

In 2018, Angola made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government approved the Penal Code, which prohibits the use of children for the production of pornography. It also approved a National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor, which aims to eliminate child labor by strengthening the rights of children, including increasing their access to education, and mapping child labor found throughout the country to better inform policies and programs. In addition, the government deployed the Southern African Development Community Trafficking in Persons regional database, which collects national data to facilitate the development and implementation of policies and programs to combat human trafficking. However, children in Angola engage in forced labor in agriculture. Children also perform dangerous tasks in construction. The gap between the compulsory education age and minimum age for work leaves children ages 12 and 13 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. There are not enough labor inspectors to provide sufficient coverage of the workforce, and social programs do not target all sectors in which children work.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Angola engage in forced labor in agriculture. (1,2) Children also perform dangerous tasks in construction. (3) The 2015–2016 Survey on Multiple Health Indicators found that 23 percent of children ages 5 to 17 engage in child labor. The percentage of children engaged in child labor is higher in rural areas compared to urban areas; Cuanza Sul and Cuando Cubango provinces have the highest percentage of child laborers. (4) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in Angola.

Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	15.1 (Unavailable)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	69.4
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	13.6
Primary Completion Rate (%)		46.1

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2011, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (5)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization’s analysis of statistics from Demographic and Health Survey, 2015–2016. (6)

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 plowing, planting and picking tomatoes, harvesting vegetables, and the production of rice (1,3,7-10)
	Fishing, including artisanal fishing, and cleaning fish for deep freezing or sun drying (11-13)
	Cattle herding (2,11)
Industry	Artisanal diamond mining (2,11)
	Mining coal (2,3,11)
	Construction, including making and transporting bricks† (3,9,10)
Services	Slaughtering animals,† including cattle, goats, and pigs (9,14)
	Street work, including vending, car washing, shoe shining, and transporting heavy loads† (1,3,8-10)
	Domestic work (9)

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Table 2. Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity (Cont.)

Sector/Industry	Activity
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor†	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2)
	Forced labor, including in agriculture, construction, artisanal diamond mining, and domestic work, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1,2,15)
	Use in illicit activities, including the transport of illicit goods across the border of Angola and Namibia (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.







Undocumented Congolese migrant children enter Angola for work in diamond-mining districts, and some experience conditions of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation in mining camps. (2,7) Girls as young as age 12 are trafficked from Kasai Occidental in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Angola for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Angolan boys are taken to Namibia and forced to herd cattle or work as couriers to transport illicit goods. (2)

Although tuition is free up to the sixth grade, families often face difficulty paying informal school fees, such as books or fees paid to education officials. (16) Additional barriers to education for children include poor infrastructure and lack of teachers, which have led to several school closings, resulting in thousands of elementary school children being unable to begin or continue their education. (17-19) The government permits children to attend school without birth registration, but only up to the fourth grade. (20)

II. Legal Framework for Child Labor

Angola 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 has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Angola’s legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including lack of a compulsory education age.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	14	Article 254 of the Labor Law (21)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Articles 3(21) and 256 of the Labor Law (21)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 256 of the Labor Law; Hazardous Work List (14,21)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 18–19 and 23 of the Money Laundering Law (22)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 19 and 23 of the Money Laundering Law (22)

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

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	No		Articles 19 and 22–23 of the Money Laundering Law; Articles 197-200 of the Penal Code (22,23)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 4 and 7 of the Drug Trafficking Law (24)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 11 of the Military Service Law (25)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Article 2 of the Military Service Law (25)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		
Compulsory Education Age	No	12‡	Articles 8 and 17 of the Basic Law of the Education System (26)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 7 of the Basic Law of the Education System (26)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (26,27)

During the reporting period, the government drafted legislation to protect human trafficking victims, including children, through all stages of an investigation and the prosecution of cases. (28) The Penal Code, approved in January 2019, criminalizes the use of children for the production of pornography; however, it does not prohibit the procuring or offering of a child for the production of pornography, or the use, procuring, or offering of a child for pornographic performances. (23) Although the list of hazardous activities and occupations prohibited for children identifies 57 activities that are prohibited for children, the legislation does not include diamond mining, a sector in which there is evidence of work conducted underground. (9,14)

