rwanda's working children unprotected.(32, 35)

The Labor Law also prohibits child trafficking and the Law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-Based Violence prohibits and provides penalties for gender-based human trafficking.(32, 36) The Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child Against Violence prohibits slavery, child rape, recruiting, using or profiting from child prostitution and using children in pornographic publications or for illicit activities.(37) The Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child Against Violence, and Presidential Orders 155/01 and 72/01 also prohibit children under age 18 from military service.(31, 37)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The National Advisory Committee on Child Labor coordinates government efforts relating to the worst forms of child labor and is responsible for reviewing child labor laws. It also advocates for the inclusion of child labor policies in national development plans, oversees the implementation of child labor interventions and conducts field visits to assess the prevalence of child labor and raise awareness of child labor.(12, 25) This group meets quarterly and includes representatives from the: Ministry of Public Service and Labor (MIFOTRA), the Rwandan National Police (RNP), the National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Sports and Culture, the RDRC, Rwandan trade unions, the ILO, UNICEF, the Private Sector Federation and Winrock International.(12, 25)

In 2011, the Kigali City Council formed a task force to combat child labor in the districts of Kicukiro, Gasabo and Nyarugenge. Reports indicate that this task force drafted guidelines on child labor including domestic work which are awaiting cabinet approval.(16, 38) There are 149 Local Child Labor Committees (LCLCs) nationwide at the local level that monitor incidents of child labor.(12, 34) Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Committees also exist at the district level to identify and report cases of child rights violations.(39)

To enforce child labor laws, MIFOTRA employs 30 labor inspectors, one per district, who are supervised by the district authorities and work with the RNP.(12, 40, 41) There is also one labor inspector at the national level supervised by the Directorate General in charge of labor. Reports indicate that labor inspectors lack resources such as transportation.(12, 40) MIFOTRA assesses the performance of their labor inspectors every 6 months and provides them with training twice a year to identify and investigate child labor violations.(12, 19) In 2011,

labor inspectors held quarterly trainings for employers and local authorities in their district on child labor issues.(12, 25) Labor inspectors also participated in training provided by the U.S. Embassy in Kigali on child labor and trafficking in persons.(42, 43) From July 2010 to June 2011, MIFOTRA's training budget for labor inspectors was $180,000.(12)

In Rwanda, inspections may be conducted without prior notice, and labor inspectors may issue warnings, which must be corrected by the offender within 7 days. Otherwise, the labor inspector may ask the authorities to temporarily close the institution under investigation.(40) Labor inspection reports do not contain information on inspections related to the worst forms of child labor.(44) Data regarding child labor inspections, prosecutions and penalties are not publicly available.(12)

Within villages, citizens can report instances of child labor to the local volunteer officer in charge of social affairs. If the officer cannot resolve the problem, it may be referred to the village leader, who may contact the police.(12) The district authorities' personal performance contracts include targets for reducing child labor and increasing school enrollment.(12) In the tea sector, leaders of cooperatives are also trained on child labor laws to reduce the incidence of working children in their communities.(45) In 2011, district officials in Muhanga barred a mining cooperative from operating after 11 children were found mining coltan.(17)

The RNP enforces criminal laws relating to the worst forms of child labor. Within the Commission for Criminal Investigations of the RNP, there is a Child Protection Unit with a network of investigators throughout the country who are responsible for cases of child abuse, including the use of children in commercial sexual exploitation.(12, 46, 47) In collaboration with MIGEPROF, the RNP established a Directorate for Anti-Gender Based Violence at its headquarters to respond to complaints of gender-based violence. In 2011, the RNP increased the number of officers in this unit from 62 to 225.(12, 48) The RNP also operates a free hotline to report incidences of gender-based violence, which is also used for reporting child abuse, including child labor.(12, 49) MIFEPROF and RNP do not always follow government approved procedures for screening children and referring them to services.(25) During the reporting period, the RNP referred some child domestics and children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation to the Isange Center for police assistance, legal aid, shelter, medical exams and counseling.(12)

