



# ALGERIA

## MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

In 2023, Algeria made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The National Authority for the Protection and Promotion of Children launched a mobile phone application to enhance reporting on children in abusive situations, including child labor. The government added eight new schools in rural areas to improve education access. Additionally, in May 2023, a new law was enacted that provides increased penalties for using children to obtain narcotics and psychotropics and criminalizes the exploitation of children in the promotion of narcotics or psychotropics. Despite this endeavor, the law still does not criminalize the production and trafficking of drugs. Gaps remain as the involvement of children in either the production or trafficking of drugs is not criminalized. In addition, the government has not determined by national law or regulation the types of work that are hazardous for children. Moreover, while the labor inspectorate is authorized to conduct inspections in all workplaces, inspectors do not investigate some workplaces, such as informal construction sites, in the absence of a complaint, resulting in instances of child labor going undetected.



## PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

### Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent of Population
Working	5 to 14	3.6% (Unavailable)
Hazardous Work by Children	15 to 17	Unavailable
Attending School	5 to 14	94.8%
Combining Work and School	7 to 14	3.9%

Children in Algeria are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in forced begging. Children also engage in construction and street vending.

### Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity



#### Agriculture

Farming, fishing, and forestry.



#### Industry

Construction.



#### Services

Street work, including vending and begging. Working in small businesses, including mechanics’ shops and restaurants.



#### Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡

Forced begging. Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking.

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



## SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

The suggested government actions below would close gaps USDOL has identified in Algeria’s implementation of its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

### Legal Framework

Increase penalties for, or categorize as a separate crime, the involvement of children in all illicit activities, including using, procuring, and offering children for the production and trafficking of drugs.

Determine the types of hazardous work prohibited for children under age 18, in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations.

Criminally prohibit the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups.

**Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor (cont.)****Enforcement**

Publish information on the labor inspectorate's enforcement of labor laws, including the number of child labor violations for which penalties were imposed and collected.

Publish information on the criminal enforcement of child labor laws, including the number of prosecutions, convictions, and penalties collected for crimes related to the worst forms of child labor.

Conduct labor inspections in all types of workplaces, including informal workplaces, such as construction sites.

Ensure that the number of labor inspections conducted is commensurate to the size of the labor inspectorate to maintain adequate quality and scope of inspections.

**Government Policies**

Adopt a national policy that includes all relevant worst forms of child labor, such as forced begging and street work.

**Social Programs**

Research and publish detailed information on children involved in child labor or at risk of being involved; specify these activities, including those carried out in construction work; and publish information to inform policies.

Expand existing social programs to address the full scope of the child labor problem, including street work and forced begging, particularly among working migrant children.

Take measures to remove barriers to education for migrant children, including language barriers and education documentation, while expanding social programs to address school dropout rates in the southern region of the country.

**CHILDREN AT HIGHER RISK**













Sub-Saharan migrant children, including unaccompanied children, are sometimes exploited through commercial sexual exploitation and forced begging. Refugees and migrants who lack legal documentation, including child migrants from sub-Saharan African countries and those fleeing unrest in neighboring countries, are vulnerable to labor exploitation because Black migrants face widespread social discrimination and barriers to formal employment. As a result, migrants and refugees generally work under informal arrangements, which often allow children to work in exploitive conditions.

**BARRIERS TO EDUCATION ACCESS**

The Algerian public education system is free and compulsory for all children ages 6 to 16, regardless of ethnicity and nationality. Despite universal access to education, schools in the southern regions of Algeria face attendance problems, with some children as young as age 13 or 14 dropping out of school. Non-Algerian children face other barriers to education, such as required documentation of grade level or testing to determine their level. In addition, migrants who do not speak Arabic, the language of instruction, face challenges in the Algerian education system, and some migrant families may also not be familiar with Algerian law granting free education to all children. Despite assistance from international organizations to address documentation barriers, these informal restrictions to education access result in absence from school and contribute to increased vulnerability to child labor.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR**

Algeria has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor. The government has established laws and regulations related to child labor. However, gaps exist in Algeria's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the lack of prohibitions related to the use of children in illicit activities.

Child Labor Laws and Regulations	Meets International Standards	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work, <b>16 Years</b>		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
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work, <b>18 Years</b>		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
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children		
Prohibition of Slavery, Debt Bondage, and Forced Labor		Article 303 <i>bis</i> 4 of the Penal Code
Prohibition of Child Trafficking		Articles 303 <i>bis</i> 4 and 319 <i>bis</i> of the Penal Code; Article 1 and 2(1) of Law No. 23-04 on Trafficking in Persons
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children		Articles 2, 319, 333 <i>bis</i> 1, 343, and 344 of the Penal Code; Article 2(1) of Law No. 23-04 on Trafficking in Persons
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities		Articles 10 and 16 <i>bis</i> of Law No. 23-05 on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment, <b>17 Years</b>		Article 14 of Presidential Decree No. 08-134 on the National People’s Army
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military		Article 3 of Law No. 14-06 on National Service
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups		
Compulsory Education Age, <b>16 Years</b>		Article 12 of Law No. 08-04 on National Education
Free Public Education		Article 13 of Law No. 08-04 on National Education

In 2023, Algeria passed a law penalizing the use of children to acquire or attempt to acquire narcotics or psychotropics, with a fine of approximately \$7,420 to \$14,840 (1,000,000 to 2,000,000 *dinar*). The law also criminalizes the exploitation of minors in the promotion “by any means whatsoever” of narcotics or psychotropics. However, gaps remain as the involvement of children in either the production or trafficking of drugs is not criminalized. Additionally, 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. However, Algeria has not determined by national law or regulation the types of work that are hazardous for children, and research did not determine whether the government commission tasked with proposing a list of hazardous professions continued to work on this issue in 2023.

## ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

In 2023, labor and criminal law enforcement agencies in Algeria took actions to address child labor. However, the lack of authority for labor law enforcement to inspect informal workplaces without a complaint and limited information provided by the government regarding its enforcement efforts make the scope and effectiveness of these efforts difficult to determine.

### Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

**Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security:** Enforces labor laws, including laws related to child labor, through its labor inspectorate. Issues citations and refers violations to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. Also refers children found in child labor to the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and the Condition of Women to ensure follow-up with social services. Chairs the Interministerial

Committee Against Child Labor involving 12 other government ministries and prioritized child labor inspections according to the ministry’s 2023 action plan. However, labor inspectors are not inspecting parts of the informal economy, including informal construction sites, unless a complaint is received. In 2023, labor inspections were conducted in all 58 *wilayas* (states).

**Ministry of Justice:** Prosecutes child exploitation cases through its Office of Criminal Affairs and Amnesty Procedures, the lead enforcement agency for human trafficking issues. During legal proceedings, appoints a special judge familiar with the needs of minors if a child does not have a parent. Also directs the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and the Condition of Women to conduct investigations into issues related to children and families. The ministry can also assign investigations to the Directorate General for National Security or the National Gendarmerie, who are responsible for criminal investigations.

**Enforcement Mechanisms and Efforts**

Has a Labor Inspectorate	Yes	Has a Complaint Mechanism	Yes
Able to Assess Civil Penalties	Yes	Imposed Penalties for Child Labor Violations	Unknown
Routinely Conducted Worksite Inspections	Yes	Conducted Criminal Investigations for Worst Forms of Child Labor Crimes	Yes
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes	Imposed Penalties for Worst Forms of Child Labor Crimes	Unknown

In 2023, **725** labor inspectors conducted **241,625** worksite inspections, finding **53** child labor violations. The government also conducted **26** investigations into suspected worst forms of child labor crimes, although the number of prosecutions initiated and perpetrators convicted is **unknown**.



**COORDINATION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS**

<p><b>Key Mechanism to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor</b></p> <p>Algeria established a mechanism to coordinate its efforts to address child labor.</p>	<p><b>National Commission for the Prevention of and Fight Against Child Labor:</b> Under the direction of the National Authority for the Protection and Promotion of Children (ONPPE), protects and promotes children’s rights and advocates 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. As of 2023, their online platform contained 175 organizations working on child protection issues. ONPPE representatives work with 16 ministry departments who meet at least monthly and run a national hotline and website to field questions and complaints about the mistreatment of children. In 2023, created a new mobile application to complement the work of the hotline.</p>
<p><b>Key Policies Related to Child Labor</b></p> <p>Algeria established policies related to child labor. However, these policies do not cover all forms of child labor that exist within the country, such as street vending and forced begging.</p>	<p><b>National Action Plan for Children:</b> Plan entered into effect in 2021. ONPPE-led effort to protect children from physical and moral dangers, including child labor. This includes awareness-raising programs and trainings for ONPPE staff, judges, lawyers, and journalists. Planning began in November 2023 for the 2024–2029 plan, which includes attempting to establish by law a monitoring unit to protect children from potentially harmful information technologies.</p> <p><b>National Action Plan for the Prevention of and Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (2022–2024):</b> Aims to prevent and reduce human trafficking by raising awareness, strengthening legislation, prosecuting human trafficking crimes, improving the provision of protective services to survivors, and increasing collaboration with national and international civil society organizations. This includes a series of awareness activities. This plan continues activities of the 2019–2021 plan that have not been completed.</p>

**Coordination, Policies, and Programs (Cont.)**

<p><b>Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor</b></p> <p>Algeria funded and participated in programs that included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. However, existing social programs do not adequately address all forms of child labor that exist within the country, such as street vending and forced begging.</p> <p><i>† Program is funded by the Government of Algeria.</i></p>	<p><b>Educational Assistance Programs:</b> Several ministerial departments and national institutions implemented a social action plan to provide free services, such as textbooks, transportation, school meals, and health coverage. The government also provides a 3,000 dinar schooling bonus (\$22 USD) per child. In 2023, the Algerian government also increased the number of boarding schools in rural areas by adding eight new schools.</p> <p><b>Children Assistance Facilities:†</b> Operated by the government to provide support for children, namely orphans and children in dangerous situations who are taken into custody by the state. During the reporting period, 103 facilities operated across the country.</p>
---	--

For information about USDOL's projects to address child labor around the world, visit [dol.gov/ILABprojects](https://dol.gov/ILABprojects)

 **WORKER RIGHTS SPOTLIGHT**

Algeria imposes significant barriers to freedom of association, including stringent registration requirements, restrictions on union activities, and limits on the ability to join international unions. These restrictions can hinder workers' ability to organize, advocate for their rights, and report labor abuses, including child labor.

For references, please visit [dol.gov/ChildLaborReports](https://dol.gov/ChildLaborReports)