

In 2014, Saint Lucia made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government ratified the UNC CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict. The Government funded training workshops on human trafficking for Government and NGO officials and continued to fund education initiatives, including after-school programs, transportation subsidies, and school meals. However, although research is limited, children in Saint Lucia are reported to engage in child labor in agriculture and in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation. Saint Lucia also continues to face legislative gaps. The law does not fully protect children from illicit activities, and the Government has not adopted a list of hazardous activities prohibited for children. Further, Saint Lucia has not conducted research to assess the nature and scope of child labor.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Although limited, research shows that children in Saint Lucia are engaged in child labor in agriculture and are engaged in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation.(1-3) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Saint Lucia. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	7.5
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	99.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	8.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		91.6

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2012, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(4)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from MICS 4 Survey, 2012.(5)

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	Agriculture, harvesting bananas* (6-8)
	Selling food and handcrafts in markets* and street vending* (3, 6, 7)
Services	Washing cars* (3)
	Domestic work, cooking, laundry, and other household activities* (3, 9)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation* (1, 2, 10)

* Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown.







‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a) – (c) of ILO C. 182.

Limited evidence indicates that children are sometimes engaged in commercial sexual exploitation with the knowledge or encouragement of parents in situations of financial need.(1) Saint Lucia lacks data on the prevalence of child labor, and especially on the worst forms of child labor, including human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.(11)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Saint Lucia has ratified most 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	✓

In 2014, the Government of Saint Lucia ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict.(12)

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 122 of the Labor Code; Article 122 of the Labor Code Amendment Act (13, 14)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Articles 2 and 23 of the Employees (Occupational Health and Safety) Act (15)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	No		
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 4 of the Constitution; Article 6 of the Labor Code (13, 16)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Article 5 of the Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 (17)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 126-127, 129, and 141 of the Criminal Code; Articles 2 and 5 of the Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 (17, 18)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*†		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	N/A†		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15	Article 27 of the Education Act (19)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 16 of the Education Act (19)

* No conscription (20)

† No standing military (20)

Article 23 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act prohibits the employment of persons under age 18 in industrial undertakings, which may include working with machinery and in extreme temperatures.(6, 15, 21) However, Article 23 states that young persons who have attained the age of 16 but not yet 18 may engage in these activities if they are supervised as part of an apprenticeship or vocational training program.(15) This provision may expose these children to hazardous work. In addition, research found no evidence that the Government has determined hazardous occupations or activities prohibited for children working in non-industrial sectors.(22, 23)

Research found no evidence that Saint Lucia has laws that prohibit the use of children in illicit activities, such as drug trafficking.(11, 23)

Saint Lucia does not have a standing military; the police force is responsible for the security of the country. The minimum age for recruitment to the police force is 18.(7, 20)

Article 16 of the Education Act guarantees free tuition for children attending public institutions. However, other unspecified charges may be applied if approved by the Education Minister.(19)

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).

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry for Education, Human Resource Development, and Labor	Enforce laws on child labor, in part through labor inspections conducted by its Department of Labor.(7, 11, 23)
Royal Saint Lucia Police Force	Enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor. Contains a Vulnerable Persons Unit that investigates cases of child labor, abuse, and neglect, and works in collaboration with the Division of Human Services.(6, 22, 24) Uses a specific manual for the investigation of crimes related to children.(7)
Office of Gender Relations	Provide referrals to trafficking victims for health and legal services.(10)

Law enforcement agencies in Saint Lucia took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms.

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2014, Saint Lucia's seven labor inspectors conducted general labor inspections, during which they looked for indications of child labor. Reports indicate that labor inspectors did not receive specific training on child labor.(3) No information is available on the number of inspections carried out during the reporting period; however, no child labor violations were found during inspections. Inspectors are allowed to conduct unannounced inspections.(3) Inspectorates recommend penalties and the Labor Commissioner assesses the fines.(3)

Criminal Law Enforcement

No information is available on the number of investigators responsible for enforcing criminal laws on the worst forms of child labor. The Government funded a training workshop, led by the International Organization for Migration on human trafficking, for 32 participants from 20 government ministries and NGOs. During the first quarter of 2014, 130 police officers were trained in human trafficking laws and on how to coordinate and address trafficking-in-persons' issues with other organizations.(2)

During the reporting period, the Government initiated two sex trafficking cases, and in March 2014, the Government identified four potential trafficking victims, a significant increase from 2013 in which there were no cases initiated or victims identified.(2) No information is available regarding whether the Government issued penalties in these cases. (3, 10)

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

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations	Coordinate investigations of child labor cases in collaboration with the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, using established protocols.(7)
Trafficking in Persons Task Force	Coordinate the detection and referral of trafficking-in-persons cases among law enforcement, social service, and immigration officials pursuant to the Counter-Trafficking Act.(7, 17) Currently, developing a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons with the participation of the International Organization for Migration.(10)
Office of Gender Relations	Provide referrals to trafficking victims for health and legal services.(9)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government of Saint Lucia has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 7).

Table 7. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
ILO Decent Work Country Program for Saint Lucia (2010-2015)	Promotes economic development and legislative strengthening in Saint Lucia that is consistent with international labor standards, including those on child labor.(25)

There are no policies that address the worst forms of child labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2014, the Government of Saint Lucia funded programs that may have an impact on child labor. (Table 8)

Table 8. Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Education programming*‡	Government-funded education program that fosters school attendance by providing a book bursary, school meal program, and transit subsidy program at most secondary schools.(7)
Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth and Sports after-school programming*‡	Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth and Sports program that improves academic performance and maintains school attendance among underprivileged children between the ages of 8 and 16 years by providing after-school activities, including assistance with homework and various recreational activities.(3, 24)
Shelters for trafficking victims*‡	Government shelters that provide assistance for trafficking victims, including male children.(2)
Girls' shelter*‡	Government-funded NGO shelter for girls.(2)

*The impact of this program on child labor does not appear to have been studied.

‡ Program is funded by the Government of Saint Lucia.

No information is available on whether the Government-funded NGO shelter assisted trafficking victims during the reporting year.(2)

Research found no evidence of programs to specifically address children found in child labor in agriculture and in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation.

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 Saint Lucia (Table 9).

Table 9. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that hazardous work is prohibited for all children under the age of 18.	2013 – 2014
	Determine hazardous occupations or activities prohibited for children in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations.	2009 – 2014
	Ensure that laws prohibit procuring or offering a child for illicit activities, including drug trafficking and production.	2011 – 2014
	Ensure that laws prohibit any discretionary approval of monetary charges at public schools and assisted private schools.	2013 – 2014
Enforcement	Expand child labor and human trafficking training to all relevant authorities.	2014
	Make the information on the number of inspections for child labor and their results publicly available.	2012 – 2014
	Make the information on the number of criminal investigators publicly available and ensure that criminal law enforcement agencies investigate the worst forms of child labor and make their results publicly available.	2011 – 2014

Table 9. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms (cont)

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Government Policies	Adopt policies that specifically address the worst forms of child labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2010 – 2014
Social Programs	Conduct a comprehensive study of children's activities to determine whether they are engaged in or at risk for involvement in child labor.	2009 – 2014
	Determine the impact of educational and after-school programs on child labor.	2011 – 2014
	Determine the number of child trafficking victims assisted in the shelters.	2014
	Design and implement social programs that specifically target and assist children engaged in child labor in agriculture and in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation.	2013 – 2014

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