Trafficking cases are referred to the RNP and the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration.(12) The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration retains an anti-trafficking specialist, and the RNP operates an anti-trafficking unit employed with four full-time officers.(12, 25) The RNP is trained on issues including sex crimes, crimes against children and preventing transnational child trafficking, however some officials lack awareness and training on laws pertaining to internal trafficking.(27, 49) In addition, there have been indications that some members of the RNP are not sensitized to the needs of child trafficking victims and there are reports that some children found engaged in commercial sexual exploitation and market vending were detained in transit centers for months before being released.(12, 18, 50)

Immigration and customs officers assist with the enforcement of child trafficking laws and receive training on document verification and passenger profiling. Standard procedure requires these officers to verify that all children transported across the border are traveling with the permission of their parents or guardians.(12, 25) Research found no information about the number of children prevented from crossing the border in 2011.(12)

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The 2003 National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children, which is still in effect, includes strategies to address the worst forms of child labor by improving working conditions for children, providing support to needy families and strengthening the education system.(51) The Government's National Strategic Plan of Action for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (NSP) (2007-2011) provides a more detailed framework to achieve the objectives of the National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children.(23, 52) The services offered to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) included healthcare, shelter, education, livelihood enhancement and psychological support. However, due to the sheer magnitude of the problem, three-fourths of identified OVCs have not received government assistance.(23) Rwanda also has a National Strategic Plan on Street Children (2005), which prioritizes prevention and reintegration services for street children and sets the foundation for legal action against parents who send their children into the streets to live and work.(12, 31)

In 2011, the Government of Rwanda launched an Integrated Child Rights Policy and Strategic Plan (ICRP) to address all children's issues, including child labor. As part of this Plan, the Government established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children's Rights, which will meet at least once a year to coordinate the ICRP and assess progress.(25, 31) The

Government also established a National Commission on Children to monitor compliance with child rights commitments and ensure that all government policies and programs are aligned with the ICRP.(12, 31) Through this Plan, $9,000 is budgeted to develop timebound programs to eliminate child labor and $3,230 is budgeted to establish a National Task Force on Child Labor.(31) Rwanda also made policy commitments to combat child labor in its National Employment Policy and Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2012) (EDPRS).(53-55)

The Government's National Youth Policy and Vision 2020 also include child protection issues.(12, 48, 56, 57) In 2011, Rwanda launched a National Social Protection Strategy, which defines social protection and outlines social development activities to assist poor households, such as providing vulnerable children with grants and free education.(58) However, the question of whether these programs have an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

During the reporting period, Rwanda announced that it would commence its Twelve Years Basic Education (12YBE) policy in 2012, which will provide free education for 12 years. Education is compulsory beginning at the age of 7 and was until the age of 16. However, in practice the costs of uniforms and school supplies prohibit many families from sending their children to school.(12, 57, 59, 60)

Despite the aforementioned protections, the Government of Rwanda has not finalized its 2008 National Policy for the Elimination of Child Labor or 2007 5-year Action Plan to Combat Child Labor. It is unclear how this Policy and Plan will complement the Integrated Child Rights Policy and Strategic Plan.(12, 43, 61)

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2011, the RDRC assisted former child combatants returning from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda by operating a rehabilitation center in Muhazi for 52 children and reuniting 21 children with their families.(12, 25, 31, 62, 63) The Government of Rwanda also raised public awareness of child soldiers' issues with the hope that communities will be more welcoming to children returning from armed conflict.(12)

During the reporting period, Rwanda operated eight rehabilitation and vocational skills centers for street children, which offered psychosocial counseling, education and reintegration services. In 2011, 1,345 former street children graduated from the Iwawa Rehabilitation and Vocational Development Center in Rutsiro District with new skills in commercial farming, tailoring, construction and carpentry. (12, 64-66) The Government also continued to operate a 2-week camp and partnered with private organizations to support 34 child care institutions across the country that provided shelter, basic needs and rehabilitation for 3,830 street children.(12, 67) In August, MIGEPROF announced that it would begin phasing out Rwanda's 34 orphanages and integrating the children with families across the country.(48, 68, 69)

