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2018 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR



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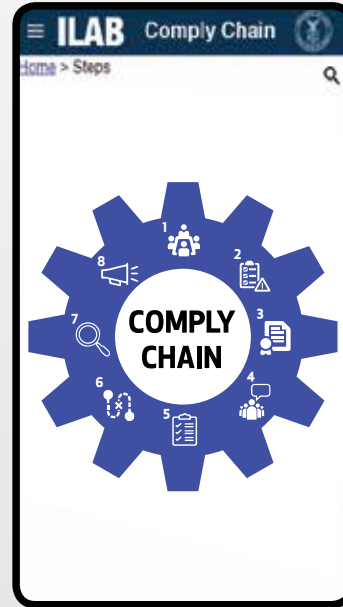
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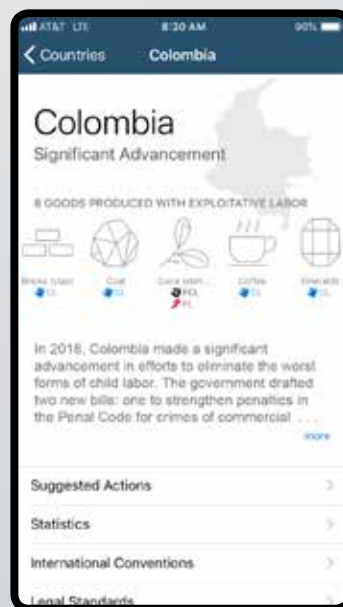
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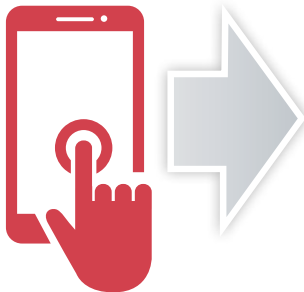
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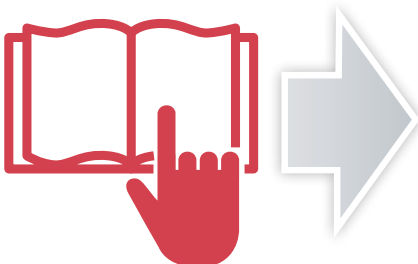
All three of the the Department's flagship reports on international child labor and forced labor are available on the USDOL website in HTML and PDF formats, at <https://www.dol.gov/endchildlabor>. These reports include *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, as required by the Trade and Development Act of 2000; *List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor*, as required by Executive Order 13126; and *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. On our website, you can navigate to individual country pages, where you can find information on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor in the country, specific goods produced by child labor or forced labor in the country, the legal framework on child labor, enforcement of laws related to child labor, coordination of government efforts on child labor, government policies related to child labor, social programs to address child labor, and specific suggestions for government actions to address the issue.



On Your Phone

The Department's Sweat & Toil mobile application contains more than 1,000 pages of research from all three reports. Sweat & Toil helps you easily sort data by region, country, assessment level, good, and type of exploitation, all without the need for an internet connection. You can download the free app from Apple's App Store or the Google Play store and access the data on our website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/apps>.

The Department's Comply Chain: Business Tools for Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains mobile application contains best practice guidance for companies on ways to develop strong social compliance systems to reduce child labor and forced labor in supply chains. The application includes eight modules ranging from stakeholder engagement to code of conduct provisions, and from auditing to remediation to reporting. Companies that are new to social compliance can work through the modules in order, and more experienced companies can select modules based on their continuous improvement goals. You can download the free App from Apple's App Store or the Google Play store, or access it on the Department's website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/apps>.



On Paper

Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor report is available in a hardcopy magazine format, which provides an overall summary of the report, regional findings related to meaningful efforts made and gaps for countries to address, and the assessment levels of each of the 131 countries. In addition, our *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor* also is available in hardcopy format. Send an email to GlobalKids@dol.gov to request hard copies or download them from the Department's website at <https://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports>.



Foreword



Patrick Pizzella
Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor

At the G20 Leader's Summit in Buenos Aires in September 2018, the U.S. Department of Labor signed on to a strategy to eliminate child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery globally. It did so because eliminating child labor and forced labor is the right thing to do and is a priority for the Trump Administration. The Department takes seriously our enforcement of labor rights included in all U.S. free trade agreements and preference programs, including prohibitions on child labor and forced labor.

Exploitative child labor is inexcusable—it robs children of their childhoods, restricts their ability to attend school, and undermines the efforts of governments and employers that play by the rules. Not only are these outcomes unacceptable for children, but workers in the United States and in other countries should not have to compete with unscrupulous producers who use child labor or forced labor. These reprehensible practices undercut the higher standards we maintain and that are needed to safeguard the well-being of our workforce here at home and to protect vulnerable children and their families from exploitation in countries around the world.

The Department's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* assesses government efforts to eliminate child labor in 131 countries and territories. More importantly,

it provides concrete recommendations on areas where additional efforts are needed in order to make meaningful progress, including in labor and criminal law enforcement.

For more than 25 years, the Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs has funded initiatives to combat child labor and forced labor in more than 90 countries, including by increasing enforcement capacity, researching the nature and extent of these problems, and supporting policy actions to protect children and adult workers from labor exploitation. These projects have helped demonstrate effective approaches that have been replicated and expanded by many governments. The Department also worked with private sector and civil society actors to support their efforts to confront this problem.

As the Department's experience has shown, it will take a broad-based, coordinated push from all sides to accelerate progress and achieve the goal of eradicating child labor worldwide. Let us work together to do the right thing for children—and to do right by our workers.

Patrick Pizzella
Acting Secretary of Labor
September 2019



Martha E. Newton, Deputy
Undersecretary for International Affairs

One hundred years ago, in early 1919, representatives from governments around the world came together to draft the Constitution of what would become the International Labor Organization, powerfully asserting that “the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries.” These first principles regarding the world of work inspired global action, including at the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department’s Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has worked on these issues globally for more than 70 years, and that includes more than 25 years of concerted efforts to end child labor and forced labor.

One of the ways we carry out these principles today is by shining a spotlight on child labor and forced labor around the world, and supporting innovative ways to eradicate these abuses. It is part of our mission at ILAB to ensure a fair global playing field for workers in the United States and around the world by combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

This latest edition of our flagship report, the 2018 *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, mandated by the Trade and Development Act of 2000, includes more than 1,900 recommendations that governments can take to address child labor, including nearly 1,200 that concern improvements in labor and criminal laws and enforcement. This and more than 1,000 pages of research also are available via a mobile app, called Sweat & Toil.

What the research shows us is that despite global efforts, child labor remains a problem. About 152 million boys and girls ages 5 to 17—more than double the entire child population in the United States—are involved in child labor; half of those are in hazardous work that endangers their safety, health, and moral development.

To end these objectionable abuses requires strong resolve. It requires governments to pass laws that protect against labor exploitation and to convert those laws into adequate enforcement practices. It requires investing adequately in their labor inspectorates and doing a better job of prosecuting perpetrators of child labor and forced labor.



ILAB is committed to working in partnership to support governments in doing these things and doing them better. In Brazil, for example, we have a project that has trained more than 1,000 government officials to better recognize indicators of forced labor, set up an online platform for the government to receive complaints of forced labor from rural workers, and developed a monitoring tool to help the government identify hot spots for locating forced labor. Such efforts have the potential to positively transform the lives of workers who might otherwise be vulnerable to forced labor.

Employers need to be a part of the solution, too. Business leadership is vital in addressing these abuses in global supply chains. That is why we work to support the private sector to do its part to address child labor and forced labor. We engage directly with a variety of business and industry groups such as the Global Battery Alliance, Nestlé, and the global cocoa and chocolate industry, to name a few. We also have developed a mobile app, Comply Chain, that provides companies with practical, step-by-step guidance on how to develop robust social compliance programs to prevent, detect, and address child labor in their supply chains.

Finally, we have collaborated directly with numerous NGOs around the world through technical cooperation projects. For instance, in 2018, we funded a global project to strengthen labor and criminal legal frameworks concerning child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, as well as their enforcement; a project to foster accountability in the recruitment of fishery workers in Thailand; and a project to prevent and reduce child labor and forced labor in palm oil supply chains in Colombia and Ecuador.

Achieving the elimination of child labor and forced labor demands more than wishful thinking. It demands strong and decisive action. The Department remains fully committed to partnering with governments, businesses, civil society, and international organizations to end child labor, forced labor, and any form of modern day slavery. We are all in this fight together, and through our collective efforts, I am confident that we can succeed.

Martha E. Newton

Deputy Undersecretary for the
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
September 2019



© USAID/Alamy Stock Photo
Young Kenyan girls smile at the Johari Junior
Academy, Nairobi, Kenya, May 6, 2013.

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Copies of this and other reports in ILAB's child labor and forced labor series may be obtained by contacting the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-5315, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-4843; Fax: (202) 693-4830; e-mail: GlobalKids@dol.gov. The reports are also available on the web at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/>. Comments on the reports are welcome and may be submitted to GlobalKids@dol.gov.



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Children between 8-12 years old walk 35-50 kilometers carrying wheels used to twist hemp fiber inside a cave. Gaziantep, Turkey. April 1, 2014.

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Purpose of this Report

The U.S. Department of Labor has prepared this 18th annual report on the 2018 *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* in accordance with the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA). (1) The TDA set forth the requirement that a country implement its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor for the President of the United States to consider designating the country a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. (2; 3) The TDA also mandated that the President submit to the United States Congress the Secretary of Labor's findings with respect to each "beneficiary country's implementation of its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor." (1) The Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) carries out this responsibility on behalf of the Secretary.

Research Focus

Country Coverage

This report covers 119 independent countries and 15 non-independent countries and territories designated as GSP beneficiaries. This includes former GSP recipients who have negotiated free-trade agreements with the United States. (4) Because the population of children is extremely small (fewer than 50) or non-existent in the British Indian Ocean Territory, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and the Pitcairn Islands, the report does not contain a discussion of these three non-independent countries and territories. This 2018 report presents information on child labor and the worst forms of child labor and efforts to eliminate this exploitation in the remaining 119 countries and 12 non-independent countries and territories. The use of "countries" in this report includes territories, and because the report focuses on government efforts, non-independent countries and territories are classified by their associated regions.

Population Covered

In undertaking research on the "worst forms of child labor," ILAB relied on the TDA definition of a child, which is the same definition contained in ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (ILO C. 182). The TDA and ILO C. 182 define "child" as a person under age 18.

Reporting Period

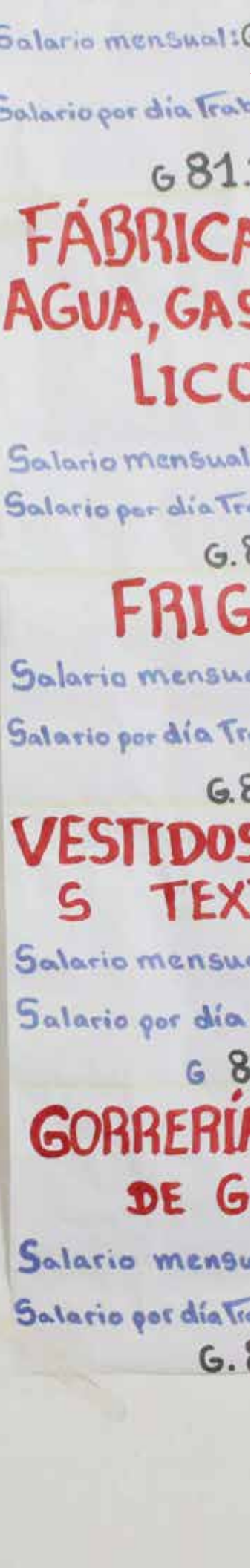
The reporting period for this year's report is January 2018 through December 2018. In certain cases, significant events or government efforts that occurred in early 2019 were included, as appropriate.

