

In 2016, Guinea made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government adopted a new Penal Code that strengthens the maximum penalties for certain crimes related to the worst forms of child labor, such as forced begging. The Government also adopted the National Plan of Action to Fight Against Trafficking in Persons, which will provide protection and social assistance to victims of human trafficking, including children. However, children in Guinea perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. Children also engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in mining and forced begging. The Government lacks a coordinating mechanism and national policy to address all relevant worst forms of child labor. In addition, the Government does not adequately enforce child labor laws or implement social programs to address the extent of the problem.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Guinea perform dangerous tasks in agriculture.(1-3) Children also engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in mining and forced begging.(4-8) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Guinea.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	32.3 (1,152,064)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	49.6
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	19.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		61.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2014, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(9)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's Analysis of Statistics from Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2012.(10)

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 and carrying heavy loads [†] in the production of cashews, cocoa, and coffee (3, 6, 7, 11)
	Herding livestock (6)
	Capturing and processing fish (2, 6, 7, 12)
Industry	Mining [†] granite, gold, and diamonds (3, 5-8, 13)
	Manufacturing, activities unknown (4, 6)
	Construction, [†] including cement making and carrying materials (3, 4, 6, 14)
Services	Street work, including as market vendors, beggars, petty traders, shoe shiners, and porters in the transportation sector (3, 6, 7, 15-19)
	Working in restaurants and informal cottage industries, including as waitresses (3, 6, 20)
	Domestic work (2, 7, 21)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor [‡]	Forced labor as market vendors and in domestic work, mining, herding, fishing, and farming, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (4, 6-8, 21)
	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (8, 18, 19)
	Forced begging by Koranic teachers (7, 8, 11, 18, 22)

[†] 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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Children in Guinea are exploited in trafficking internally and abroad for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Some boys are subjected to forced labor in gold and diamond mining, including in Senegal and Mali, while girls are exploited in domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation in various West African and Middle Eastern countries.(6-8, 17, 19, 23)




Boys placed in the care of Koranic teachers for education are forced by their teachers to beg on the street or to work in fields; they must then surrender the money they have earned to their teachers.(7, 8, 11, 17, 18, 22) In addition, through the system of *confiage*, parents who are unable to care for their children send them to relatives or strangers that are expected to provide food, shelter, and schooling to the children in exchange for housework. In practice, some of these children receive care and an education, while many become domestic workers and are victims of labor exploitation and abuse.(3, 7, 8, 15, 23)

Although the Constitution guarantees free compulsory primary education, in practice, many children do not attend school. The lack of school infrastructure cost of school fees and supplies, a shortage of teachers, and reported school violence, all of which impede access to education, which may increase the vulnerability of children to the worst forms of child labor.(7, 17, 18, 24)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Guinea 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	✓

During 2016, the Government of Guinea ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict.(25)

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Guinea's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	No	16	Article 137.5 of the Labor Code; Article 412 of the Child Code (26, 27)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Articles 2–4 of Order 2791 Working Conditions for Employees Aged Under 18 Years; Article 137.4 of the Labor Code (14, 27)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 415–418 of the Child Code; Articles 2 and 4 of Order 2791 Working Conditions for Employees Aged Under 18 Years; Article 135 of the Mining Code; Article 137.6 of the Labor Code (14, 26-28)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 194, 195, and 323 of the Penal Code; Articles 4 and 137.6 of the Labor Code; Articles 356–360, 385, and 397–399 of the Child Code (26, 27, 29)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 195, 323, and 324 of the Penal Code; Articles 356–360 and 385 of the Child Code (26, 29)

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor (cont)

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 346, 347, 348, and 355 of the Penal Code; Articles 356–360 of the Child Code (26, 29)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 137.6 of the Labor Code; Article 383 of the Child Code, Article 344 of the Penal Code (26, 27, 29)
Minimum Age for Military Recruitment	N/A*		
State Compulsory	N/A*		
State Voluntary	Yes	18	Article 429 of the Child Code (26)
Non-state Compulsory	Yes	18	Article 792.7 of the Penal Code; Article 429 of the Child Code (26, 29)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Article 6, Title 1 of Education Decree 97/196-/PRG/SGG (30)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 23 of the Constitution (31)

* No conscription (32)

