

In 2018, Algeria made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. In addition to conducting routine labor inspections, the government conducted a dedicated period of inspections focused solely on child labor, and achieved 98 convictions. The National Committee for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons held six public events to raise awareness on human trafficking and training sessions for law enforcement and judicial personnel. The government also altered policy regarding labor law enforcement, allowing labor inspectors to assess penalties on those who violated labor laws. However, children in Algeria engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and forced begging, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous street work tasks. The government has not sufficiently prohibited the use of children in illicit activities or determined by national law or regulation the types of work that are hazardous for children to perform. Furthermore, the government's number of labor inspectors is not in accordance with the ILO's technical advice to ensure that child labor laws are enforced in all geographic areas.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Algeria engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and forced begging, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous street work tasks. (1-3) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Algeria.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	6.7 (413,729)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	92.3
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	7.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		105.6

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2017, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (4)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4, 2012–2013. (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	Farming, including harvesting olives (1,6-10)
Industry	Construction, activities unknown (2,6,7,9,11)
Services	Street work, including vending, collecting plastics, and begging (2,3,6,7,10,12-16)
	Domestic work (1,2,11)
	Working in small workshops and businesses, including mechanics' shops (6,8,10,11)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2,7,15)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking (9)
	Forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (11-13,15)
	Forced domestic work, including drawing water from wells, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (15)

‡ 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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Evidence suggests that children, primarily unaccompanied sub-Saharan migrants, are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and forced domestic work, including sexual abuse at the hands of smugglers and traffickers, confiscation of passports, and withheld pay. (2,10,17-19) The government reported that child labor was most prevalent in the provinces of Algiers, Batna, Constantine, and Oran, and was often part-time and informal in nature, with some migrant children working in small-scale family-run businesses, such as restaurants or small stores. (10,11,20) Research could not find a current and comprehensive study on the activities and scope of the child labor situation in Algeria.

The Algerian public education system is free and open to all children, regardless of ethnicity and nationality. Non-Algerian children must provide documentation of grade level or sit for testing to determine their level. (10,11,21) There are no laws or regulations that prevent access to school, although there are reports of isolated cases of migrant children without valid documentation being denied enrollment and reported to authorities. (10) Many children with disabilities do not have the opportunity to access mainstream education because of social stigma, the relatively low number of teachers with specialized training, the lack of a transportation system for children with disabilities, and the limited accessibility of school buildings. In addition, an estimated 300,000 children remain outside formal schooling and 500,000 high school-age children are at risk of dropping out due to pressures stemming from barriers to education. (10,21) Barriers to education, including those placed on migrant children and children with disabilities, result in absence from school and increased vulnerability to child labor. (10,19,20)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Algeria 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 Algeria's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the lack of a prohibition against using children in illicit activities.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Article 15 of the Labor Code; Article 7 of Executive Decree No. 96-98 on the List and Content of Special Books and Registers Mandatory for Employers (22,23)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 15 of the Labor Code; Article 7 of Executive Decree No. 96-98 on the List and Content of Special Books and Registers Mandatory for Employers (22)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	No		
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 303 bis 4 of the Penal Code (24)

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

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 303 <i>bis</i> 4 and 319 of the Penal Code (24)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 319, 333 <i>bis</i> 1, 343, and 344 of the Penal Code (24)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		Article 195 <i>bis</i> of the Penal Code (24)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	17	Article 14 of Presidential Decree No. 08-134 on the National People's Army (25)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Article 3 of Law No. 14-06 on National Service (26)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Article 12 of Law No. 08-04 on National Education (27)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 13 of Law No. 08-04 on National Education (27)

The Labor Code prohibits anyone under age 19 from working at night and anyone under age 18 from performing work that is harmful to their health, safety, or morals. Algeria has not determined by national law or regulation the types of work that are hazardous for children; however, the government commission tasked with proposing a list of hazardous professions continues to work on this issue. (2,3,10,22,28,29) Algerian law does not provide increased penalties for or categorize as a separate crime the involvement of children in either the production or trafficking of drugs. (24)