Type of Work

This report focuses on child labor and the worst forms of child labor. Definitions related to these types of work are guided by ILO C. 138 on Minimum Age and ILO C. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Child labor includes work below the minimum age as established in national legislation (excluding permissible light work), the worst forms of child labor, and hazardous unpaid household services. The definition of the "worst forms of child labor" is found in the TDA and is the same as that included in ILO C. 182. It includes (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic performances; (c) the use, procuring, or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs; and (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children. (1) Similar to ILO C. 182, the TDA states that the work described in subparagraph (d) should be "determined by the laws, regulations, or competent authority of the country involved."



Partners of the Americas/U.S. Department of Labor
Erundina Machune at the regional office of the Ministry of Labor in
the Chaco region of Paraguay, 2019.



Strong Enforcement

A Critical Tool for Combating Child Labor

"I want to help my people."

—Erundina Machune, Regional Director, Paraguayan Labor Inspectorate

When Erundina Machune arrived for her first day at the brand new regional office of the labor ministry in the remote Chaco region of Paraguay, she had no idea what she was in for. “I was scared,” she said. She had just been named the new regional director—in fact, the first regional director—overseeing labor law compliance in a vast region covering more than 60 percent of Paraguay’s territory. In the Chaco, forced labor was a well-known problem, particularly in the export-intensive cattle industry, but with only a 1-week training to get her up to speed and few resources at her disposal, she faced a daunting challenge.

Erundina knew about the forced labor situation all too well. She was indigenous to the Chaco region and had worked since age 4 helping her father, mother, brothers, and sisters tend cattle on a ranch. For all of their work, they received a single, meager salary for the entire family, and after deductions for things like food and shelter, it was not much. Erundina knew that she wanted more from her life than milking cows for next to nothing. So, at age 16, she went back to school. This led her down a new path that eventually landed her this opportunity as regional director. But what to do with it? How could she educate her people and help them assert their rights? She barely had a budget and did not even have a vehicle.

Then one day, an expert on forced labor from the U.S. Department of Labor-funded project, *Paraguay Okakuaa*, arrived. She accompanied Erundina as they conducted outreach in the widely dispersed communities throughout the region. The project also set up a radio-based communications campaign that was broadcast in nine languages to get the word out about labor rights and where workers could go to file complaints.

“From that point on, everything changed,” Erundina said. She went from running an office with no visitors to one that fielded dozens of complaints about issues such as unpaid wages—and received more than 100 workers who visited to lodge a complaint or learn about their labor rights in the space of a year. Of the 65 cases of labor rights violations reported, 2 have gone to court, and Erundina has worked with employers and workers to resolve all of the other ones. Support for the office has grown, with the local government even chipping in to provide her with a vehicle for her work.

Although the *Okakuaa* project is ending soon, Erundina remains determined.

“I am motivated,” she said. “I want to help my people.”

Erundina’s story typifies the kind of transformation that needs to occur in so many pockets of the world to end abusive labor practices, including child labor and forced labor. Without the capacity for strong labor law enforcement, these abhorrent practices will continue to flourish in communities the world over. Moreover, these labor abuses have a ripple effect, contributing to an unfair playing field for workers in the United States and around the world whose employers play by the rules.

Once again, this year, the majority (60 percent) of the more-than-1,900 country-specific recommendations in the Department’s 2018 *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* focus on the need to strengthen and improve enforcement of labor laws. Here is a look at why these issues are so important—and what governments and other stakeholders can do to move forward in this critical area.

Good Laws: A Necessary Precondition

For enforcement to be adequate, a country first needs laws on the books that align with international standards. A solid legal framework demonstrates a government's commitment to protecting its citizens, lays out the rights and the respective responsibilities of the different actors, prescribes punishments for violators, and provides legal redress for victims. To sum up, good laws provide specific, much-needed protections and lay the groundwork for redress and accountability.

While most countries have ratified the relevant international conventions—including ILO C. 182,

prohibiting child labor in its worst forms—much work needs to be done before we can feel confident that children in every country enjoy full labor protections under the law.

An encouraging sign has been the continued momentum of more countries developing or expanding hazardous work prohibitions in line with international standards (see Figure 1). Over the past 2 years, for example, 19 countries evaluated in ILAB's reporting developed or expanded their hazardous work lists. At the end of 2018, more than 75 percent of the countries assessed had hazardous work lists that included the sectors of work in which there is evidence of child labor under dangerous and unhealthy conditions.

Figure 1

What is Hazardous Child Labor?

ILO Recommendation 190¹ calls on governments to consider the following when determining work that is prohibited for children.



Work which exposes children to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse



Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights, or in confined spaces



Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads



Work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health



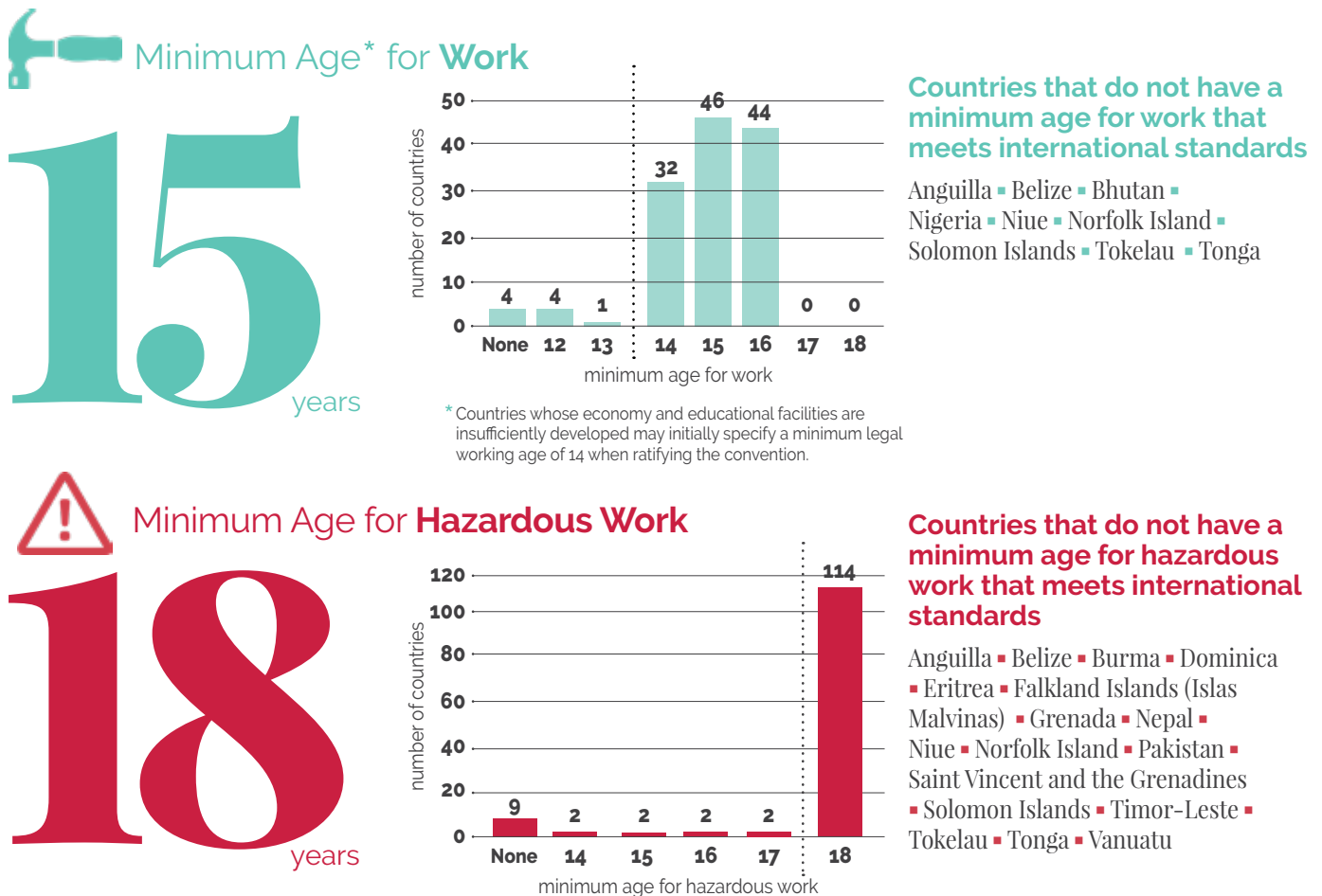
Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer

¹ International Labor Organization. Recommendation 190. Geneva: June 1999. <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc87/com-chir.htm>.

Less encouraging is the fact that more than one-third of these countries still have not established a minimum age for work in line with international standards (see

Figure 2). Almost the same percentage do not adequately prohibit the use of children for illicit activities, including the production and trafficking of drugs.

Figure 2



In **2018: Countries** that **Increased** the **Minimum Age for Work** to Meet **International Standards**

Mauritania ■
Suriname ■
Tuvalu ■



That is why ILAB's latest reporting includes more than 470 country-specific suggested actions that governments can take to address gaps in their existing legal framework (see Figure 3). It also is why ILAB has devoted resources in its programming to helping countries strengthen their legal protections. The ILAB-funded *CLEAR* projects, for example, have worked in 18 countries to increase the capacity of governments to reduce child labor, including by strengthening legal frameworks. For example, in Liberia, a hazardous work list and light work list were recently validated in accordance with international labor standards. In Suriname, *CLEAR* led work on revising the National Action Plan on Child Labor that was announced by the Minister of Labor as one of the main guiding documents that will help support the prevention and elimination of child labor in that country.

Additional work is also needed to improve laws and policies related to workplace inspections. While some steps are incremental, continued progress in this area will rely on individual country governments stepping up and enacting legislation that closes the gap between the international standards they have committed to

upholding and their national laws designed to protect children from labor exploitation.

Capacity-Building: Fuel For On-The-Ground Change

While improved legislation is important, laws mean little if not enforced. For countries that have solid laws on the books, adequate monitoring and enforcement of these laws is the next hurdle. Labor inspectorates and criminal law enforcement agencies need the resources, capacity, and authority to do their jobs. Moreover, additional progress is needed to ensure that governments hold those who perpetrate child labor abuses accountable.

ILAB's research reveals that workplace inspection systems remain generally weak around the world because of capacity and resource constraints, such as inadequate budgets, shortages in personnel, lack of vehicles and fuel, and insufficient training.

For example, an astounding 72 percent of countries assessed in the Department's 2018 *Findings* do not have adequately staffed labor inspectorates in accordance with ILO technical advice. Law

Figure 3

Global Gaps in Laws and Regulations



*Out of 131 countries

enforcement efforts also are hindered by corruption and inefficient legal mandates, data collection, and coordination (see Figure 4).

Only half of all labor inspectorates are authorized to assess penalties for violations. This means that most inspectorates are prevented from holding violators accountable. Even in countries in which workplace inspection systems are in place and are functioning well, such as Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru, inspections of workplaces in the informal economy, in which most child labor tends to be found, are rare.

In the absence of resources and recourse available to labor inspectors, the burden in these countries mainly falls on businesses to ensure that their supply chains are clean.

Unscrupulous employers who exploit workers, or governments that fail to act to end abusive labor practices, unfairly undermine the competitiveness of law-abiding businesses and the goods and services they produce for global markets.

That is why ILAB is using nearly 1,200 suggested actions regarding laws and enforcement as a basis to

work with foreign governments and their partners to strengthen labor law enforcement and accelerate efforts to end child labor and human trafficking.

In Colombia, for example, the Department has been engaging with the government on labor law enforcement for several years, including by installing a labor attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá. In 2018, the Ministry of Labor significantly increased its resources dedicated to labor law enforcement, specifically to generate strategies to improve its labor inspectorate and create an electronic case management system. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also coordinated numerous multilateral efforts for cooperation and technical assistance with other countries to share best practices in the areas of prevention, investigation, and assistance to victims of trafficking.

