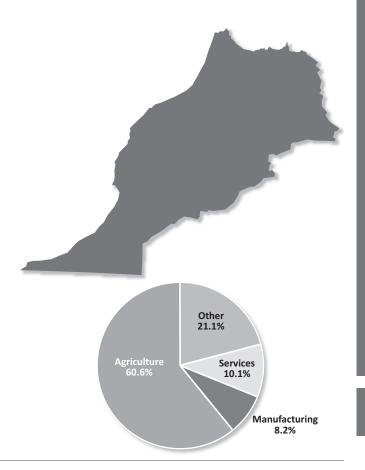
Morocco

The Government of Morocco has implemented campaigns to raise awareness about child labor and launched initiatives to reduce poverty as a means to combat the worst forms of child labor. However, many children continue to perform exploitative work, particularly in agriculture and domestic service, some under conditions of involuntary servitude. Legislative and enforcement gaps leave children working in private residences and on farms unprotected.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	7-14 yrs.	13.2%
Attending School		Unavailable
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	0.9%



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Morocco are exploited in the worst forms of child labor, 3460 mostly in agriculture. 3461 Children working in agriculture may use potentially dangerous machinery and tools, carry heavy loads, and apply harmful pesticides.

Tens of thousands of young girls are sent to work as live-in domestic servants, often before their 10th birthday. Parents often sell their girls or receive payment in exchange for their daughters' servitude. Here petites bonnes ("little maids") often face conditions of involuntary servitude including long hours with no breaks, physical, verbal, and sexual abuse, withheld wages, and even restrictions on their movement. Here prequently these children are sent from rural villages to more urban areas and are unable to contact their families or find their way home. Most petites bonnes are denied an education and illiteracy rates are especially high among this population.

Children also work in auto mechanics, carpentry, and construction, where they may use dangerous tools and equipment, be exposed to chemicals, dust, and high levels of noise, and face ergonomic dangers from lifting heavy objects or performing repetitive movements. 467 Children work with artisans in the informal sector, producing textiles and carpets. Children in Morocco are often sent to be artisan apprentices, many of them under the age of 12. 569 Some Moroccan boys are subject to involuntary servitude as apprentices for mechanics, artisans, and in the construction industry.

Street children are a growing concern in Morocco, with thousands on the streets of Casablanca, Marrakech, Fès, and Mèknes. Street children in Morocco engage in diverse forms of work including selling cigarettes, begging, shining shoes, washing cars, and working as packers in ports, and are exploited through prostitution and illicit activities. These children living and working on the streets face a high risk of economic or sexual exploitation, violence, and drug abuse.

Other children in Morocco are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Child prostitution has been reported principally in Azrou, Beni Mellal, and Mèknes, and in the cities of Tangier, Agadir, Marrakech, Rabat, and Casablanca. Former child domestic servants are especially likely to engage in prostitution. Moroccan boys and girls are exploited for sex tourism, especially in Tangiers, Agadir, Marrakech, and El Hajeb, popular tourist sites that attract customers from the Persian Gulf and Europe. Moroccan Santa Europe.

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code of 2004 establishes the minimum age of employment at age 15 and limits the number of hours that children under age 16 can work, specifically during the night.³⁴⁷⁷ However, the Labor Code makes exceptions for minors to work beyond nighttime restrictions in seasonal or time-sensitive agricultural activities.³⁴⁷⁸ The Labor Code also prohibits hazardous activities for children under age 18.³⁴⁷⁹ During the reporting period, the Ministry of Employment and Professional Training (MOEPT) began to update its list of occupations that qualify as "hazardous work" for children.³⁴⁸⁰

The Labor Code does not apply to businesses with less than 5 employees or to work in private residences. Han 5 employees or to work in private residences. Domestic servants are also specifically excluded from the Labor Code. He Ministry of Labor (MOL) and the Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MOSDFS) have drafted legislation, which has not yet been validated, that would better protect domestic servants and substantially increase penalties for employers who use child domestic workers.