Despite a drafted bill, research was unable to determine further efforts related to the revision of the Labor Code. (10)

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 authority of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security (MTESS)	Enforces labor laws, including laws related to child labor, through its General Labor Inspectorate; distributes written notices and issues tickets in response to violations; and refers violations to the Ministry of Justice. (6,21) Supervises the application of laws and regulations related to labor relations, working conditions, and worker safety. (9) Shares child labor reports with the Ministry of National Solidarity to ensure follow up with social services. (9,12)
Ministry of the Interior and Local Assemblies	Enforce criminal laws related to child trafficking through the Directorate General for National Security, which comprises 8 active brigades of 77 specialized police officers, focused on illegal immigration and human trafficking, and 50 brigades of 300 police officers, specializing in the protection of children. (9,15,20,30)
Ministry of National Defense	Enforces criminal laws pertaining to child labor, including child trafficking, in rural and border regions through the National Gendarmerie. (14) Works with the Directorate General for National Security and NGO Algerian Network for the Defense of Children's Rights to administer hotlines for the reporting of child abuse. (12,30-32)
Ministry of Justice	Prosecutes child exploitation cases, including those related to non-compliance with labor laws, through its Office of Criminal Affairs and Amnesty Procedures, which is the lead enforcement agency for human trafficking issues. (31)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in Algeria took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However,

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gaps exist within the authority of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including the insufficient number of labor inspectors relative to the size of Algeria's workforce.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$17,600,000 (11)	\$15,900,000 (10)
Number of Labor Inspectors	645 (11)	645 (10)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (11)	Yes (33)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A (11)	N/A (10)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	11,419 (11)	254,453 (10)
Number Conducted at Worksite	11,419 (11)	176,254 (10)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	141 (11)	4 (10)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (11)	4 (10)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (11)	Unknown (10)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (11)	Yes (33)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (11)	Yes (10)

The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Algeria's workforce, which includes more than 11.8 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, Algeria would employ roughly 788 inspectors, notably in all geographic areas of the country, both urban and rural. (10,34,35) Algeria currently employs 645 inspectors. Labor inspections in Algeria focus mainly on the formal economy; visits to the informal sector generally involve work to formalize an enterprise. (10,36)

In March 2018, during a dedicated period of inspections focused on child labor, the Government of Algeria identified four children working below the minimum age and subsequently removed those children from work and placed them in vocational training. In 2018, the ILO, in conjunction with the Government of Algeria, conducted a workshop for approximately 30 labor inspectors to help them understand and measure the informal economy. (10) The government reported conducting 254,453 total labor inspections in 2018, in contrast with last year's figure of 11,419, which referenced only child labor inspections as opposed to total inspections. (10,33,36)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in Algeria 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 the lack of published information on the number of criminal investigations and violations found related to child labor.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A (11)	N/A (10)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (11)	Yes (10)
Number of Investigations	Unknown (11)	Unknown (10)

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (Cont.)

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Number of Violations Found	Unknown (11)	Unknown (10)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	79 (11)	108 (10)
Number of Convictions	58 (11)	98 (10)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown (36)	Unknown (36)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (11)	Yes (10)

In 2018, the government convicted 98 persons of crimes related to the worst forms of child labor, 20 of whom were sentenced to prison terms, 54 of whom received fines, and 24 of whom received suspended sentences. (10) During the reporting period, the National Gendarmerie held one course on child trafficking, seven seminars on victim identification and the protection of children, and one national day of study for officers on victim identification and protection. (19) The government has an ad hoc practice in place for law enforcement personnel to refer potential victims of human trafficking to the prosecutor, who notifies social services, as needed. (9,11,15,30)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8).