In Ghana, an ILAB-funded project to combat the trafficking of children by fishermen has had a profound and lasting impact in one community along Lake Volta. Through awareness raising and social mobilization efforts early on in the project, which closed 10 years ago, the community took ownership of making their village a child labor-free zone, which it continues to

Figure 4

Global Enforcement Efforts

37

Have an adequate number of labor inspectors



68

Authorize their labor inspectorates to assess penalties



94

Conducted routine labor inspections



90

Conducted unannounced inspections



110

Have a complaint mechanism for labor violations



*Out of 131 countries

be to this day. The village's child protection committee monitors activities on the lake through a surveillance system of security cameras along the village's coastline. For repeat offender and urgent cases, the Ghanaian Navy steps in to rescue the trafficked children and arrest the slave master. In addition, the Navy routinely conducts inspections of boats and canoes on the lake to ensure the enforcement of Ghana's child labor and human trafficking laws.

In the cotton industry, for several years, an ILAB-funded project in Uzbekistan has been building the capacity of the labor inspectorate to enforce labor laws regarding forced and child labor. The project provided training in national child labor monitoring; conducted roundtables and training workshops with labor inspectors to improve forced labor identification and reporting; and trained government agencies, social partners, and civil society organizations on the need to combat forced labor. All of this work contributed to a breakthrough in 2018. The Government of Uzbekistan prosecuted and sanctioned more officials in 2018 for facilitating forced labor than ever before. Evidence suggests that child labor in the cotton harvest was nearly non-existent, and there were no reported cases of forced child labor (although forced labor of adults continues to be a concern).

In Burma, an ILAB-funded project implemented by the ILO has been developing the first generation of experts on child labor, both in the government and in civil society. With project support, the newly established Myanmar National Committee on Child Labor Eradication, chaired by the Vice President, approved the country's first national plan of action to eliminate child labor and approved a draft hazardous work list. The project has supported training on child labor fundamentals to more than 220 local government officials in every state and region in the country as well as the training of nearly 40 percent of the inspectorate on child labor concepts.

Such progress on enforcement is essential—and efforts must be accelerated across the globe—if we are to see sustainable reductions in the number of child laborers worldwide.

The Importance of Partnerships

It is crucial for all parties—governments, private sector, and civil society—to come to the table to openly discuss past and planned efforts, challenges, and successes, and to find better ways to collaborate and increase their impact. That is why, in addition to governments, ILAB continues to partner with businesses and civil society organizations in efforts to combat child labor.

In Turkey, for example, ILAB recently completed a project, implemented by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) in partnership with Nestlé and two of its Tier 1 suppliers, which established and piloted a sustainable program to prevent child labor and forced labor in the hazelnut supply chain. The pilot program utilized the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Guidelines for Eliminating Child and Forced Labor in Agricultural Supply Chains, which provide a systematic approach to identifying, addressing, and preventing child labor and forced labor in the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural commodities.

One important accomplishment was the project's work to assist Nestlé in mapping their hazelnut supply chain. Today, Nestlé has 100 percent traceability over their hazelnut supply chain in Turkey, meaning that it knows exactly where every nut it buys from its Tier 1 suppliers comes from. As part of this project, the FLA produced a valuable report on lessons learned that can help other companies adopt the best practices identified through the pilot project, serving as an example for companies working in many other sectors around the world.

ILAB also has developed a smartphone app, Comply Chain, to assist businesses around the world in identifying risks and remediating abuses in their



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One in five children in Myanmar aged 10-17 go to work instead of school. Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, Yangon, Myanmar. April 19, 2016.

supply chains. This app was developed to provide businesses with information about child labor, forced labor, and systems that can be put in place to combat these problems. Numerous private sector stakeholders have indicated how helpful this app has been to them and they suggested the creation of foreign language editions to support their efforts to work with their suppliers around the world. In 2018, ILAB released the app in French and Spanish, and in 2019, ILAB introduced a redesign and enhancements to the app to make it more user-friendly.

Moving the Ball Forward on Enforcement

There is broad international agreement that trade between nations should be fair, and profits should not come off the backs of children or slaves. The onus is now on the global community to respond by increasing our commitment to and focus on combating child labor as an urgent priority.

Governments must enact stronger legislation and strengthen enforcement—in addition to improving coordination, implementing better policies, broadening social protections for children and families, and providing thorough oversight to ensure the integrity of private sector partners and other contracted entities. Companies should develop robust social compliance systems to ensure that their supply chain is free of child labor. Ordinary citizens can empower themselves with knowledge about this problem—including by downloading the Department's Sweat & Toil app that puts more than 1,000 pages of research in their hands—and spread the word among friends and family as well as tell the companies from which they buy, and in which they invest, that this is an issue about which they care.

ILAB continues to do its part by engaging with willing partners to strengthen legal frameworks and improve labor law enforcement efforts.

In 2018, the Department announced more than \$50 million in grants to strengthen labor law enforcement and combat child labor and modern slavery among trade partners.

For example, in December, the Department awarded \$7.5 million to Winrock International to help governments strengthen their laws, improve law enforcement, and increase coordination among law enforcement and social protection organizations to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. The project will initially work in Thailand and Paraguay, with at least two other countries to be added later.

The Department also awarded \$6 million to Partners of the Americas to improve conditions of work and to reduce child labor and forced labor in palm oil supply chains. This project will help strengthen the capacity of businesses in the Colombian and Ecuadorian palm oil sectors to implement robust social compliance systems. It also will support an increased understanding across the global palm oil industry of effective practices to reduce labor abuses.

Good laws and strong enforcement may not be the only elements needed to address child labor and forced labor globally; however, they are essential to doing so. By focusing on the adoption of strong legislative frameworks and better enforcement of national laws, governments can form a strong foundation of protections that vulnerable children and families need, at a minimum, to escape child labor or forced labor. Governments, companies, and even individuals like Erundina Machune can all be part of the solution. The world owes it to the 152 million children still engaged in child labor and the 25 million people still trapped in forced labor to redouble efforts in these areas – in every corner of the globe (see Figure 5).

Figure 5

Children, 5-17 years old

million working children

Working Children

Child Labor

Hazardous Child Labor

million* children
engaged in hazardous
child labor

million children in child labor

*Global estimates on the number of children engaged in categorical worst forms of child labor do not exist. See the International Labor Organization. *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends 2012-2016*. Geneva. 2017.



© Noorullah Shirzada/AFP/Getty Images
Afghan children work at a coal yard on the outskirts of
Jalalabad, Afghanistan. April 30, 2018.

Espacios para Crecer: Education to End Child Labor

*How ILAB made an award-winning,
world-class education model possible*



Partners of the Americas/U.S. Department of Labor
A facilitator leads a group of children at an *Espacios*
center in Paraguay, 2018.

"I would like to be a great professor. I would like to go back to school."

— Luis, *Espacios para Crecer* Participant

Children excitedly shared their dreams for the future during a lively discussion in Daniel Mueses' afterschool *Espacios para Crecer*, or "Spaces to Grow," group in Cotama, Ecuador. Cotama is an indigenous community in the Andes with high levels of poverty and child labor. A young boy named Luis, who has autism and had dropped out of school in the fourth grade, stood up and said, "I would like to be a great professor. I would like to go back to school."

Luis is one of the many vulnerable children whose lives have been changed by the internationally recognized program *Espacios para Crecer* developed and implemented by ILAB projects across Latin America.

The program has reached children working in garbage dumps in the Dominican Republic, those displaced by violence in Colombia, and indigenous children in Ecuador, Panama, and Paraguay. Its materials are available in multiple indigenous languages. UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank have recognized the *Espacios para Crecer* model as a Best Practice for Youth in Latin America for its impact, efficiency, and relevance.

The *Espacios* program hinges on the idea that getting children interested in learning and developing their self-confidence keeps them in school. This is particularly important because school absenteeism is often associated with a high risk of child labor.

According to *Entrena*, the organization that developed the *Espacios* methodology and curriculum, 95 percent of *Espacios* participants remain in school the next school year following completion of the program.

The success of the *Espacios* model has been due, in no small part, to ILAB's support. Saschia Seibel, project director at *Entrena*, said that ILAB's ability to recognize best practices and encourage information sharing among its grantees has allowed them to spread.

"Without ILAB, *Espacios* never would have happened," said Seibel, who was *Entrena*'s education specialist when the *Espacios* were first developed. Seibel recalled how ILAB has encouraged her over the years to share the model with other grantees at conferences and in informal telephone conversations. "When you have a donor that truly believes in you, it makes so many things possible."

Promising Beginnings

In 2004, the first *Espacios para Crecer* groups were launched as summer pilots in 44 communities across the Dominican Republic. Designed for children ages 6 to 13 who had dropped out of school or were struggling to stay in school, the groups were an opportunity to catch up on school in a positive and fun environment. Group facilitators began delivering engaging lessons that stressed the immediate, practical application of academic concepts.

“Without ILAB, *Espacios* never would have happened. When you have a donor that truly believes in you, it makes so many things possible.”

— Saschia Seibel, Project Director at *Entrena*

The program was found to have been a resounding success. More than 5,000 children had been withdrawn or prevented from child labor (specifically informal urban work, commercial sexual exploitation, and hazardous commercial agriculture) and enrolled in some form of schooling. Teachers reported that reading and writing among students had improved greatly and that they were now passing their classes and completing grades.

After showing such promise in the Dominican Republic, the *Espacios* groups took on a central role in an ILAB project in Colombia, where more than 10,000 children and youth were withdrawn from exploitative child labor. Both a final evaluation and an impact evaluation of the project found improved school enrollment and academic performance due to the *Espacios* model.

“The teachers at the schools would see the changes in the children who had been participating and they would say, ‘What have you done to these children? They are participating and asking questions now,’” said Piedad Rivero Cruz, who was Partners of the Americas’ education specialist for the project.

Adults also became more aware of the importance of education and more connected to the problems children faced. Project surveys found that 75 percent

of parents’ attitudes toward child labor changed as a result of the project.

Keys to Success

Part of the key to *Espacios*’ success has been that curriculum developers and project implementers have emphasized the involvement of the communities as a whole. Group facilitators are community volunteers who receive training and support from project staff. There are repeated engagements with parents and community leaders. In many cases, teachers coordinate with facilitators in following up on children’s academic progress. Such shared responsibilities are a big part of the *Espacios*’ success and have become a central tenet of the program.

Another key to the groups’ success is their minimal overhead—they need only an enthusiastic facilitator and a place for children to gather.

Moreover, the changes made to the *Espacios* as they moved from country to country are a loud testament to the program’s greatest strength—its adaptability. Even the very first groups in the Dominican Republic adapted the content for variations in different regions, such as including different cultural traditions. In Colombia, many of the groups had to adjust the academic content to fit varying educational levels. Partners again adjusted it for beneficiaries in Ecuador,

Panama, and Paraguay by using translated materials with updated cultural references.

