



OMAN

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

In 2023, Oman made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government enacted a new labor law that reaffirmed preexisting articles on child labor. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking launched a two-month human trafficking public awareness campaign called *Insan*, which included billboards, airport displays, websites, and social media posts in several languages. Additionally, it overhauled its social insurance policies, establishing a singular, unified welfare framework administered under the Social Protection Fund. The fund now includes a monthly child benefit of \$26 (10 Omani rial) for all Omani children until age 18, with additional benefits for orphans and widows, as well as stipends for lower-income families that vary by family size. Child labor is not visible in Oman, although a small number of children may work informally with their families, including in fishing and farming. Survey data are needed on the extent and nature of child labor to inform law enforcement, policies, and programs.



PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Oman engage in child labor in farming and fishing.

Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity



Agriculture

Farming and fishing.



SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

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

Social Programs

Collect and publish data on the extent and nature of child labor to inform policies and programs.



CHILDREN AT HIGHER RISK

Children in rural and coastal areas of Oman may be vulnerable to child labor in farming and fishing.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Oman has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor. In addition, Oman’s laws are in line with relevant international standards.

Child Labor Laws and Regulations	Meets International Standards	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work, 15 Years		Articles 1 and 98 of the Labor Law
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work, 18 Years		Articles 45, 46, and 71 of the Child Law; Article 2 of Ministry of Manpower Order 217/2016

Legal Framework for Child Labor (Cont.)

Child Labor Laws and Regulations	Meets International Standards	Legislation
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children		Article 5 of Ministry of Manpower Order 217/2016
Prohibition of Slavery, Debt Bondage, and Forced Labor		Articles 1, 2, 8, and 9 of the Anti-Trafficking Law
Prohibition of Child Trafficking		Articles 1, 2, 8, and 9 of the Anti-Trafficking Law
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children		Articles 1, 2, 8, and 9 of the Anti-Trafficking Law; Articles 254, 255, and 267 of the Penal Code
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities		Articles 58 and 74 of the Child Law; Article 43 of the Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment, 18 Years		Article 55 of the Child Law
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	*	Article 55 of the Child Law
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups		Articles 1(f), 55, and 72 of the Child Law
Compulsory Education Age, 15 Years ‡		Article 36 of the Child Law
Free Public Education		Article 36 of the Child Law

* Country has no conscription

‡ Age calculated based on available information

In June 2023, the government enacted a new labor law reaffirming preexisting articles on child labor.



ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

In 2023, labor and criminal law enforcement agencies in Oman took actions to address child labor.

Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Ministry of Labor (MOL): Monitors and enforces child labor laws, conducts labor inspections, and shares information with the Royal Oman Police on labor and criminal law violations when penalties are pursued. According to the government, MOL conducts yearly inspections of all private institutions and re-inspections of workplaces found to be in violation of labor laws. Labor inspections are also conducted following a complaint. If a violation is found, the institution is given a set period of time to address the problem. If an institution fails to address the violation, a fine may be levied. MOL can refer cases of child labor to the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) if the child is under the minimum age for work. MOL and MOSD can also coordinate with the Royal Oman Police to shelter child victims in a MOSD-run facility and refer suspected violators for criminal investigation. In addition, the labor inspectorate has a specialized unit composed of two people to conduct inspections related to suspected human trafficking. The unit is charged with bringing indicators of trafficking to the ministry and transferring cases to the Public Prosecutor's Office for further investigation.

Royal Oman Police: Monitor and enforce the Child Law, including its provisions related to child labor, and refer cases to the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

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	N/A
Routinely Conducted Worksite Inspections	Yes	Conducted Criminal Investigations for Worst Forms of Child Labor Crimes	N/A
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes	Imposed Penalties for Worst Forms of Child Labor Crimes	N/A

Between January 1, 2023, and June 24, 2023, **370** labor inspectors conducted **4,149** worksite inspections, finding no child labor violations. It is **unknown** whether investigations into suspected cases of the worst forms of child labor were conducted or prosecutions were initiated. The government convicted **2** perpetrators.



COORDINATION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

<p>Key Mechanism to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor</p> <p>Oman established a mechanism to coordinate its efforts to address child labor.</p>	<p>National Child Protection Committee: Consists of representatives from MOSD, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Royal Oman Police. Receives complaints and reports of child labor and investigates reported cases to determine whether children are engaged in prohibited activities or whether working has negative effects on their health or education. Also refers children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or other related issues to social services. Continued to work with UNICEF on several projects related to child protection during the reporting period.</p>
<p>Key Policies Related to Child Labor</p> <p>Oman established policies that are consistent with relevant international standards on child labor.</p>	<p>National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2021–2023): Aimed to educate stakeholders on their rights and responsibilities, train authorities on addressing human trafficking, coordinate government services for survivors, and develop new policies and best practices. Overseen by the National Council on Combating Human Trafficking, which consists of relevant government ministries, the Oman Human Rights Council, the Oman Chamber of Commerce, and the General Federation of Oman Workers. In 2023, recommended modifications and additions to the national action plan to combat human trafficking. Additionally, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking launched a 2-month human trafficking public awareness campaign called <i>Insan</i>, which included billboards, airport displays, websites, and social media posts in several languages.</p>
<p>Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor</p> <p>Oman funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. However, Oman has not collected or published data on the extent and nature of child labor to inform policies and programs.</p> <p><i>† Program is funded by the Government of Oman.</i></p>	<p>Social Security Cash Transfer Program:[†] Provides assistance to children in low-income families, including educational services. In 2023, Oman overhauled its social insurance policies, establishing a singular, unified welfare framework administered under the Social Protection Fund. The fund includes a monthly child benefit of \$26 (10 OMR) for all Omani children until age 18, with additional benefits targeted at orphans and widows. It also includes a family income support benefit for lower-income families calculated based on a target income which varies with family size.</p> <p>Dar al-Wifaq Shelter:[†] MOSD operates a shelter, Dar al Wifaq, for women and child victims of human trafficking; 15 of the shelter's beds are allocated for children. The shelter provides a number of services for victims of human trafficking that include psychological counseling, health care, and pro bono legal advocacy through the Lawyers Association. In 2023, the shelter reported assisting 36 people, including 2 boys.</p>

For information about USDOL's projects to address child labor around the world, visit dol.gov/ILABprojects
 For references, please visit dol.gov/ChildLaborReports