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Authority for the Protection and Promotion of Children (ONPPE)	Protects and promotes children's rights and provides advocacy for children in danger of economic exploitation. Acts as a liaison between the Ministry of Justice and members of the public alleging violations of children's rights. Oversees efforts of the National Commission for the Prevention of and Fight Against Child Labor. (2,9,10,30,37,38) Runs a national hotline and website to field questions and complaints about the mistreatment of children, with an average of more than 2,000 calls daily; however, since April 2018, only 712 calls were related to actual infringements of child rights. (10,39) In 2018, ONPPE conducted training sessions for judges on the protection of childhood and the involvement of children in judicial proceedings; workshops for governmental ministries; and training for members of the Algerian media on the protection and promotion of the rights of children. (10)
National Committee for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons	Monitors implementation of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons. Comprises representatives from the President's Office; the Prime Minister's Office; 12 ministries, including the MTESS; and other government entities. (9,37,40,41) In 2018, the Committee held six public events to raise awareness on human trafficking and training sessions for law enforcement and judicial personnel; however, there was no evidence of continued progress on a comprehensive anti-trafficking in persons bill to strengthen existing laws. (19,37)
National Commission for the Prevention of and Fight Against Child Labor	Prevents and eliminates child labor by coordinating government ministries and all other agencies that oversee labor activities. (6,32) Led by the MTESS, with members from the National Labor Union, NGOs, and nine other governmental agencies. (32,42) In 2018, research indicated that although the Commission continued to operate, ONPPE's role as the main hub of all issues concerning child protection, including issues of child labor, is expanding. (33)

The National Committee for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons held the first of four planned national meetings on human trafficking in the southern province of Adrar. The event included participation by 80 representatives from local authorities, elected officials, and civil society. (19,33,37)

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 no evidence of a policy regarding other worst forms of child labor beyond the government's policy related to trafficking in persons.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Action Plan for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons	Aims to prevent and reduce human trafficking by raising awareness of the issue, strengthening legislation, prosecuting human trafficking crimes, improving the provision of protective services to victims, and increasing collaboration with national and international NGOs. (9,15) In 2018, the National Committee for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons organized a Day of Awareness for civil society figures on the role of civil society in combating child trafficking, while the National Gendarmerie held one course on child trafficking and seven seminars on victim identification and the protection of children for internal agency officials. (36)

Although the Government of Algeria has adopted the National Action Plan for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons, research found no evidence of a policy regarding the worst forms of child labor. Nevertheless, the government is working on a national plan to address child labor issues; specifically, the Government of Algeria intends to launch an anti-begging campaign, which will commence in 2019. (10,43) The government has also formed a commission to draft a national action plan to address issues of begging. (37)

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
Child Labor Awareness Campaign†	Through ONPPE and other government agencies, the government makes various efforts to raise awareness about child labor. In 2018, the government organized an awareness-raising event in partnership with UNICEF on the dangers of child labor in the informal economy. (37)
Children Assistance Facilities‡	The government operates 53 children assistance facilities to provide support for children, namely orphans and children in dangerous situations who are taken into custody by the state. In the first half of 2018, these shelters provided services to 4,925 children. (37)

† Program is funded by the Government of Algeria.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms. (11,14,37)

Although Algeria has programs that target child labor, the scope of these programs is insufficient to fully address the extent of the problem, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children, forced begging, and street work.

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 Algeria (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that laws prohibit the use of children in all illicit activities, including using, procuring, and offering children for the production and trafficking of drugs.	2013 – 2018
	Determine the types of hazardous work prohibited for children under age 18, in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations.	2009 – 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
Enforcement	Publish information on the enforcement of child labor laws, including the number of penalties collected and the number of criminal investigations, violations, and penalties imposed.	2009 – 2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors in accordance with the ILO's technical advice and ensure that child labor laws are enforced in all geographic areas, including the informal sector.	2009 – 2018
Government Policies	Adopt a policy that includes all relevant worst forms of child labor, such as commercial sexual exploitation, forced begging, and street work.	2015 – 2018
Social Programs	Research and publish information on children involved in child labor, or at risk of being involved; specify these activities and publish information to inform policies.	2014 – 2018
	Take measures to remove barriers to accessing education, namely transportation and accessibility to schools, particularly for migrant children and children with disabilities.	2015 – 2018
	Expand existing programs to address the scope of the child labor problem, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children, forced begging, and street work.	2016 – 2018
	Ensure that isolated cases of school administrators denying enrollment to migrant children are stopped in accordance with laws allowing for free public education for all children.	2018

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