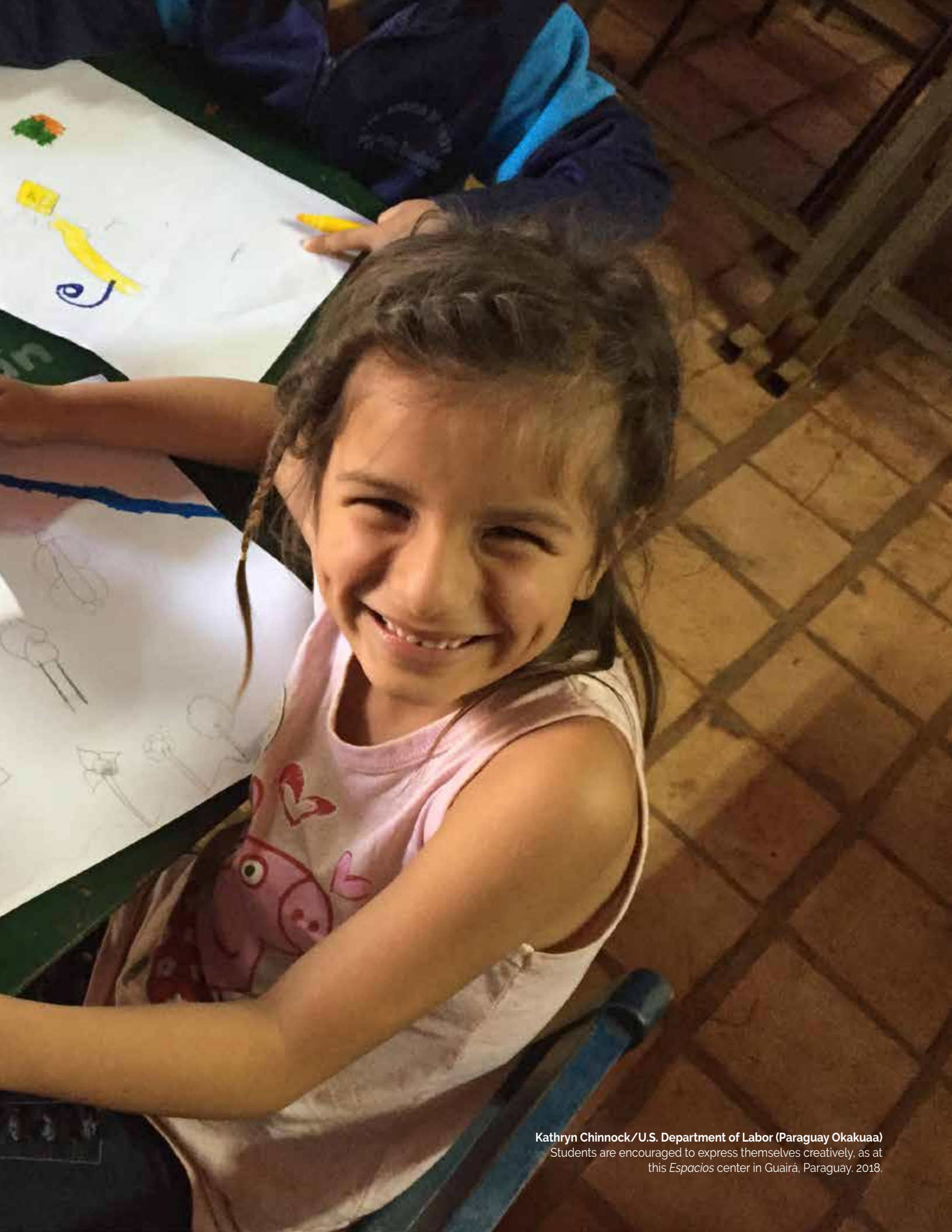
A Bright Future

The spread of the *Espacios* model shows no sign of slowing. All told, more than 1,000 *Espacios* have cropped up, serving more than 37,000 children in six countries throughout the region. The Dominican government has recently scaled up the concept of keeping children in a safe, educational environment for a full day as opposed to a half day. As of December 2018, the program covered roughly two-thirds of the nation's schoolchildren and was aiming to provide coverage nationwide by the end of 2020.

Meanwhile, ILAB is currently funding a project in Paraguay to support and strengthen systems for combating child labor. The educational initiative has already reached 1,022 children. An independent evaluation showed that parents and teachers felt that participating in the *Espacios* “motivates children to learn more and that their performance in formal schooling tends to improve.” More than that, the children have fun—valuing the opportunity to play, paint, sing, and receive additional support to strengthen their formal education. And the national government has signed an agreement to adapt the curriculum to an existing afterschool program so that the good work being done will continue beyond the life of the project.

As the *Espacios* groups spring up in more locations throughout Latin America, they do so with the wisdom gained from 15 years of experience. It is only a matter of time before another vulnerable child announces to her community that she, too, sees a bright future for herself in continuing her education.





Kathryn Chinnock/U.S. Department of Labor (Paraguay Okakuaa)
Students are encouraged to express themselves creatively, as at
this *Espacios* center in Guairá, Paraguay. 2018.

ILAB's Projects

Strengthening Labor Enforcement



PROTECTE, Tunisia - Trained labor inspectors, raised awareness of child labor laws, and established a specialized unit to address child labor at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Paraguay Okakuaa, Paraguay - Trained labor inspectors in agricultural fields with support from an Enforcement Coordinator from USDOL's Wage and Hour Division.

CLEAR,* Serbia - Provided labor inspectors, social workers, and police officers with training on child labor identification and prevention.

ENHANCE, Vietnam - Built the capacity of key enforcement actors, including labor inspectors, to identify and address child labor violations through targeted training workshops, as well as by ensuring that child labor is integrated into data collection systems.

SAVABE, Madagascar - Trained 37 labor and criminal law enforcement agents on national child labor laws, and helped to develop an action plan to reduce child labor in the informal economy.

51

ACTIVE PROJECTS FROM
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018

47

COUNTRIES FUNDED BY
ILAB INITIATIVES

*DOL/ILAB-funded projects that are currently being conducted in multiple countries

Making an Impact



Providing education and vocational training opportunities to nearly 2 million children

Increasing the capacity of 85 countries to address child labor and forced labor



Improving the livelihoods for nearly 170,000 vulnerable families

Training more than 51,000 labor inspectors and law enforcement officials



Providing over 50,000 teachers with training to work with children affected by child labor

Supporting the collection of information on child labor and forced labor through over 300 surveys, including over 90 national child labor surveys



Visit www.dol.gov/EndChildLabor to learn more



The Year in Review

Striving to Match Reality to Aspirations

In 2019, Tonga began the process of ratifying ILO C. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, a measure that would bring the world to universal ratification of this important and fundamental labor standard. But this is far from the end goal. A total of 152 million children still toil in child labor, roughly half of them in hazardous conditions. The problem is not that society fails to value its children, but that there is a disconnect between the harsh reality of child labor and awareness of its impact on the lives of children; between recognition that this practice is wrong and action that effectively addresses it.

Beyond adopting standards and passing legislation, governments need to take meaningful action, including stronger enforcement, to effectively confront the problem of child labor worldwide. The Department's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* is a tool to raise awareness about child labor and a roadmap to help countries take the necessary steps to confront the realities that contribute to the persistence of this global problem. The 2018 report offers more than 1,900 suggested actions that governments in 131 countries and territories can take to combat child labor. This year's report also highlights the meaningful efforts that many governments have made to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor, including through enacting and enforcing laws, coordinating more effectively among stakeholders, establishing policy frameworks, promoting quality education for

children, and implementing social protection programs and poverty alleviation strategies that address the root causes of child labor.

Last year, ILAB instituted minimum requirements that countries must meet in order to receive ILAB's highest assessment of Significant Advancement. This year's report goes even further, adding three new criteria for assessing each country's efforts. Figure 6 outlines the 12 criteria being used in this year's report and highlights the three new criteria. Together, these 12 criteria serve as a baseline that countries must meet in order to receive ILAB's highest assessment level.

This year, 12 countries—Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Paraguay, Rwanda, Serbia, and Tunisia—received the highest assessment of Significant Advancement (see Figure 7 for a global breakdown of assessments for this year). These countries made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in *all relevant areas* covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking suggested actions recommended in 2017. Furthermore, each of these countries met the baseline, outlined above, of laws and regulations, enforcement mechanisms, and programs to address and prevent the worst forms of child labor. In fact, 17 more countries and territories would have received an assessment of Significant Advancement had they met this baseline level of protections. These include Albania, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Madagascar, Montenegro, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Suriname, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Western Sahara.

Despite these stricter criteria, it is worth noting that El Salvador achieved an assessment of Significant Advancement this year for the first time in the history of the report. The government extended its National Action Plan for the Protection of Children and Adolescents into 2019 and modified its process for

granting work permits to adolescents, both with the goal of aligning laws and policies with international standards and national legislation. El Salvador also published its Annual Household Survey with data on child labor, as well as a guide highlighting efforts to combat child labor in the sugarcane industry. In addition, the government launched the local government component of its Sustainable Families Strategy in 16 municipalities and implemented an inter-agency protocol to improve coordination of services for human trafficking victims.

This year, we also saw the achievement of another milestone by Côte d'Ivoire, as the country extended its term—to six in a row—at the level of Significant Advancement.

Sixty-seven countries received a Moderate Advancement assessment in 2018. A country is said to have moderately advanced efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2018 if it made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in *some relevant areas* covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs. Meanwhile, 29 countries received an assessment of Minimal Advancement for making efforts in *only a few relevant areas*.

Other governments made positive efforts to address their country's child labor situation during the year but simultaneously continued or established a detrimental law, policy, or practice that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor. In those cases, the highest assessment level the countries could receive was a Minimal Advancement. Thirteen countries—Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Iraq, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Tonga, and Yemen—implemented or maintained a law, policy, or practice related to education access, minimum age for work, labor inspection, or the

Figure 6

Baseline of Minimally Acceptable Protections



*Bolded text indicates new criteria.

Figure 7

Global Breakdown of Assessments

12 Significant Advancement

Argentina ■ Colombia ■ Costa Rica ■ Côte d'Ivoire ■ Ecuador ■ El Salvador ■ Guatemala ■ India ■ Paraguay ■ Rwanda ■ Serbia ■ Tunisia

67 Moderate Advancement

Albania ■ Algeria ■ Angola ■ Bangladesh ■ Belize ■ Benin ■ Bolivia ■ Bosnia and Herzegovina ■ Brazil ■ Burkina Faso ■ Cabo Verde ■ Cambodia ■ Cameroon ■ Central African Republic ■ Chad ■ Chile ■ Comoros ■ Cook Islands ■ Dominican Republic ■ Egypt ■ Eswatini ■ Ethiopia ■ Fiji ■ Gambia, The ■ Georgia ■ Ghana ■ Guinea-Bissau ■ Guyana ■ Honduras ■ Indonesia ■ Jamaica ■ Jordan ■ Kosovo ■ Lebanon ■ Lesotho ■ Madagascar ■ Malawi ■ Mali ■ Mauritius ■ Montenegro ■ Morocco ■ Mozambique ■ Namibia ■ Nepal ■ Niger ■ Nigeria ■ North Macedonia ■ Oman ■ Pakistan ■ Panama ■ Peru ■ Philippines ■ Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristán da Cunha ■ Saint Lucia ■ Samoa ■ Senegal ■ Sri Lanka ■ Suriname ■ Thailand ■ Togo ■ Turkey ■ Uganda ■ Ukraine ■ Uzbekistan ■ Western Sahara ■ Zambia ■ Zimbabwe

