

Seychelles

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Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Percent
Working	Unavailable
Attending School	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	Unavailable

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence of the worst forms of child labor in the country.⁴⁴⁶³ Notwithstanding the absence of a demonstrated problem, the National Statistics Bureau began training officers in 2009 to help establish official statistics and documentation on human trafficking.⁴⁴⁶⁴


Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles sets the minimum age for work at 15 and provides for a higher minimum age for employment deemed dangerous, unhealthy, or otherwise harmful to normal childhood development.⁴⁴⁶⁵ The Conditions of Employment Regulations, 1991 specify that children under age 18 are prohibited from engaging in certain types of employment and night work, though children ages 15 to 17 may do so with the approval of a Competent Officer.⁴⁴⁶⁶ The Government has not developed a comprehensive list of hazardous work prohibited to children under age 18.⁴⁴⁶⁷

The International Trade Zone (Conditions of Employment) Order 17 governs employment conditions in international trade zones. It too prohibits



the employment of children younger than age 15.⁴⁴⁶⁸ It does not contain any provision prohibiting children from engaging in hazardous work.

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Constitution provides for freedom from slavery, servitude, and forced or obligatory labor.⁴⁴⁶⁹ The Penal

Code Act criminalizes the prostitution and sexual exploitation of children.⁴⁴⁷⁰ Specific provisions prohibit the trafficking of girls, domestically or internationally, for the purposes of prostitution and make it illegal to procure or detain any girl against her will, with the intent to engage in sexual conduct or for the purposes of prostitution. These provisions do not cover boys.⁴⁴⁷¹ Other provisions prohibit anyone from benefiting from the procurement or exploitation of any person for the purposes of prostitution and make it illegal to recruit or exploit persons under age 21 for the same purposes.⁴⁴⁷² The Penal Code also prohibits the production or possession of indecent material of a child, or exhibition of indecent material to a child.⁴⁴⁷³

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for a coordinating mechanism to address the worst forms of child labor. The National Council for Children, a government-funded NGO, advocates for children's interests and rights through awareness-raising activities and by providing training and counseling.⁴⁴⁷⁴

The Ministry of Employment and Human Resource Development is the primary agency responsible for investigating and enforcing child labor laws. During the reporting period, the Ministry reported no cases of child labor that required investigation, nor were any children found working in key sectors.⁴⁴⁷⁵

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for policies to address the worst forms of child labor. It is noted, however, that the Government has or is developing other social policies that may help prevent this phenomenon. The Government is implementing a National Plan of Action on Social Development for Seychelles 2005-2015, which strives, in part, to prevent the exploitation of children by providing education on children's rights and improving the quality of child protection services.⁴⁴⁷⁶ During the reporting period, the Seychellois National Assembly approved the establishment of a Social Welfare Task Force, which will consider policies to address social issues.⁴⁴⁷⁷

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for programs to address the worst forms of child labor. The Government has implemented some programs to protect children from exploitation and provide them with social services. The Government works to fund child welfare initiatives including the Children's Homes Foundation, which provides housing for orphans and children from families facing financial difficulties, and the Children's Fund, which targets children most in need.⁴⁴⁷⁸ The Government also provides subsidized bus fares for needy students.⁴⁴⁷⁹

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the prevention of the worst forms of child labor in Seychelles:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Develop a comprehensive list of hazardous employment prohibited to all children under age 18.
- Amend International Trade Zone (Conditions of Employment) Order 17 to ensure that child labor laws are consistent with other national laws on the employment of children.
- Amend the Penal Code to prohibit the trafficking of boys, and the procuring or detainment of boys, for the purposes of prostitution.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Consider expanding the work of the National Statistics Bureau to collect data on all worst forms of child labor.

⁴⁴⁶³ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used by USDOL. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. For more information on sources used for these statistics, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the “Children’s Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions” section.

⁴⁴⁶⁴ U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, *reporting*, February 18, 2010.

⁴⁴⁶⁵ Government of Seychelles, *Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles*, (June 18, 1993), article 31; available from <http://www.cmseducation.org/wconsts/seychelles.html>.

⁴⁴⁶⁶ Government of Seychelles, *Conditions of Employment Regulations, 1991*, SI. 34 of 1991, articles 21 and 22; available from <http://www.employment.gov.sc/Documents/Employment%20Act%20Reg-Electronic.pdf>.

⁴⁴⁶⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Seychelles (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2010 [cited July 23, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=24839&chapter=9&query=Seychelles%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Seychelles (ratification: 1999)*, [online] 2010 [cited July 23, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=25342&chapter=9&query=Seychelles%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

⁴⁴⁶⁸ Government of Seychelles, *International Trade Zone (Conditions of Employment) Order, 1997*, SI. 13 of 1997, (February 10), article 17; available from http://www.siba.net/index.php?s=file_download&id=36.

⁴⁴⁶⁹ Government of Seychelles, *Constitution*, article 17.

⁴⁴⁷⁰ Government of Seychelles, “Seychelles,” in *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offences against Children*, 2006; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaSeychelles.pdf>.

⁴⁴⁷¹ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁷² Ibid.

⁴⁴⁷³ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁷⁴ U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, *reporting, February 18, 2010*. See also National Council for Children, *Services*, [online] [cited November 10, 2010]; available from <http://www.ncc.sc/p/services>.

⁴⁴⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State, “Seychelles,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010, section 7; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135974.htm>.

⁴⁴⁷⁶ Government of Seychelles, *National Plan of Action on Social Development, 2005-2015*, Social Development Division, Ministry of Health and Social Services, 2006, 49, 50; available from <http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/NPASD.doc>.

⁴⁴⁷⁷ Office of the President of the Republic of Seychelles, *The State House Newsletter*, 1, 2010; available from http://www.statehouse.gov.sc/index.php?option=com_filecabinet&view=files&id=9&Itemid=74.

⁴⁴⁷⁸ U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, *reporting*, March 25, 2010. See also Children’s Homes Foundation, *What We Do*, [online] March 17, 2008 [cited November 11, 2010]; available from <http://www.childhomesfoundation.org.sc/pages/Homes.aspx>. See also Seychelles NATION, *President Extends Special Fund for School Children*, [online] January 18, 2010 [cited August 3, 2010]; available from <http://www.nation.sc/imprimer.php?art=18283>.

⁴⁴⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Port Louis, *reporting, March 25, 2010*.