In 2016, the Government of Guinea adopted a new Penal Code that strengthens the penalties for certain criminal offenses related to the worst forms of child labor, including forced begging.(17, 29, 33, 34)

Guinean law prohibits hazardous occupations and activities for children; however these prohibitions do not cover agriculture, an area that shows evidence of work in unhealthy environments that expose children to hazardous substances and dangerous equipment.(3, 6, 7, 14, 27) A revised Child Code that contains a more specific list of hazardous child labor activities in all relevant sectors was developed, but it was not approved during the reporting period.(12, 17, 18) In addition, although Article 2.6 of Order 2791 prohibits children under age 18 from working in mines and quarries, Article 135 of the Mining Code allows children between ages 16 and 18 to work in mines and quarries as assistants, leaving the possibility for children to work in hazardous activities.(14, 28)

The law allows children between the ages of 12 and 14 to perform light work in sectors such as domestic work and agriculture.(14, 26) However, the law does not prescribe the number of hours per week for light work, nor specify the conditions in which light work may be undertaken, as defined by international standards on child labor.(35) The minimum age protections under the law do not apply to children in unpaid or non-contractual work.(3, 21, 27, 34, 35)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor (MOL)	Enforce all labor laws, including those related to child labor.(3, 36) Chairs the Child Labor Monitoring and Surveillance System, which aims to identify and remove children from exploitative labor conditions.(4, 18)
Office for the Protection of Gender, Children, and Morals (OPROGEM) Special Police Unit	Enforce laws related to the protection of minors, including the worst forms of child labor.(3, 8, 19)
Ministry for Social Action, Promotion of Women and Children (MASPFE)	Provide protection and social services for victims of child labor and human trafficking.(7, 17)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in Guinea took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

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Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Labor Inspectors	53 (12)	53 (12)
Number of Child Labor Dedicated Inspectors	2 (12)	2 (17)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (12)	Yes (17)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	No (12)	No (17)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	No (17)
Refresher Courses Provided	No (12)	No (17)
Number of Labor Inspections	0 (12)	250 (17)
Number Conducted at Worksite	N/A (12)	250 (17)
Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	N/A (12)	0 (17)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	0 (12)	0 (17)
Number of Penalties Imposed	0 (12)	0 (17)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A (12)	N/A (17)
Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	No (12)	No (17)
Routine Inspections Targeted	No (12)	No (12)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Unknown	Yes (17)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	No (12)	Yes (17)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (12)	Yes (17)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	No (12)	No (17)

In 2016, the Ministry of Labor (MOL) had 20 inspectors in Conakry and 1 inspector in each of the country's 33 regional offices.(12, 17) The number of labor inspectors is insufficient for the size of Guinea's workforce, which includes over 5.3 million workers. According to the ILO recommendation of 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, the Guinea should employ roughly 135 inspectors.(12, 37-39) Reports indicate a lack of trained staff, equipment, transportation, and funding to conduct child labor inspections and legal proceedings.(3, 17, 40)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in Guinea took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	Unknown
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Investigations	2 (41)	7 (41)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	7 (17)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	0 (12)	1 (17)
Number of Convictions	0 (12)	0 (17)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (12)	Yes (17)

During the reporting period, the Office for the Protection of Gender, Children, and Morals (OPROGEM) had 23 agents in Conakry and one in each of the country's 33 regional offices.(34) OPROGEM remained understaffed, underfunded, and without adequate office supplies, transportation, and fuel to effectively enforce laws related to the worst forms of child labor.(8, 17) In addition, corruption in law enforcement agencies and the judiciary impeded government efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.(8)

In January 2016, the Ministry for Social Action, Promotion of Women and Children (MASPFE), provided reintegration services to 50 children that were being trafficked to Senegal.(17) Reports indicate that social services available to victims were not adequate to meet the needs of the victims. As a result, the Government relied on NGOs to provide shelter and other basic services to victims.(8, 17, 33)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Although the Government has established a coordination mechanism on human trafficking, research found no evidence of mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including all its worst forms (Table 8).