42 Minimal Advancement

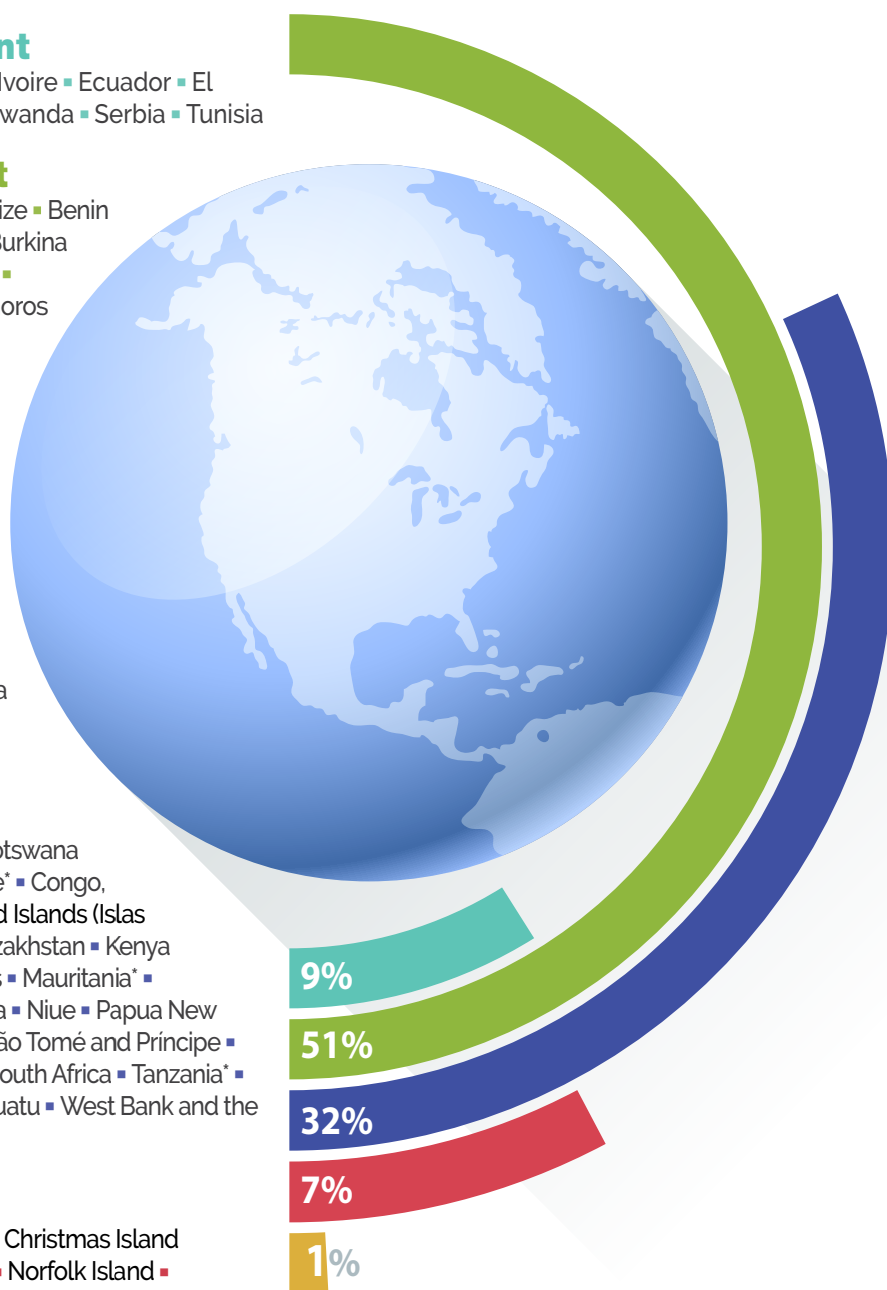
Anguilla ■ Armenia* ■ Azerbaijan* ■ Bhutan ■ Botswana ■ Burundi ■ Congo, Democratic Republic of the* ■ Congo, Republic of the ■ Djibouti ■ Dominica ■ Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) ■ Gabon* ■ Guinea ■ Haiti ■ Iraq* ■ Kazakhstan ■ Kenya ■ Kiribati ■ Kyrgyz Republic ■ Liberia ■ Maldives ■ Mauritania* ■ Moldova* ■ Mongolia* ■ Montserrat ■ Nicaragua ■ Niue ■ Papua New Guinea ■ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ■ São Tomé and Príncipe ■ Sierra Leone* ■ Solomon Islands ■ Somalia* ■ South Africa ■ Tanzania* ■ Timor-Leste ■ Tokelau ■ Tonga* ■ Tuvalu ■ Vanuatu ■ West Bank and the Gaza Strip ■ Yemen*

9 No Advancement

Afghanistan‡ ■ British Virgin Islands ■ Burma‡ ■ Christmas Island ■ Cocos (Keeling) Islands ■ Eritrea‡ ■ Grenada ■ Norfolk Island ■ South Sudan‡

1 No Assessment

Wallis and Futuna



*Efforts made but regression or continued law, policy, or practice that delayed advancement

‡ Efforts made but complicit in forced child labor



© Dozier Marc/Hemis/Alamy Stock Photo

Boys engage in coprah work. Coprah is the dried meat or the kernel of the coconut. Tamuniai Village, New Britain Island, Papa New Guinea. August 21, 2013

recruitment and use of child soldiers that undermined other advancements made toward eliminating the worst forms of child labor.

In addition, countries could not receive an assessment level beyond No Advancement if they had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents. Unfortunately, four countries—Afghanistan, Burma, Eritrea, and South Sudan—were found to be complicit in the use of forced child labor during the reporting period, whether it be for commercial sexual exploitation, public works projects, compulsory recruitment, or participation in armed conflict. Urgent action is needed to resolve these abhorrent situations that shatter the lives of affected children.

Altogether, 2018 saw the continuation or emergence of certain troubling trends regarding the labor exploitation of children. In Africa, children in some countries, including Mali and South Sudan, faced displacement due to conflicts, especially between sheep or cattle farmers and agriculturalists, which

increased their vulnerability to child labor. Cambodia has seen a rise in children exploited in conditions of begging in the tourist areas of that country. And, sadly, in South America, some countries have seen a rise in the use of social media platforms as tools to entrap children into commercial sexual exploitation, leading some countries to promulgate new laws to ensure that children are protected on the internet.

Meaningful Efforts

Numerous countries made meaningful efforts with respect to the legal framework. In Colombia, the government drafted two new bills. One bill sought to strengthen penalties in the Penal Code for crimes of commercial sexual exploitation. Responding to the rising use of social media platforms to entrap children, the second bill established more comprehensive public policies to protect children against cybercrimes involving commercial sexual exploitation. In Central America, Costa Rica amended its Criminal Code to align with international standards on trafficking in persons, nearby Suriname ratified ILO C. 138 on the



© Joerg Boethling/Alamy Stock Photo

A child transports harvested cotton with a donkey cart to their village. Bobo-Dioulasso, Hauts-Bassins, Burkina Faso, November 29, 2016.

Minimum Age, and the Cook Islands ratified ILO C. 182 helping drive the world towards universal ratification. Peru's Congress also enacted a law merging the regional labor inspectors and remaining Ministry of Labor inspectors with the Superintendency. This decision strengthened the impact of the labor inspectorate and increased interagency cooperation on child labor eradication efforts through the opening of two new inspection offices and the addition of \$14 million to the 2018 labor enforcement budget. In Bolivia, after declaring provisions in the 2014 Child and Adolescent Code unconstitutional in 2017, President Evo Morales signed legislation in December 2018 modifying Bolivian law to change the minimum age of legally permitted work from 10 to 14.

In the Near East, the Sultan of Oman promulgated a new Penal Code for the country that enhanced some penalties related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. In the southern part of Africa, in Namibia, the government passed the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially of women and children. And the King of Eswatini signed the Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence Act, which provides new legal protections for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Of course, it is not enough to simply have good laws; strong enforcement is also key. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is known as a pivotal link in the sourcing chain of a number of key mined minerals and ores that are critical to the operations of many companies. In 2018, in an effort to protect against risks in the sourcing chain, the government's Ministry of Mines launched a traceability and monitoring system for artisanal mines. Farther up the continent on the western coast, Senegal created a new police division with a focus on migrant smuggling and transnational crimes, taking proactive steps to put in place the enforcement structure to address child labor. Indonesia increased its labor inspectorate's

budget from \$2.1 million to \$10.2 million. Thailand hired an additional 394 labor law enforcement personnel, moving the country closer to a more robust enforcement environment.

Globally, some countries undertook efforts to enhance and improve the function of coordination mechanisms to address child labor. In Europe and Eurasia, North Macedonia's National Coordination Body for the Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect was reconstituted. In nearby Serbia, the Council for Children's Rights published three draft documents on child protection, including a Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children Against Violence for the period of 2018 to 2020.

The year 2018 also saw the enactment and continuation of several national plans of action to protect children from child labor and trafficking. Ghana launched the National Plan of Action Phase II on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, along with a strategy to combat child labor in the fishing sector. Off the coast of West Africa, the island nation of Cabo Verde approved and published a National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Similarly, Mali finalized the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking of Persons and allocated a budget of \$10 million over 5 years for its implementation. In Egypt, the government formally adopted the National Plan of Action Against the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Supporting Family, and the National Strategy on Childhood and Motherhood, which also has a section on child labor. Elsewhere in the world, this year also saw Kazakhstan formalize a new national action plan to counter trafficking in persons. Each of these plans helps provide a key tool to prevent and eliminate child labor.

There were numerous examples of countries adopting constructive programs designed to combat child labor. In the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic continued to fund and participate in multiple programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing



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A hungry, homeless beggar child on the street.
Novi Sad, Serbia. May 20, 2017.

child labor, including two new programs that will strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Labor to enforce laws and regulations related to child and forced labor, particularly in the agricultural sector. In the Sahel region of West Africa, Burkina Faso worked in partnership with a local NGO to launch a campaign to remove vulnerable children from the streets of the capital, placing them in government-run shelters with a plan to provide vocational training and re-integration with families. During the course of the reporting period, the government also removed more than 2,000 children from artisanal mining sites and placed them in the care of social services. Guinea-Bissau implemented the Code of Conduct Against Sexual Exploitation in Tourism by conducting various awareness campaigns on the commercial sexual exploitation of children to hotel and night club owners throughout Bissau and the Bijagós archipelago.

Meanwhile, many countries are working diligently to expand the knowledge base on child labor, which is a vital first step in addressing it. Nepal launched the Nepal Labor Force Survey, which promises to provide valuable information on child labor, including the number of children engaged in hazardous work. In Argentina, the new Secretariat of Labor worked with Argentina's National Institute of Statistics and Census to publish the country's first national child labor survey, with representation from every region in the country. In Pakistan, four provincial governments began conducting child labor surveys that together will constitute a nationwide child labor survey.

As for social programming, Bangladesh launched the 3-year, Phase IV portion of its \$35 million government-funded project to eliminate hazardous child labor, seeking to identify 100,000 child laborers, integrate them into schools, and provide livelihood support

A Global Picture and Regional Analysis of Government Efforts and Challenges

REGION	EFFORTS	CHALLENGES
Asia & the Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched government coordination efforts to eliminate child labor in the fishing and textile sectors. Strengthened laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor. Funded social programs that identified and withdrew children from hazardous labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient number of labor inspectors and resources to conduct inspections. Lack of data on the enforcement of laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor. Persistent barriers to education, including lack of schools and prohibitive costs to attend school.
Europe & Eurasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved coordination mechanisms that protect children from abuse and exploitation. Trained law enforcement personnel to combat child labor and child trafficking. Established new action plans to protect orphans and ensure an education for children with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws and practices that limit the ability to conduct unannounced labor inspections in all sectors where child labor exists. Gaps in the labor laws that do not afford protections to children in informal employment. Ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged children face barriers to access education.
Latin America & the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted and published research revealing the prevalence and impact of child labor. Ratified international conventions and aligned national laws with global standards to address child labor. Expanded laws and national action plans to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous work lists do not cover all areas of work in which there is evidence of hazardous child labor. Lack of sufficient social programs to address child labor in the agricultural and mining sectors. Lack of funding for the enforcement of child labor laws.
Middle East & North Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded new social programs to address child labor in domestic work. Increased resources for schools and social programs to expand educational opportunities for vulnerable children. Sponsored awareness raising campaigns to increase public knowledge of child labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of efforts to collect and publish data on labor law enforcement. Penalizing children for their involvement in the worst forms of child labor. Low prosecution levels for incidences of commercial sexual exploitation of children and chattel slavery.
Sub-Saharan Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened legislation related to children's rights, including protections for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Established bilateral agreements to coordinate efforts addressing the cross-border movement of unaccompanied children. Developed educational facilities and social programs to reach children living in areas prone to the worst forms of child labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of authority for labor inspectorates to assess penalties. Minimum age protections do not extend to children working in the informal sector. Recruitment of underage children into national armies.

for their parents. In Turkey, the Integrated Model for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting was extended to 2020. The program has already prevented more than a thousand children from working in hazelnut harvesting, a leading industry in Turkey, which produces the largest quantity of hazelnuts in the world each year. Turkey signed a Joint Declaration on the Elimination of Child Labor, declaring 2018 “The Year of Elimination of Child Labor.”

Major Gaps

Despite these efforts, there are significant gaps in efforts to address and prevent the worst forms of child labor. Somalia, for example, continues to implement a practice that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor. The Somali National Army recruited and used children in armed conflict in violation of its national law during the reporting period. South Sudan, through its People’s Defense Force, recruited children, sometimes forcibly, to fight opposition groups. The use of children in armed conflict continues to afflict others across the continent—including the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. The recruitment of children in armed conflict is not a problem unique to Sub-Saharan Africa. In Iraq, children who were forcibly recruited into ISIS were subject to detention and prosecution by Iraqi authorities without legal representation.