Forced or compulsory child labor is prohibited in the Labor Code and Penal Code.³⁴⁸⁴

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including pornography and prostitution, is prohibited under the Moroccan Penal Code. In addition, the Penal Code criminalizes inciting, procuring, or facilitating the prostitution of a minor.³⁴⁸⁵ An amendment to the Penal Code also forbids sex tourism.³⁴⁸⁶

Morocco does not have a specific trafficking in persons law, but child trafficking can be prosecuted using articles from the Penal Code and Immigration Law.³⁴⁸⁷

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

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and **Enforcement**

The Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MOSDFS) is the focal coordinating body for child labor efforts in Morocco.³⁴⁸⁸ MOSDFS oversees the National Plan of Action for Children (PANE) in cooperation with other ministries.³⁴⁸⁹

The Ministry of Employment and Professional Training (MOEPT) is responsible for enforcing the Labor Code and implementing child labor laws. 3490 The MOEPT employs 412 general labor inspectors nationwide, of which 45 concentrate on children's issues, and receive 14 weeks of specialized training on child labor. The majority of inspectors, up to 330, have received some training on child labor issues.3491 The law enables inspectors and police to bring charges against employers of children under age 15, or those employing children of working age in prohibited activities. 3492 In the first 6 months of 2009, labor inspectors issued 94 warnings and 39 fines to businesses for employing children under age 15, and issued 616 warnings and 19 fines to businesses for employing children between the ages of 15 and 18. No convictions resulted in prison terms, and the amounts of the fines levied are not known.³⁴⁹³ The vast informal sector of Morocco, where many children

are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, is not monitored by labor inspectors which results in a lack of protection for these children.³⁴⁹⁴ For instance, there is no institutional mechanism for monitoring child labor on family farms or in private residences, where the majority of exploited children in Morocco work.

The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) is responsible for enforcing Penal Code legislation against prostitution and trafficking. In addition, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is responsible for prosecuting criminal offenses such as commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking. The most recent available statistics on criminal investigations and prosecutions show that in 2008, there were 203 cases of facilitating the prostitution of a minor, leading to 193 prosecutions. Another 160 cases of directly prostituting a minor were investigated, leading to 239 prosecutions. The MOJ reports that in 2009, 10 foreigners were prosecuted for crimes such as inciting a minor for prostitution and the violent rape of a minor, with sentences ranging from one month to two years in prison. 3497

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government is currently carrying out the broad National Plan of Action for Children (PANE) 2006-2015, which focuses on children's health, protection, and education. The PANE includes the issue of child labor and pilot programs focusing on street children and domestic child labor.³⁴⁹⁸

The issue of child labor has been mainstreamed into Government policies and programs such as the King's 2005 National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD). The NIHD serves as a framework to reduce poverty through improved education and health facilities, access to electricity and drinking water, attention to the needs of girls and women, and income and employment initiatives such as microfinance. Reducing child labor is one of the goals of the initiative.³⁴⁹⁹

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

As part of the PANE, Inqad, a national pilot program implemented through MOSDFS, is tasked with combating domestic child labor through judicial

reform and cooperation with efforts by civil society. The include national awareness raising campaigns on the dangers of using domestic servants. MOSDFS is also piloting the "INDIMAJ" program, as set forth in the PANE, to provide services to street children.

Livelihood projects implemented under the NIHD have resulted in improved employment, housing, and access to education and medical services for Moroccans.³⁵⁰² The question of whether these projects have an impact on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

Previously, the Government of Morocco participated in a USDOL-funded 5-year, \$3.1 million project to withdraw and prevent 7,334 children from child labor, with an emphasis on the domestic service sector. ³⁵⁰³ The Government also participated in a 5-year, \$2.25 million project to eliminate child labor in rural areas of Morocco, funded by USDOL. Project activities included establishing non-formal schools in rural areas not served by the public school system and providing transportation and access to dormitories for secondary students to attend distant schools. Through this initiative, 11,662 children were withdrawn or prevented from child labor. ³⁵⁰⁴

The Government of Morocco participated in an IPEC 4-year, \$5 million regional project to combat child labor in Francophone Africa, funded by the Government of France. Morocco has also participated in a 6-year, \$600,000 ILO-IPEC project to combat child labor in Morocco, funded by the Government of Belgium.

