

In 2015, Saint Lucia made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government drafted a National Action Plan to address human trafficking, developed standard operating procedures for the National Inter-Agency Task Force, and funded human trafficking training workshops for enforcement and NGO officials. However, although research is limited, children in Saint Lucia are engaged in child labor in agriculture and in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation. Saint Lucia also continues to face legislative gaps. The law does not fully protect children from illicit activities.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Although research is limited, there is evidence that children are engaged in child labor in agriculture and the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation in Saint Lucia.(1, 2) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Saint Lucia.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	7.5 (2,017)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	99.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	8.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		107.6

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2007, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(3)

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

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 bananas* (5, 6)
Services	Street vending,* including selling food and handicrafts in markets* (2, 7)
	Washing cars* (2)
	Domestic work* (7, 8)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor†	Commercial sexual exploitation* (9, 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 sometimes engage in commercial sexual exploitation with the knowledge or encouragement of parents in situations of financial need.(11) Saint Lucia lacks current data on the prevalence of child labor, including its worst forms.(12)



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	✓

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor (cont)

	Convention	Ratification
	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, 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 (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	Yes		Article 23 of the Employees (Occupational Health and Safety) Act (15)
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 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 Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 (17, 18)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		Articles 141 and 560 of the Criminal Code (18)
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 Employees (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. While this Act permits young persons between the ages of 16 and 18 to engage in industrial undertakings if they are supervised as part of an apprenticeship or vocational training program, it does not specify the procedures required for protecting the health, safety and morals of children engaged in these activities. (15) This provision may expose these children to hazardous work. In addition, although the Criminal Code prohibits the use of children in some illicit activities, including commercial sexual exploitation and street work, the use of children for the production and trafficking of drugs is not criminally prohibited. (18)

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 of Education, Human Resource Development, and Labor	Enforce laws on child labor, in part through labor inspections conducted by its Department of Labor. (5, 12, 21)
Royal Saint Lucia Police Force	Enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor. The Vulnerable Persons Unit investigates cases of child labor, abuse, and neglect, and work in collaboration with the Division of Human Services. (7, 22, 23) Use a specific manual for the investigation of crimes related to children. (5)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in Saint Lucia took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

	2014	2015
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown* (2)	Unknown* (7)
Number of Labor Inspectors	7 (2)	9 (7)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (24)	No (24)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	No (24)
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
■ Refresher Courses Provided	No (2)	No (7)
Number of Labor Inspections	Unknown	300 (24)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	0 (2)	0 (7)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A (2)	N/A (7)
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	N/A	N/A (7)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (2)	Yes (7)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	No (2)	No (7)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (2)	Yes (7)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (2)	Yes (7)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (2)	Yes (7)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (2)	Yes (7)

*The Government does not make this information publicly available.

Government sources report that funding for the Labor Inspectorate is inadequate.(7)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in Saint Lucia took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 7).

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

	2014	2015
Training for Investigators		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Yes (24)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (2)	Yes (11)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	0 (11)
Number of Violations Found	0 (2)	0 (11)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	0 (2)	0 (11)
Number of Convictions	0 (2)	0 (11)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (2)	Yes (11)

In 2015, the Government developed four referral mechanisms to guide law enforcement officials in transferring human trafficking victims to care facilities. One of the mechanisms specifies the referral process for child trafficking victims.(11) During the reporting period, the Government provided training to police officers on providing assistance to human trafficking victims.(11)

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 8).

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Table 8. 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 and ensure the use of established protocols in collaboration with the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force.(5)
Trafficking in Persons Task Force	Coordinate the identification and referral of human trafficking cases among law enforcement, social service, and immigration officials pursuant to the Counter-Trafficking Act. Comprised of public servants, police, and victim services NGOs.(5, 17) In 2015, drafted the Basic Guiding Principles for Counter-Human Trafficking Efforts of the National Inter-Agency Task Force, a standard operating procedures and terms of reference guide.(11) Also worked to develop a National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking with the participation of the IOM.(9)
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 9).

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Social Protection Policy (2014-2024)*†	Establishes a social protection system, which includes social security, by consolidating the Social Safety Net programs. The Ministry of Social Transformation in the Secretariat and Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Social Security is responsible for financial coordination; Parliament provides oversight.(7, 25) Child protection policies are incorporated into poverty reduction concepts and promote access to education. In 2015, the plan was finalized with assistance from UNICEF and UN Women.(7, 25)
ILO Decent Work Country Program for Saint Lucia (2010–2015)*	Promoted economic development and legislative strengthening in Saint Lucia that is consistent with international labor standards, including those on child labor.(26)

*Child labor elimination and prevention strategies do not appear to have been integrated into this policy.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In 2015, the IOM and the Trafficking in Persons Task Force drafted a National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking, which was submitted to the Cabinet and is pending approval.(11)

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 2015, the Government of Saint Lucia funded programs that may contribute to the prevention or elimination of child labor (Table 10).

Table 10. Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
St. Lucia Social Development Fund†	Education program that foster school attendance by providing a book bursaries, school meals, and transit subsidies at most secondary schools.(7)
Community Empowerment's Community After School Program†	Afterschool program that aims to improve academic performance and maintain school attendance among underprivileged children ages 8–16 by assisting with homework and various recreational activities.(2, 7, 22)
Upton Garden Girls Center†	Center that provides education, training, and self-development services to adolescent girls.(7)
Center for Adolescent Renewal and Education†	Center that provides second-chance education, training, and self-development services to adolescents.(7)
Programs to Assist Trafficking Victims†	Government-funded programs to assist human trafficking victims and provide shelter for trafficking victims, including male children.(10) In 2015, the Government provided \$162,800 to procure care for victims of human trafficking.(11)

† Program is funded by the Government of Saint Lucia.

Research found no evidence of any programs with the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms.

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the law specifies procedures for protecting the health, safety, and morals of children between ages 16 and 18, who are engaged in hazardous work as part of apprenticeship or vocational training programs.	2015
	Ensure that laws prohibit procuring or offering a child for illicit activities, including drug trafficking and production.	2011 – 2015
Enforcement	Collect and make publically available information on Labor Inspectorate funding.	2012 – 2015
	Ensure that new labor inspectors receive training on child labor law enforcement and refresher courses are provided for all labor inspectors.	2015
	Strengthen the Labor Inspectorate by initiating targeted inspections based on analysis of data related to risk-prone sectors and patterns of serious incidents.	2015
	Ensure that the Labor Inspectorate receives adequate funding for conducting labor inspections.	2015
Government Policies	Ensure that child labor elimination and prevention strategies are integrated into economic development and social protection policies.	2015
	Adopt a policy that addresses all relevant worst forms of child labor, such as the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2010 – 2015
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 – 2015
	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 – 2015

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