Mali, where a lack of trained staff, equipment, transportation, and funding hampered labor inspectors’ ability to conduct child labor inspections, underlines the resource constraints facing many countries that limit their ability to adequately enforce their laws. In the Americas, countries such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Peru all noted issues with insufficient resources for labor and criminal law enforcement related to the worst forms of child labor. In Eastern Europe, laws or practices limit unannounced inspections in Armenia and Moldova,

while in Georgia, the labor inspectorate is allowed to conduct unannounced inspections only in harmful, hazardous, and heavy industries, requiring a court order to inspect all other businesses in the country. More drastically, the Government of Azerbaijan extended a moratorium on all labor inspections through 2021, which will leave potential violations of child labor laws undetected in workplaces. In many countries, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Togo, among others, labor inspectorates are not even authorized to assess penalties.

Financial and resource limitations hindered government coordination efforts to address child labor. In a large number of Sub-Saharan African countries, such as Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, and Malawi, key coordinating committees did not meet or were otherwise unable to carry out their intended mandates, often due to issues of funding. Elsewhere, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Anti-Trafficking Task Force, responsible for coordinating child trafficking investigations across government agencies, lacked funding and coordination for a second consecutive year, resulting in a lack of participation of key stakeholders.

Globally, a number of countries do not have in place, or have not implemented, governmental policies that address the worst forms of child labor. Lack of funding and resources limited or delayed implementation of key child labor elimination and education policies in Angola and Papua New Guinea. Highlighting these challenges, the Government of Argentina adopted a new action plan—the Biennial National Plan against Human Trafficking and Exploitation and for Protection and Assistance of Victims—to fortify interagency cooperation around human trafficking, but did not allocate a special budget to ensure the policy’s

implementation. The governments of Burundi, Jamaica, and Malawi also failed to renew key policies addressing the worst forms of child labor that expired.

Despite enduring progress to address the social conditions that contribute to child labor, challenges continue. Many countries ranging from Guatemala to India to Lebanon lack programs that address all forms of exploitative labor in which children work. Some countries continue to place restrictions that delay advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor. In Sierra Leone, for example, girls face restrictions on attending school, with school administrators continuing to prohibit girls who were pregnant from attending regular public schools or taking secondary and postsecondary school entrance exams during the reporting period, making them more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. Similarly, the Mainland Tanzania government continues to support the routine expulsion of pregnant girls from school. The even more basic challenges of school fees, textbook and uniform costs, transportation, and infrastructure pose significant barriers to educational access in various countries, including Bangladesh, Belize, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, South Africa, and Tunisia, among others.

Collectively, these examples paint a picture of a world in which child labor—although universally condemned in its worst forms—continues to persist in practice. Governments, as well as other stakeholders, have their work cut out for them in addressing this abusive form of labor.

As we celebrate the universal ratification of ILO C. 182 in the 100th year of the ILO (see Figure 8), it is important to remind ourselves about the persistent disconnect between society's values and the reality of our world. As ILO's Director General Guy Ryder stated this year in support of World Day Against Child Labor: "How we treat our children is a reflection

of our societies and values." It is vital that we view these abuses as the human rights issues that they are, ensuring that we treat our children in a way that lives up to our ideals and shared commitments.

Figure 8

ILO Celebrates 100 Years



This year, the Department joins the ILO in celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since 1919, the ILO has helped protect the rights of working people and has played a leading role in the fight to eliminate child labor and forced labor and to end human trafficking. It also has provided technical assistance programs to numerous governments that have helped them improve their labor laws and strengthen enforcement.

With participation by both employers and workers, the ILO is the only international organization that includes the private sector in all facets of its operation. The ILO's efforts to improve labor market policies, promote employment, and protect workers' rights help level the playing field for both workers and employers. America's trade agreements and preference programs require our trading partners to protect internationally recognized worker rights. ILO standards provide the legal framework that defines these rights that benefit workers here and abroad.

The U.S. Experience

“The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, and we are leading those efforts at home and abroad.”

— Acting Secretary of Labor Patrick Pizzella

Under the Trump Administration, ILAB has remained steadfast in its mission to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. In addition to previous initiatives, such as ratification of ILO C. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in 1999, new steps have been taken within the past year to ensure that illegal, dangerous, and damaging labor practices around the world are addressed.

In September 2018, for example, ILAB spearheaded the development of a strategy to eliminate child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery within the G20, which the United States signed with all of the G20 countries at the Leader’s Summit in Buenos Aires. (5) ILAB also allocated \$56.8 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 technical assistance funds to help governments combat child labor and forced labor, particularly in high-risk sectors. (6) ILAB also released an updated version

of the Comply Chain app with Spanish and French translations, which allows more companies in the United States and abroad to access this information. These accomplishments demonstrate ILAB’s continual dedication to the prevention of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

The Department’s domestic enforcement agencies have also continued to make important strides. The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) is responsible for implementing and enforcing regulations pertaining to the legal work age, permissible hours of work, earned wages, and hazardous occupations prohibited for minor employees. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides regulation and enforcement on safe work environments for all employees, regardless of age. The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) works to improve the transition outcomes of youth and young adults with disabilities toward successful employment and adulthood, and the Department’s YouthRules! initiative seeks to promote positive and safe work experiences for young workers. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) offers programs and services to help youth enter the workforce in a way that allows them to be productive. In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics gathers statistics on a variety of subjects, including child labor.



U.S. Department of Labor / Shawn T. Moore
Apprentices working at Advanced Superabrasives Inc., a
U.S. manufacturer of Diamond and CBN Wheels in Mars
Hill, North Carolina, on August 21, 2018.

In recent years, these agencies have secured record levels of reclaimed wages for workers, promoted worker safety, and increased the efficiency of the Department's enforcement efforts.

The Federal Minimum Ages for Work

For more than 80 years, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) has established Federal regulations that apply to child workers in various occupations. Child labor provisions under the FLSA are designed to protect children's involvement in educational opportunities and prohibit children's employment in jobs that are detrimental to their health and safety. The FLSA includes restrictions on maximum working hours and types of permissible occupational fields for children under the age of 16.

The FLSA and its implementing regulations have established the following standards:

- A minimum age of 14 for most employment in non-hazardous, non-agricultural industries, and limits on the times of day, number of hours, and tasks that can be performed by 14- and 15-year-olds.

- A minimum age of 18 for employment in hazardous occupations as deemed by the Department's issuance of 17 non-agricultural Hazardous Occupation Orders.
- Exceptions for agricultural and non-agricultural employment. For example, the FLSA does not restrict the work that 16- and 17- year olds may perform in agricultural employment, and it permits youth under the age of 14 to work in non-hazardous agricultural employment outside school hours with parental approval.

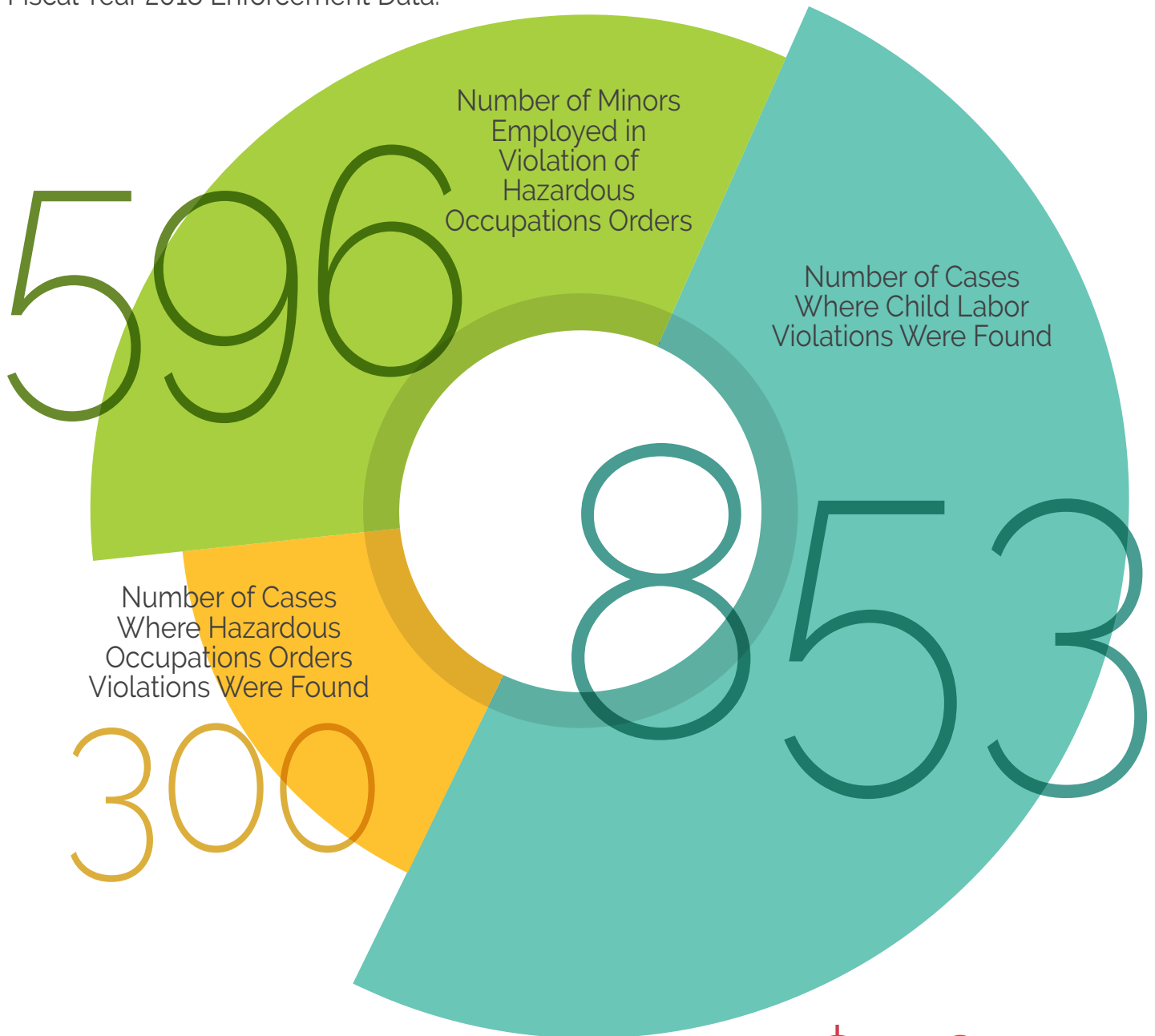
All states have child labor standards and mandatory school attendance laws. When state and Federal child labor standards are different, the rule that provides the most protection is the one that must be followed.

There were 2,237,000 youth ages 16 to 17 employed in the United States in 2017, and 1,838,000 employed in 2018. (6) Despite the restrictions and limitations placed on their work, in 2017, the most recent year for which data are available, there were 7 fatal occupational injuries among youth ages 16 to 17, and 15 fatal occupational injuries among youth below age 16 in the United States. (7)

Figure 9

Wage and Hour Division Rigorously Enforces the Fair Labor Standards Act, including Child Labor Laws

Fiscal Year 2018 Enforcement Data:



Total Penalties Imposed for Child Labor Violations: **\$2.69** million

More specific information about each of these cases can be found in the WHD's enforcement database at <https://enforcedata.dol.gov/homePage.php> and WHD's website at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/data/datatables.htm#panel1>.

Wage and Hour Division

WHD looks for employer compliance with the FLSA's child labor provisions in every investigation it conducts. In FY 2018, WHD concluded more than 850 investigations in which child labor violations were disclosed; 300 of these investigations found violations of the agency's Hazardous Occupations Orders. WHD found more than 2,000 young workers employed in violation of the FLSA's child labor requirements, with nearly 600 of them employed in violation of the Hazardous Occupations Orders (see Figure 9).