The Government continued to participate in the Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children (REACH) Project, which is funded by USDOL at $4.5 million from September 2009 to March 2013. The Project aims to withdraw 4,800 children and prevent 3,500 children from exploitive child labor, particularly in the agricultural sector, by providing educational services, strengthening child labor and education policies and ensuring the sustainability of these efforts.(13)

Rwanda began participating in the USDOL-funded, 4-year Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues Project. This $15 million regional Project aims to build the capacity of national governments, develop strategic policies to address the elimination of child labor and forced labor, increase the availability of evidence on child labor through data collection and research, and promote legal protections and social service delivery for child domestic workers.(70)

In 2011, the Government participated in discussions on child labor in the tea sector with tea companies and NGOs.(45) MIFOTRA and district authorities also raised public awareness on the importance of education and the worst forms of child labor through radio shows, television announcements and skits.(12, 38)

Rwanda continued to collaborate with the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization in order to strengthen its ability to combat human trafficking. This organization consists of 11 East African countries and works to strengthen regional cooperation and capacities among East African law enforcement authorities.(71, 72) The Government also continued its public campaign to discourage intergenerational sex and sexual procurement, and initiated a campaign against gender-based violence, child abuse, sexual exploitation and human trafficking.(12)

In 2011, the Rwandan Government continued to implement its Vision 2020 Umurenge Program, which provides direct support through cash and in-kind transfers to child headed households and street children. In fiscal year 2010-2011, the Rwandan Government contributed $24 million to this program.(12, 58, 73) Likewise, in 2011 Rwanda provided

1,500 OVCs with vocational training and startup kits, and 41,452 OVCs with health insurance and financial support for secondary education.(74) During the reporting period, the Government also developed a plan to register the births of all children 16 years and below by 2015.(31)

The WFP and USDA concluded a $27 million school feeding program, which supported 300,000 primary and secondary school students. This program is being transitioned to the Government of Rwanda in 2012.(12) In 2011, the Government also built more than 2,600 classrooms to accommodate additional students in preparation for its 12YBE policy.(12) However, it is too early to determine the impact the additional classrooms will have on the worst forms of child labor. In addition, despite the many programs detailed in this section, Rwanda's social programs are not sufficient to assist the numerous orphans and vulnerable children, and children working on the streets and in domestic service.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Rwanda:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Ensure protection for children working in exploitative non-contractual labor activities.	2009, 2010, 2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Improve measures to investigate, prosecute and convict individuals involved in the worst forms of child labor, by:	
	• Increasing resources for labor inspectors.	2009, 2010, 2011
	• Making information publicly available on child labor investigations and prosecutions.	2009, 2010, 2011
	• Increasing training among enforcement officials on internal child trafficking and the rights of trafficking victims and children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation and market vending.	2009, 2010, 2011
Policies	Finalize, adopt and implement the National Policy for the Elimination of Child Labor and 5-year Action Plan on child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Expand resources available to the National Strategic Plan of Action for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children to reach more vulnerable children.	2011
	Assess the impact that policies such as the National Youth Policy, Vision 2020 and National Social Protection Strategy may have on addressing child labor.	2011
	Ensure that school costs, such as fees and the cost of uniforms, do not diminish the impact of the Twelve Years Basic Education policy.	2010, 2011
Social Programs	Assess the impact that the school feeding and the birth registration programs may have on addressing child labor.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Develop additional social protection programs to assist child domestics, orphaned, vulnerable children and children working on the streets.	2009, 2010, 2011