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Committee to Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (CNLTP)	Coordinate anti-human-trafficking efforts, including for children. Led by the MASPFE, includes representatives from OPROGEM, MOL, and other ministries.(7, 19, 42) Met to develop the National Plan of Action to Fight Against Trafficking in Persons, which was approved in 2016.(8, 41)
Committee for Monitoring, Protection, and Defense of the Rights of the Child (CGSDE)	Implement, coordinate, and monitor Government efforts on child protection. Led by MASPFE.(17, 19) In 2016, drafted a report that identified child protection activities carried out by various government ministries to improve coordination efforts.(34)

Budgets for these committees remained limited during the reporting period and impacted their ability to operate and coordinate efforts to address child labor, including all its worst forms.(8, 17, 19)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 9).

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Plan of Action to Fight Against Trafficking in Persons†	Aims to enhance the legal framework to prevent human trafficking, raise awareness of trafficking in persons, and provide protection and care for victims. Led by the CNLTP.(8, 18, 43) In 2016, received \$38,000 for implementation.(33, 42)
Education Sector Program (2015–2017)	Aims to increase access to primary, secondary, and technical and vocational education, particularly for vulnerable populations. The strategy is overseen by the Ministry of Education and supported by international donors.(44, 45)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken under the Education Sector Program during the reporting year. Although the Government of Guinea has adopted a policy on Trafficking in Persons, research found no evidence of a general child labor policy.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor†

Program	Description
Decent Work Country Program (2016–2019)*	Includes activities to develop a National Action Plan for the elimination of child labor and its worst forms. Overseen by the MOL and supported by the ILO.(46)
Plan Guinea-Conakry Program	Aims to strengthen the capacity of key actors to improve children's rights in the areas of education, survival, and protection.(15) In 2016, provided 45,000 IT educational kits to various primary schools.(47)
UNICEF Country Program (2013–2017)	UNICEF funded program that supports the Government's efforts to improve education, birth registration rates, social inclusion, and strengthening the child protection response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak.(48)

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

Program	Description
World Bank Country Program	World Bank projects in Guinea that aim to increase access to quality basic education and youth employment, improve school infrastructure, and strengthen safety nets for vulnerable populations, especially those affected by the Ebola virus disease outbreak.(49-53)

* Program was launched during the reporting period.

‡ The Government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms. (54-56)

Although the Government of Guinea has implemented programs in children's rights and education, research found no evidence that it has carried out programs specifically designed to assist children in agriculture, domestic work, mining, and street work.

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in Guinea (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the types of work that children perform in Guinea that fall into an R.190 category, such as agriculture, are prohibited to children under age 18.	2014 – 2016
	Ensure that all children are prohibited from participating in hazardous mining.	2010 – 2016
	Ensure that the law's light work provisions are specific enough to prevent children from involvement in child labor.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that the minimum age provisions apply to children in unpaid or non-contractual work.	2009 – 2016
Enforcement	Increase the resources, training, and number of criminal law enforcement officials and labor inspectors to adequately enforce child labor laws.	2009 – 2016
	Publish complete information on labor inspectorate funding and training for labor inspectors and criminal investigators related to laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms.	2011 – 2016
	Strengthen labor law enforcement by authorizing the inspectorate to initiate targeted inspections based on analysis of data related to risk-prone sectors and patterns of serious incidents.	2015 – 2016
	Establish a referral mechanism between MOL and MASPFE to protect and rehabilitate children involved in child labor, including its worst forms.	2016
	Address corruption in law enforcement agencies and the judiciary that impedes efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.	2015 – 2016
Coordination	Establish coordinating mechanisms to combat child labor, including all its worst forms.	2010 – 2016
	Ensure that the CNLTP and CGSDE receive adequate funding to fulfill their mission.	2010 – 2016
Government Policies	Adopt a policy that addresses all relevant worst forms of child labor.	2014 – 2016
	Ensure that the Education Sector Program is implemented.	2016
Social Programs	Enhance efforts to eliminate barriers and make education accessible for all children by (1) increasing school infrastructure and teacher availability, (2) removing school-related fees, and (3) ensuring the safety of children in schools.	2010 – 2016
	Conduct research to determine the activities carried out by children in manufacturing to inform policies and programs.	2013 – 2016
	Ensure that social services are properly funded and adequate to meet the needs of victims of the worst forms of child labor.	2010 – 2016
	Institute programs to address the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture, domestic work, mining, and street work.	2010 – 2016

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