For example, following an investigation by WHD, Tuff Automation Inc. paid a civil money penalty of \$28,474 after a 17-year-old employee suffered an amputation of his right index finger while operating an unguarded band saw in Grand Rapids, Michigan. WHD investigators found that the company violated the child labor provisions of the FLSA by employing a worker under the age of 18 to operate prohibited hazardous equipment. (8) In another case, WHD found that eight retailers operating at The Mills at Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth, New Jersey, allowed underage employees to operate and unload potentially dangerous paper baling and cardboard compacting machines, in violation of the FLSA's child labor requirements. WHD assessed a total of \$40,667 in penalties to the retailers. (9)

"Employment standards for minors ensure that they gain a positive work experience that does not interfere with their education, health, and well-being. Child labor violations can be avoided when employers understand the rules."

—Wage and Hour Division District Director Kevin Hunt,
Salt Lake City, Utah

"The safety of young workers remains a priority for the Wage and Hour Division. Employers have a responsibility to fully understand and comply with the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act to ensure minors work in a safe environment."

— Wage and Hour Division District Director Daniel White,
Jacksonville, Florida

Employment and Training Administration

ETA oversees a number of workforce development programs. These programs include the Registered Apprenticeship Program, YouthBuild, Job Corps, and Reentry Employment Opportunities. Consistent with Executive Order 13801, *Expanding Apprenticeships in America*, the Department is expanding apprenticeship opportunities and creating the Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program system, which will increase apprenticeship opportunities for all Americans, especially in sectors where apprenticeships have been underutilized. In addition, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act provides funds to promote opportunities for youth. ETA's programs help youth who face barriers to employment, including out-of-school youth and those involved with the justice system, with work-readiness skills and opportunities to gain industry-recognized credentials. YouthBuild and Job Corps also help low-income, unemployed young Americans continue their education and gain the skills they need for employment.

About the Iqbal Masih Award



The United States Congress established the Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor in 2008 to recognize exceptional efforts by an individual, company, organization, or national government to end the worst forms of child labor.

The award reflects the spirit of Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani child sold into bonded labor as a carpet weaver at age 4. He escaped his servitude at age 10 and became an outspoken advocate of children's rights, drawing international attention to his fight against child labor. Masih was killed in Pakistan at age 13 in 1995.

Further information about the Iqbal Masih Award and USDOL's efforts to combat child labor, is available on the USDOL website at www.dol.gov/ilab.

2018 Iqbal Masih Award Co-Recipient: Teresa Martínez Acosta



U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy Asunción

Ms. Teresa Martínez Acosta receiving the 2018 Iqbal Masih Award. Ms. Martínez was one of the co-recipients of the award. Paraguay. March 1, 2019.

In 2018, the U.S. Secretary of Labor selected two individuals to receive the Iqbal Masih award: Teresa Martínez Acosta of Paraguay and Stephanie Odegard of the United States.

Teresa Martínez Acosta has been a leader in Paraguay on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking for the past 20 years. She served as the Lead Prosecutor for the Government of Paraguay's Specialized Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit and played a critical role in strengthening the unit's efforts to combat forced labor and human trafficking. Her efforts as a prosecutor led to an increase in the number of human trafficking cases prosecuted in Paraguay, including cases involving children and indigenous populations.

Ms. Martínez led investigations and raids that freed hundreds of victims from exploitation, resulting in dozens of arrests and prosecutions. In one high-profile case in Paraguay's Chaco region, she led an investigation that rescued 35 indigenous victims, including children, and prosecuted 3 labor traffickers. She also set up an effective coordination mechanism with the Paraguayan Secretariat for Social Action that helped expedite the receipt of benefits for trafficking victims from various social protection programs.

Recently, the President of Paraguay appointed Ms. Martínez to serve as Minister of Childhood and Adolescence.

2018 Iqbal Masih Award Co-Recipient: Stephanie Odegard

**U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy New Delhi**

The U.S. Ambassador to India, Ambassador Kenneth J. Juster, with Ms. Odegard, the co-recipient of the 2018 Iqbal Masih Award. India. March 6, 2019.

Stephanie Odegard's work on the issue of child labor began when she started working with the Oriental Rug Importers Association. In 1987, she established the Stephanie Odegard Collection (Odegard Carpets) to help address the rampant use of child labor in carpet production occurring in South Asia. After realizing that rug companies profited by paying low wages, allowing the continuation of dangerous work conditions, and using bonded and child labor, she aimed to help tackle

the region's child labor problem by ensuring that her looms were child labor-free.

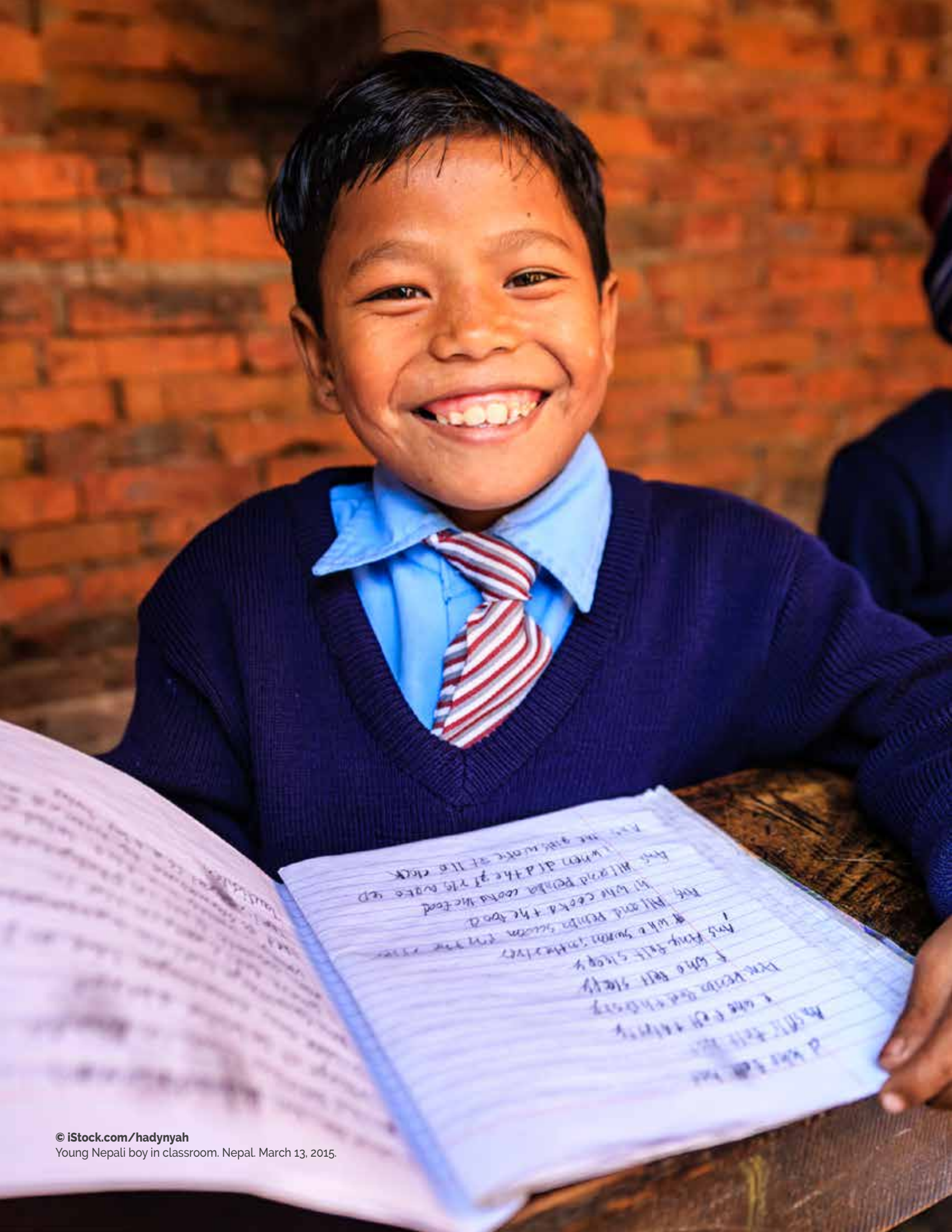
When Ms. Odegard learned about GoodWeave, an internationally recognized organization founded by Kailash Satyarthi, working to end child labor in the carpet industry's global supply chains, she left the Oriental Rug Importers Association to join forces with them. In doing so, she risked her own relationships within the carpet industry, since many carpet dealers shunned GoodWeave. Ultimately, Ms. Odegard succeeded in encouraging other companies to join the struggle to combat child and bonded labor. Serving for 13 years on GoodWeave's board, her efforts helped give the NGO access to carpet looms across South Asia, contributing to a nearly two-thirds reduction in child labor in the sector and the removal of almost 6,000 children from child labor.

Today, Odegard Carpets, made in Nepal, carry GoodWeave's label as a sign that no child, forced, or bonded labor was used in the manufacturing process. For every Odegard rug sold, a small percentage goes to GoodWeave, which has resulted in the generation of more than \$450,000 in contributions to help fund educational and prevention programs for nearly 26,000 children in Afghanistan, India, and Nepal.

In recognition of the outstanding impact that Ms. Martínez and Ms. Odegard have made on efforts to combat child labor, the U.S. Secretary of Labor selected them as co-recipients of this honor. They are the tenth recipients to receive this non-monetary award.

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Appendix 1

Acronyms & Abbreviations

AF	Sub-Saharan Africa
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AP	Asia and the Pacific
CEACR	International Labor Organization Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
EAPCCO	Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
EFA	Education for All
EU	European Union
EUR	Europe and Eurasia
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILAB	Bureau of International Labor Affairs
ILO	International Labor Organization
ILO C. 29	International Labor Organization Convention No. 29: Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor, commonly known as the "Forced Labor Convention"
ILO C. 138	International Labor Organization Convention No. 138: Convention Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, commonly referred to as the "Minimum Age Convention"
ILO C. 182	International Labor Organization Convention No. 182: Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, commonly referred to as the "Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention"
ILO R. 190	International Labor Organization Recommendation No. 190: Recommendation Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, commonly referred to as the "Worst Forms of Child Labor Recommendation"
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTERPOL	ICPO-INTERPOL/International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean

LFS	Labor Force Survey
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South (America); full members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela (membership currently suspended)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OCFT	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Palermo Protocol	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor
TDA	Trade and Development Act
TVPRA	Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
UCW	Understanding Children's Work
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UN CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USDOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
USDOL	U.S. Department of Labor
USDOS	U.S. Department of State
USHHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
WFP	World Food Program
WHD	Wage and Hour Division
WHO	World Health Organization



Definitions Related to Child Labor

Definitions related to child labor are guided by ILO C. 138 on Minimum Age and ILO C. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor. ILO's Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labor, developed during the 18th International Conference of Labor Statisticians, provides the international framework for measuring children's work. See Appendix 7 for additional definitions.

WORKING CHILDREN

Working children are those engaged in any productive activity for at least 1 hour during the reference period. Productive activity includes market production and certain types of non-market production, principally the production of goods and services for their families' use. The work children perform may be in the formal or informal economy, inside or outside family settings, whether paid or unpaid. This includes children working in domestic service outside the child's own household for an employer, paid or unpaid. (1; 2)

CHILD LABOR

Child labor is a subset of "working children" and is work below the minimum age for work, as established in national legislation that conforms to international standards. The definition includes the worst forms of child labor. Child labor is a subset of working children because child labor excludes children who work only a few hours a week in permitted light work and those who are above the minimum age who engage in work not classified as a worst form of child labor. (1; 3)

FORCED CHILD LABOR

Forced labor, under international standards, is defined as all work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the worker does not offer him or herself voluntarily. (4) Forced labor is work obtained by force, fraud, or coercion, including (a) by threat of serious harm to, or physical restraint against, any person; (b) by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if the person did not perform such labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or (c) by means of the abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process. (5) Circumstances that may give rise to involuntary work, when undertaken under deception or uninformed, include, inter alia, unfree recruitment at birth or through transaction such as slavery or bonded labor; situations in which the worker must perform a job of a different nature from that specified during recruitment without his or her consent; abusive requirements for overtime or on-call work that were not previously agreed with the employer; work in hazardous conditions to which the worker has not consented, with or without compensation or protective equipment; work with very low or no wages; in degrading living conditions imposed by the employer; work for other employers than agreed to; work for a longer period of time than agreed; and work with no or limited freedom to terminate the work contract. (6)

Forced child labor is a categorical worst form of child labor under ILO C. 182. (7) Children older than the minimum age for work are in forced child labor if work is involuntary and they are under the menace of penalty. For children younger than the minimum age, voluntariness does not need to be established because children cannot legally consent to work. Forced child labor also includes work performed with or for the child's parents for a third party under the threat or menace of any penalty directly applied to the child or parents. All children who are made to work as a result of parental forced labor are engaged in forced child labor. (4)

WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Worst forms of child labor refers to activities described and as understood in ILO C. 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999. (5) Under Article 3 of the Convention, the worst forms of child labor comprise the following activities:

- All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- The use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic purposes;
- The use, procuring, or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and
- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.