REFERENCES

1. UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary. Total.; July 2, 2012; http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/default.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN. Data provided is the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary school. This measure is a proxy measure for primary completion. For more information, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.
2. UCW. Analysis of Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Statistics from National Household or Child Labor Surveys. February 2, 2012. Reliable statistical data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics on children's work in general are reported in this chart, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.
3. Government of Rwanda. Rwanda National Child Labour Survey. Kigali, 2008. http://statistics.gov.rw/images/PDF/Rwanda_child_labour_report_english_NISR.pdf.
4. Winrock International, Forum for African Women Educationalists, Netherlands Development Organization. Baseline Assessment on Child Labor in Seven Districts: Nyarugenge, Nyaruguru, Gicumbi, Nyamasheke, Rubavu, Kayonza, and Nyagatare. Kigali, November, 2010.
5. Mary Strode, Emily Wylde, Yussuf Murangwa. Labour Market and Economic Activity Trends in Rwanda. Kigali, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda; 2008. http://statistics.gov.rw/images/PDF/EICV%20Labour%20Market%20and%20Economic%20Activities%20Trends.pdf.
6. International Labour Office. Children in hazardous work: What we know, What we need to do. Geneva, International Labour Organization; 2011. While country-specific information on the dangers children face in agriculture is not available, research studies and other reports have documented the dangerous nature of tasks in agriculture and their accompanying occupational exposures, injuries and potential health consequences to children working in the sector.
7. Undertanding Children's Work. Understanding Children's work and youth employment outcomes in Rwanda - Report on child labour and youth employment June, 2011 http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2011/07/21/000333037_20110721015859/Rendered/PDF/632990WP0Youth00Box0361511B0PUBLIC0.pdf.
8. Nsengiyumva F. National Coffee Censes- Final Report. Kigali, Rwanda Coffee Development Authority November 2009.
9. Winrock International official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. November 5, 2010.
10. Ngabonziza D. "27 rescued from child labour." newtimes.co.rw [online] 2011 [cited December 20, 2011]; http://www.newtimes.co.rw/print.php?issue=14592&print&article=40069.
11. ICF Macro. Child Labor in Agriculture in Rwanda. Washington, DC, January 2012.
12. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. reporting, January 18, 2012.
13. Winrock International, Forum for African Women Educationalists, Netherlands Development Organization. Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children (REACH)- Project Document. Kigali, March, 2011.
14. International Labour Office. Children in hazardous work: What we know, What we need to do. Geneva, International Labour Organization; 2011. While country-specific information on the dangers children face in domestic work is not available, research studies and other reports have documented the dangerous nature of tasks in domestic work and their accompanying occupational exposures, injuries and potential health consequences to children working in the sector.
15. Kisambira T. "Child Labor is a Threat to Rwanda's Vision 2020." eac.int [online] April 10, 2009 [cited December 21, 2011]; http://www.eac.int/gender/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&catid=57.
16. USDOL official. Rwanda Trip Report February 18-24, 2012.
17. AllAfrica. "Rwanda: Mining Co-Op Closed Over Employing Children." allafrica.com [online] August 20, 2011 [cited December 21, 2011]; http://allafrica.com/stories/201108220671.html.
18. U.S. Department of State. Rwanda. In: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2011. Washington, DC; May 24, 2012; http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=186183#wrapper.
19. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. reporting, January 28, 2011.