The Government is currently participating in a \$3 million USDOL-funded, 3-year project to combat the worst forms of child labor through direct education services. To date, the project has withdrawn or prevented 7,885 children from the worst forms of child labor. Government agencies have collaborated with this project. The Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity contributed by supporting an awareness-raising campaign against child domestic servitude, with support also through the Ministry of Religious Affairs. 3505

Morocco is currently participating in a 3-year, \$700,000 project to fight gender-based violence through empowerment of women and girls in Morocco, funded by UNDP in collaboration with ILO-IPEC. This project addresses girls who are victims of trafficking and other worst forms of child labor. 3506

The Government and ILO-IPEC contributed a total of \$337,758 in 2009 to organizations implementing projects to combat child labor, raise awareness, and provide direct services to victims. In addition,

the Government regularly hosts committees and conferences with civil society and the private sector that address child labor.³⁵⁰⁷

Although the Government of Morocco has participated in a number of programs to address some of the worst forms of child labor, research found no evidence that it has carried out programs specifically to assist children involved in agriculture.

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend legislation to protect children working family farms.
- Adopt legislation to protect domestic workers and to prevent children under the legal working age from domestic servitude.
- Amend the Labor Code to apply labor laws to all employers.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

 Create a mechanism to monitor, enforce, and protect children working in domestic services and the informal sector.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Develop targeted programs to address children working in agriculture.
- Expand programs to prevent and eliminate children's involvement in exploitive child labor in domestic service.

³⁴⁶⁰ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2010. Data on working children are from 1999. 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. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, 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 of this report.

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³⁴⁶² Human Rights Watch, *Inside the Home, Outside the Law*, December 2005, section I; available from http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2005/12/19/inside-home-outside-law-0. See also Human Rights Watch, *Morocco: 'Hidden' Children Face Abuse,* [online] December 20, 2005 [cited November 19, 2010]; available from http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/12/21/morocc12278_txt.htm. See alsoILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Morocco (ratification: 2001),* [online] 2010 [cited September 23,

- 2010]; available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloilc&document=799&chapter=3&query=Morocco%40ref%2BObservation%40ref%2B%23YEAR%3D2010&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0. See also International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Internationally Recognised Core Labour Standards in Morocco: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Morocco (Geneva, 24 to 26 June 2009), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Geneva, 2009, 7; available from http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/WTO_report_Morocco_Final_EN.pdf.
- ³⁴⁶³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Morocco," section 7d. See alsoILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Morocco (ratification: 2001).* See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, February 22, 2010, 6.
- ³⁴⁶⁴ Human Rights Watch, Morocco: 'Hidden' Children Face Abuse. See also U.S. Department of State, "Morocco (Tier 2)," in Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from http://www.state.gov/ documents/organization/143187.pdf. See also Human Rights Watch, Inside the Home, Outside the Law. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation*, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Morocco (ratification: 2001), [online] 2008 [cited November 19, 2010]; available from http://www.ilo.org/ ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&d ocument=10389&chapter=6&query=Morocco%40ref&hig hlight=&querytype=bool&context=0.See also International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Internationally Recognised Core Labour Standards in Morocco, 7. See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, reporting, February 22, 2010, 7.
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- ³⁴⁶⁶ Human Rights Watch, *Morocco: 'Hidden' Children Face Abuse*. See also Human Rights Watch, *Inside the Home, Outside the Law.* See also U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, February 22, 2010, 7.*
- ³⁴⁶⁷ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, February 1, 2010, para 3-5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Morocco," section 7d. See also Promoting and Protecting the Interests of Children who Work (PPIC-Work), *Hazard Assessment and Mitigation in the Workplace, Instructor's Manual*, Canadian International Development Agency, November 2009, 35; available from http://www.ppic-work.org/download/manuals/Hazard_

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- ³⁴⁹⁵ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting, February 1,* 2010, section 6, 2c1. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2009: Morocco," section 7d.
- ³⁴⁹⁶ U.S. Consulate- Casablanca, *reporting*, *February 1*, *2010*, section 7.
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