Ending compulsory education at age 12 leaves children ages 12 and 13 vulnerable to child labor because they are not required to attend school, but they also are not legally permitted to work. (26,27) In addition, this age conflicts with the National Development Plan (2018–2022), which sets the compulsory education age at 14. (29)

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 Ministry of Public Administration, Labor, and Social Security (MAPTSS) that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Public Administration, Labor, and Social Security	Enforces laws against child labor. Fines employers or sends cases to the Ministry of Interior for further investigation and to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for prosecution. (7) Employs labor inspectors nationwide to carry out inspections and joint operations with social services providers. (30)
National Children's Institute (INAC)	Receives complaints about cases of child exploitation, including child labor. Conducts inspections and responds to reports of child labor. (7,11)
Ministry of Interior's National Police	Enforces criminal laws and conducts operations and investigations related to the worst forms of child labor. (7) Through its Criminal Investigation Services, collaborates with the Juvenile Court on child labor, child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and illicit recruitment investigations. (11)
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	Investigates and prosecutes the worst forms of child labor. (7)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in Angola took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the framework of the MAPTSS that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including the allocation of human resources.

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Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown	Unknown (11)
Number of Labor Inspectors	135 (9)	117 (11)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (31)	Yes (11)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	5,384 (9)	4,871 (11)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown (11)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	5 (9)	395 (13,32)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	0 (9)	Unknown (11)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	N/A	Unknown (11)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (11)

The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Angola's workforce, which includes approximately 12.51 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, Angola would employ about 313 labor inspectors. (9,33-35)

During the reporting period, the government aggressively targeted forced labor in the artisanal diamond mining trade by closing informal diamond trading houses and unlicensed artisanal mine operations. In addition, it established new regulations to license artisanal mines that aim to reduce the demand for forced labor in the sector. (28)

Inspectors from the MAPTSS work with the National Children's Institute (INAC) and the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and the Promotion of Women (MASFAMU) to ensure that child labor victims receive the appropriate social services. (9)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in Angola 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 allocation of financial resources.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A (11)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Yes (11)
Number of Investigations	2 (36)	9 (28)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	5 (37)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	5 (37)
Number of Convictions	Unknown	9 (28)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (28)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (11)

In 2018, the government investigated nine human trafficking cases, six of which originated in Cunene Province, which borders Namibia. They involved 21 victims, mostly Angolan minors, and an unspecified number of Angolan and Namibian perpetrators. (28) In addition, the government secured nine convictions during the reporting period, involving adults and children being trafficked to Namibia for forced labor. The Governments of Angola and Portugal cooperated on one case of three minors, two boys and a girl, who were trafficked by two Angolan men, who were subsequently convicted by a Portuguese court. (28) In addition, the government deployed the Southern African Development Community Trafficking in Persons regional database, which collects national data to facilitate the development and implementation of policies and programs to combat human trafficking. (28)

The Ministry of Interior refers victims of the worst forms of child labor to INAC and the MASFAMU to receive social services. (9,38) Reports indicate that the government assisted 35 human trafficking victims during the reporting period, the majority of whom were children. (28)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including efforts to address all forms of child labor.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons	Coordinates enforcement efforts on human trafficking, including child trafficking for labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Led by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. (39) Continued to meet periodically during the reporting period. (2) Worked on the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons. (28)
National Council for Social Action	Promotes and defends children's rights through social consultation and monitoring of public policies. Led by the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and the Promotion of Women (MASFAMU). (31,40) Research was unable to determine activities undertaken by the National Council for Social Action during the reporting period.
MASFAMU	Ensures coordination among various government agencies related to social welfare and victim protection. (7,36) A network of institutions and shelters protect children from abusive, exploitative, and dangerous situations. (41) In 2018, launched the National Plan of Action to Eradicate Child Labor. (2,28)
INAC	Coordinates child protective services. Works with MASFAMU to provide shelter and helps reintegrate children found in child labor situations, with their families. (36) In 2018, conducted a seminar on Child Victims of Human Trafficking and Child Labor. (28)

Despite the existence of the Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the government faces challenges aggregating and synthesizing data on human trafficking cases. (28) Research shows that there is no specific coordinating mechanism dedicated solely to addressing issues related to the worst forms of child labor outside the scope of human trafficking.