20. Tietjen K. Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia Together Project: Rwanda Country Report. Independent Midterm Evaluation,. Calverton, MD, Macro International Inc. March 2007. http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/tcp/KURET-report2.pdf.
21. Rushworth P. "Rwanda: Giving Hope to Kigali's Street Children." allafrica.com [online] September 29, 2009 [cited December 21, 2011]; http://allafrica.com/stories/200909300148.html.
22. Human Rights Watch. Swept Away: Street Children Illegally Detained in Kigali. New York, May 14, 2006. http://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/africa/rwanda0506/rwanda0506.pdf.
23. Government of Rwanda. A Situation Analysis of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Rwanda. Kigali, June, 2008. www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/20090602/rwanda08.pdf.
24. International Labour Office. Children in hazardous work: What we know, What we need to do. Geneva, International Labour Organization; 2011. While country-specific information on the dangers children face in street work is not available, research studies and other reports have documented the dangerous nature of tasks in street work and their accompanying occupational exposures, injuries and potential health consequences to children working in the sector.
25. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. reporting, February 15, 2012.
26. UNODC. Organised Crime and Trafficking in Eastern Africa: A Discussion Paper. Nairobi, November 2009. http://www.unodc.org/documents/easternafrica//regional-ministerial-meeting/Organised_Crime_and_Trafficking_in_Eastern_Africa_Discussion_Paper.pdf.
27. U.S. Department of State. Rwanda. In: Trafficking in Persons Report- 2011. Washington, DC; June 27, 2011; http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/164457.pdf.
28. Kahare P. "Human trafficking on the rise amid Horn of Africa's drought and famine." guardian.co.uk [online] November 2, 2012 [cited May 22, 2012]; http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/nov/02/trafficking-on-rise-horn-africa?newsfeed=true.
29. Agutamba K. "Uganda: Prostitution Racket - Ugandans Traffic Teenage Girls for Sex." allafrica.com [online] December 10, 2011 [cited March 22, 2012]; http://allafrica.com/stories/201112131099.html.
30. Asiimwe B. "Human trafficking racket busted." newtimes.co.rw [online] April 16, 2012 [cited May 22, 2012]; http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?i=14964&a=52517.
31. Government of Rwanda. Strategic Plan for the Integrated Child Rights Policy in Rwanda. Kigali, August 2011. http://www.unicef.org/rwanda/RWA_resources_icrpstratplan.pdf.
32. Government of Rwanda. Law regulating Labour in Rwanda, Public Law Number 13/2009, (May 27, 2009); http://www.mifotra.gov.rw/documents/Laws/NEW%20LABOUR%20LAW%20N13.2009%20OF%2027.5.2009.pdf.
33. Government of Rwanda. Ministerial order determining the list of worst forms of child labour, their nature, categories of institutions that are not allowed to employ them and their prevention mechanisms, Public Law Number 06, (July 13, 2010);
34. Martina Nicolls, Lou Witherite. Independent Final Evaluation of the Combating Exploitive Child Labor Through Education in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together (KURET) Project. Washington, DC; 2009.
35. ILO Committee of Experts (CEACR) and ILO Conference Committee reports (ILCCR). Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Rwanda (ratification: 1981) Submitted: 2011 December 30, 2011; http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=26577&chapter=9&query=%28rwanda%29+%40ref%2Bchild&highlight=on&querytype=bool&context=0.
36. Government of Rwanda. Law on prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, Public Law Number 59, (September 10, 2008); http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/domesticviolence/rwanda.genderviolence.08.pdf.
37. Government of Rwanda. Law Relating to Rights and Protection of the Child Against Violence, Public Law Number 27/2001, (April 28, 2001); http://www.adh-geneva.ch/RULAC/pdf_state/Law-27-2001-Protection-Child-Against-Violence.pdf.

38. Winrock International. Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children (REACH). Technical Progress Report. Kigali, October, 2011.
39. ILO. Sharing Innovative Experiences: Sucessful Social Protection Floor Experiences. New York, 2011. Report No.: 1728-4171. http://www.ilo.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=20840.
40. Ministerial Order determining the modalities of functioning of the labour inspector, Public Law Number 07, (July 13, 2010);
41. Kaitesi M. "Rwanda: Govt Intensifies Fight Against Child Labour." allafrica.com [online] April 23, 2010 [cited December 21, 2011]; http://allafrica.com/stories/201104250823.html.
42. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. Labor Inspector Training Summary Report February 2, 2011.
43. Winrock International. Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children (REACH). Technical Progress Report. Kigali, April, 2011.
44. ILO Committee of Experts (CEACR) and ILO Conference Committee reports (ILCCR). Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Rwanda (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2011 December 30, 2011; http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=27093&chapter=9&query=%28rwanda%29+%40ref%2Bchild&highlight=on&querytype=bool&context=0.
45. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. reporting, March 30, 2011.
46. Government of Rwanda. Rwanda National Police: Child Protection Unit, [online] [cited August 26, 2010]; http://www.police.gov.rw/spip.php?article26&var_recherche=child.
47. Government of Rwanda. Rwanda National Police: The Criminal Investigation and Scientific Police, [online] [cited August 26, 2010]; http://www.police.gov.rw/spip.php?article29&var_recherche=child.
48. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. E-mail communication to USDOL official. June 18, 2012.
49. Government of Rwanda. Rwanda National Police: RNP Strategies, [online] [cited August 26, 2010]; http://www.police.gov.rw/spip.php?article31&var_recherche=child.
50. U.S. Embassy- Kigali. reporting, February 15, 2011.
51. Government of Rwanda. National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children. Kigali; 2003. www.unicef.org/southafrica/SAF_resources_ovcrwanda.doc.
52. Government of Rwanda. Strategic Plan for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children 2007-2011 September 2007.
53. Winrock International. Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children (REACH). Technical Progress Report. Kigali, September 25, 2010.
54. Government of Rwanda. National Employment Policy. Kigali, MIFOTRA December, 2007. http://www.mifotra.gov.rw/documents/Policies/National%20Employment%20Policy.pdf.
55. Government of Rwanda. Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2008-2012. Kigali, September, 2007. http://www.undp.org.rw/EDPRS_2008-2012.pdf.
56. Government of Rwanda. Rwanda Vision 2020. Kigali, July, 2000. http://www.gesci.org/assets/files/Rwanda_Vision_2020.pdf.
57. John Bridgeland, Stu Wulsin, Mary McNaught. Rebuilding Rwanda: From Genocide to Prosperity through Education. Washington, DC, Civic Enterprises, LLC 2009. http://www.civicenterprises.net/pdfs/rebuildingrwanda.pdf.
58. Government of Rwanda. National Social Protection Strategy January, 2011. http://www.ilo.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=23208.
59. Gahene A. "Children still subjected to labour in rural Rwanda." newtimes.co.rw [online] April 3, 2010 [cited December 21, 2011]; http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14219&article=27669&term=child labor.
60. Paxton W. IPAR Observatory Report: The Rwandan Education and Skills. Kigali, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research-Rwanda April, 2012.
61. U.S. Embassy- Kigali official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. April 6, 2011.
62. Piazza K. "Not stigmatised for being a child soldier." unicef.org [online] 2011 [cited April 2, 2012]; http://www.unicef.org/rwanda/reallives_8396.html.
63. United Nations. Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General; 2011 April 23,. http://www.un.org/children/conflict/_documents/S2011250.pdf.
64. AllAfrica. "Rwanda: Iwawa Centre - a True Success Story." allafrica.com [online] December 27, 2011 [cited January 4, 2012]; http://allafrica.com/stories/201112270735.html.
65. Nkurunziza S. "590 graduate from Iwawa rehab centre." newtimes.co.rw [online] December 26, 2011 [cited June 19, 2012]; http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?i=14851&a=48465.
66. Kagire E. "Rwanda: Excitement As 752 Ex-Street Kids Graduate From Iwawa Centre." allafrica.com [online] May 19, 2011 [cited June 19, 2012]; http://allafrica.com/stories/201105191289.html.
67. International Monetary Fund. Rwanda: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report Washington, DC, 2011. www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2011.
68. Murdock H. "Rwandan Orphanage Closures Would Send Content Children to Uncertain Fates." washingtontimes.com [online] August 25, 2011 [cited June 19, 2012]; http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/25/orphanage-closures-would-send-content-children-to-/.
69. Government of Rwanda. National Integrated Child Rights Policy. Kigali, August 2011.
70. USDOL. Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues (GAP). Technical Cooperation Project Summary. Washington, DC; 2011.
71. Asiimwe BR. "Rwanda: Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation Commends Police." allafrica.com [online] May 25, 2011 [cited January 23, 2012]; http://allafrica.com/stories/201105250076.html.
72. Interpol. Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO). Lyon; 2008. https://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/SRB/EAPCCO.pdf.
73. Government of Rwanda. "Vision 2020 Umurenge: An Integrated Local Development Progrm to Accelerate Poverty Eradication, Rural Growth, and Social Protection." http://www.usaid.gov/rw/our_work/for_partners/images/vision2020umurengeprogramvupaugust2007.pdf.
74. Government of Rwanda. Government Annual Report July 2010 - June 2011. Kigali, October 2011.