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor (2018–2022)†	Aims to eliminate child labor by strengthening the rights of children, including increasing access to education, and mapping areas and types of child labor found across the country to better inform relevant policies to combat child labor. (42)
Plan of Action and Intervention Against the Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children	Aims to protect and defend the rights of child victims of sexual and economic exploitation, including by providing rehabilitation. (43) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Plan of Action and Intervention Against the Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children during the reporting period.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (29,44)

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Reports indicate the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons remained in draft form during the reporting year. (28)

Although the government has adopted the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor, research indicates lack of funding hindered its implementation during the reporting period. (11)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2018, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the adequacy of programs to address the full scope of the problem.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Social Protection Programs†	National network of child support centers implemented by the government, in coordination with NGOs, that offer meals, shelter, basic education, and family reunification services to crime victims, including child trafficking victims. MASFAMU and the Organization of Angolan Women operate 52 children's shelters. (36,45) In 2018, MASFAMU, along with partners, held a workshop aimed at framing an integrated and inclusive Social Protection program, in accordance with the new guidelines of the National Development Plan (2018–2022). This program provides financial support for families in situations of social vulnerability, particularly those with children under age 5. (13)
Birth Registration and Justice for Children†	Government-run program making birth registration free for all Angolan citizens. In 2018, continued to expand its birth registration goals through the campaign "Registered at Birth," launched in July 2017, with the aim of automatically registering all children born in maternity wards. (46) Currently 118,000 children have been registered. (46) Program also launched a campaign encouraging fathers to register their children. (47,48)
UNICEF Country Program (2015–2019)	UNICEF program, in coordination with the government, designed to plan and implement education and child protection-focused interventions. (49) Collaborates with the government to run a child helpline in Luanda Province. (50) During the reporting period, in flood-affected communities, 839 children accessed education services through the provision of UNICEF tents, recreational kits, and school kits for children in Bié, Cunene, and Huila provinces. (13,51)
National Institutes of Job and Professional Training†	Government-funded program of 555 centers that provide professional training for youth so that they have the skills to enter the formal labor market. (7,52) Reports indicate a merging of government training centers across the country during the reporting period, due to the financial crisis. It is unknown how many centers remain open. (53)
Mobile Schools and Free Meals for Children†	Ministry of Education program that provides education in mobile schools to migrant children who work with their parents in cattle herding. Specifically targets children at the highest risk of involvement in child labor in southern Angola. (7) Supports some mobile schools with kitchens, which facilitate the free school meals program. (7,54) In 2018, the program continued to be introduced in schools throughout the country. (55,56)

† Program is funded by the Government of Angola.

Although Angola has implemented programs that target child labor, the scope of these programs is insufficient to fully address the extent of the problem. Furthermore, research did not identify programs that seek to reach children engaged in certain worst forms of child labor, such as commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.

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 Angola (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the law prohibits hazardous occupations or activities for children in all relevant sectors in Angola, including diamond mining.	2011 – 2018
	Ensure that the legal framework prohibits the procuring and offering of children for the production of pornography, and the use, procuring, and offering of a child for pornographic performances.	2018
	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups.	2016 – 2018

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Increase the compulsory education age to 14 to be consistent with the National Development Plan and the minimum age for work.	2009 – 2018
Enforcement	Publish information regarding the labor inspectorate's funding and the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites, and the number of child labor violations for which penalties were imposed and collected.	2011 – 2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice.	2009 – 2018
Coordination	Establish coordinating mechanisms to combat all forms of child labor.	2016 – 2018
	Increase the capacity to aggregate and synthesize data on human trafficking cases.	2018
	Ensure that the National Council for Social Action, responsible for the monitoring of public policies related to promoting and defending children's rights, is active and capable of adhering to its mandate.	2018
Government Policies	Ensure that the Plan of Action and Intervention Against the Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children is effectively implemented.	2014 – 2018
	Ensure that the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labor has sufficient funds for implementation.	2018
	Ensure that the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons is approved and implemented.	2018
Social Programs	Develop and expand existing social programs to ensure that all children have access to education and are not restricted by informal fees, lack of birth certificates, lack of teachers, or poor school infrastructure.	2013 – 2018
	Institute programs that target children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, and expand existing programs to address the scope of the child labor problem.	2010 – 2018

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