CATEGORICAL WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

For this report, categorical worst forms of child labor refers to child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor per se under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182. This category does not include the worst forms of child labor identified under Article 3(d) “hazardous work.” See also ILO C. 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999. (7)

HAZARDOUS WORK

Hazardous work refers to the worst form of child labor identified in ILO C. 182, Article 3(d), “work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.” ILO C. 182, Article 4, directs countries to consult with employers and workers to identify the types of hazardous work that should be prohibited by law or regulation. Hazardous work lists may describe specific activities, occupations, industries, or conditions. (2)



© Florian Kopp/imageBROKER/Alamy Stock Photo
Three girls in the entrance of a simple house, village of Moza Sabgogat
near Muzaffargarh, Punjab, Pakistan, Asia, June 23, 2011.

Appendix 3

ILO Conventions Related to Child Labor

The ILO brings together government, employer, and worker representatives of member states to establish and supervise the implementation of international labor standards, and develop policies and implement programs to advance decent work. (48) International labor standards are legal instruments drawn up by these ILO constituents that set out basic principles and rights at work. They can take the form of either conventions, protocols, or recommendations. Conventions and protocols are international treaties that are legally binding on ratifying member states. Ratifying countries commit themselves to implementing the convention or protocol in national law and practice and reporting on its application at regular intervals. Recommendations are non-binding and provide guidelines for action either as a complement to a convention, or as a stand-alone instrument. The following paragraphs describe key ILO instruments related to child labor and the minimum ages set by countries related to these instruments.

ILO CONVENTION 138: MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO EMPLOYMENT, 1973

ILO C. 138 establishes that the minimum age of admission into employment or work in any occupation “shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, and, in any case, shall not be less than fifteen” (Article 2(3)). Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum legal working age of 14 when ratifying the convention. In addition, Article 7(1) says that national laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of children ages 13 to 15 years in light work. Countries that have specified a minimum legal working age of 14 may permit light work for children ages 12 to 14. (8)

ILO CONVENTION 182: WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR, 1999

ILO C. 182 defines the worst forms of child labor and requires ratifying countries to take immediate action to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor for persons under the age of 18.

Among other actions, ILO C. 182 requires ratifying countries to take effective and time-bound measures to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor; help remove children from the worst forms of child labor and provide for their rehabilitation and social integration; ensure that children removed from the worst forms of child labor have access to free basic education

and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training; identify and reach out to children at special risk; take into account the special situation of girls; consult with employer and worker organizations to create appropriate mechanisms to monitor implementation of the convention; and assist one another in implementing the convention. (7)

ILO CONVENTION 29: FORCED LABOR, 1930

ILO C. 29 prohibits all forms of forced or compulsory labor, which is defined as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself voluntarily.” (4)

ILO CONVENTION 105: ABOLITION OF FORCED LABOR CONVENTION, 1957

ILO C. 105 prohibits forced or compulsory labor as a means of political coercion or education, or as a punishment for holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social, or economic system; as a method of mobilizing and using labor for economic development; as a means of labor discipline; as a punishment for having participated in strikes; and as a means of racial, social, national, or religious discrimination. (9)

PROTOCOL OF 2014 TO THE FORCED LABOR CONVENTION, 1930

The Forced Labor Protocol reaffirms the forced labor definition in ILO C. 29. It requires ratifying countries to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate forced and compulsory labor, to sanction perpetrators, and provide victims protection and access to appropriate remedies, such as compensation. It also requires ratifying countries to develop a national policy and plan of action to address forced or compulsory labor in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations. (10) The protocol supplements ILO C. 29; as such, only ILO member states that have ratified the convention can ratify the protocol.

FORCED LABOR (SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES) RECOMMENDATION, 2014 (NO. 203)

Recommendation No. 203 provides non-binding practical guidance in the areas of prevention, protection of victims and ensuring their access to justice and remedies, enforcement and international cooperation. It supplements both the protocol and the convention. (11)

Appendix 4

How to Read a Country Profile

• **Country Overview.** Each country profile begins with an overview for 2018 in a single paragraph, starting with a statement identifying the assessment level assigned to the country for 2018. Following the statement of assessment, the paragraph offers a summary of key findings in the country profile. The narrative includes any meaningful efforts taken by a government, defined as efforts in key areas where the government advanced its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The narrative also notes the most common or egregious forms of child labor found in the country and highlights areas in which key gaps in government efforts remain.

• **Section I: Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of Child Labor.** The first section of each country profile attempts to provide, to the extent that information is available, a comprehensive picture of the worst forms of child labor in the country.

• **Table 1, Statistics on Children's Work and Education,** contains at least four variables: percentage of working children, school attendance rate, percentage of children combining work and school, and primary completion rate. The majority of the country profiles have data for at least one of these variables. A smaller set of profiles contain data on children's work by sector. The age and methodologies of the original surveys that provide the underlying data vary, and in some cases, the surveys may not reflect the true magnitude of the child labor problem in the country.

• **Table 2, Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity,** groups types of children's work by sector, using categories established by the ILO for national child labor surveys (Agriculture, Industry, and Services), as well as a category intended to capture work understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182, referred to by the report as "Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor." Sectors and specific activities performed by children are sorted into these categories according to internationally accepted industry and occupational codes.

• The first footnote identifies sectors or activities determined to be hazardous by national law or regulation as understood under Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182, and the second footnote provides the definition of "Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor."

• The table is followed by a narrative highlighting additional sector-specific information and social, economic, or political issues that affect the prevalence of child labor, such as barriers to accessing education, or major socioeconomic shocks to the country that may inhibit the government's ability to address child labor, such as a natural disaster or armed conflict.

Colombia

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

• In 2018, Colombia made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government drafted two new bills: one to strengthen penalties in the Penal Code for crimes of commercial sexual exploitation, and one to establish more comprehensive provisions to protect children against cyber crimes that involve commercial sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Labor also significantly increased its resources dedicated to labor law enforcement and launched the campaign "Working is Not a Child's Task," which aims to prevent and eliminate child labor through awareness raising efforts. The government adopted the National Policy on Childhood and Adolescence. It also began implementing the Center for the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, which collects information and analysis on human trafficking and uses this information to develop effective public policies. However, children in Colombia engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking. In addition, the government does not employ a sufficient number of labor inspectors.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Colombia engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking. (1,2) The government publishes annual statistics on children's work from its National Household Survey. (3) However, activities and ages are not sufficiently specified in these data to determine child labor rates per sector. (3,4) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Colombia.

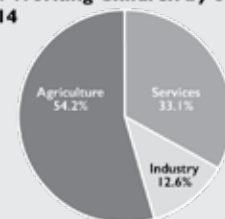
Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	3.9 (332,253)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	94.1
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	4.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		105

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2017, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (5)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares, Módulo de Trabajo Infantil (GEIH-MTI), 2017. (6)

Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14



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	Production of coffee,† sugarcane,† and unrefined brown sugar (panela)† (4,7-9)
	Animal husbandry;† hunting;† and fishing;† activities unknown (4,9-11)
Industry	Mining coal,† emeralds,† gold,† tungsten,† coltan,† and clay† (4,9,12-14)
	Producing bricks† (9,13)

† Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182.

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

Commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs more often in private homes rented online than in commercial establishments. (4,9) In Bucaramanga, child victims of commercial sexual exploitation are allegedly recruited in schools by other students. (35) In mining areas, trafficking of children for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation is widespread. (4,25,36) Reports also indicate that criminal gangs and dissident groups recruit Colombian and Venezuelan children to produce and traffic drugs and commit homicides and extortion. (37,38)

Some civil society groups report that the forced recruitment and use of minors in Colombia by illegal armed groups, including Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) dissidents, the National Liberation Army, the Popular Liberation Army, and non-ideological criminal organizations such as the Gulf Clan, continued and

How to Read a Country Profile (Continued)

Section II: Legal Framework for Child Labor

The second section indicates whether a country has ratified key international instruments related to child labor and assesses whether a country's legal framework meets international standards. This section begins with a statement about the extent to which the government has ratified key international conventions concerning child labor.

Table 3, Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor, lists the relevant UN conventions concerning child labor. A checkmark indicates the country's ratification, acceptance, accession, or succession to the instrument, considering that these actions have the same practical legal effect regarding the substantive obligations of the instrument as ratification. If other relevant international instruments, beyond those listed in the table, were ratified during the reporting period, this may be recognized in a short narrative following the table.

A statement above **Table 4, Laws and Regulations on Child Labor**, indicates whether the government's laws and regulations related to child labor meet ILO C. 138 and C. 182 or whether gaps exist in the legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

Table 4 lists each of the relevant legal standards and notes which laws meet and do not meet international standards. Table 4 footnotes identify whether a government does not use conscription for military service, whether a government does not have a standing military, and whether an age is calculated based on available information.

The table is followed by a narrative describing any relevant laws the government enacted, or advanced to a significant step in the legislative process during the reporting period. If the government failed to take action on an existing draft bill that would fill a gap in the legal framework related to child labor, this also may be noted. The narrative also discusses why existing laws do not meet international standards.

Section III: Enforcement of Laws on Child Labor




The third section describes the roles of government agencies in enforcing laws related to child labor and reports on efforts made during the reporting period. It begins with a statement about whether the government has established institutional mechanisms to enforce laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5), notes whether gaps exist within the authority or operations of the ministries responsible for law enforcement, or whether enforcement data are missing.

Table 5, Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement, lists the agencies charged with enforcing such laws and identifies each agency's role. A footnote identifies whether an agency responsible for child labor enforcement was created during the reporting period. A subsequent narrative describes gaps in agency responsibilities or new information during the reporting period.

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Colombia has ratified all 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	✓
 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's laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4). However, gaps remain, including the differences in the minimum age for work and the compulsory schooling age.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 35 of the Code on Childhood and Adolescence (44)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 117 of the Code on Childhood and Adolescence (44)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 3 of Resolution 1796 (45)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 17 of the Constitution; Articles 141 and 188A of the Penal Code; Article 5 of Resolution 3597 (46-48)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Article 17 of the Constitution; Articles 188A-188C of the Penal Code; Article 5 of Resolution 3597 (46-48)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 213-219B of the Penal Code (48)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 162, 188D, and 384 of the Penal Code; Article 2 of Resolution 3597 (46-48)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 13 of Law 418; Article 2 of Law 548 (49-50)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Article 13 of Law 418; Article 2 of Law 548 (49-50)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 162 of Law 599; Article 20 of Law 1098; Article 14 of Law 418 (44, 48, 49)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18	Decision C-376/10 of the Colombian Constitutional Court (51)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 1 of Decree 4807 (52)

During the reporting period, members of Congress drafted a bill to strengthen penalties in the Penal Code for crimes of commercial sexual exploitation and to expand the range of criminal practices considered under these crimes. (4,53) The bill also increases minimum sentences to 26 years in prison for the procurement of a minor for commercial sexual exploitation, demanding a minor to perform sexual acts for money, and any involvement in sex tourism. (53) In addition, Congress drafted a bill that would revise the Penal Code to establish more comprehensive criminal provisions to protect children and adolescents from commercial sexual exploitation

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Ministry of Labor (MOL) that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor's (MOL) Inspection, Monitoring, Control, and Territorial Management Department	Receives complaints of labor law violations and conducts labor inspections, including inspections to verify labor conditions for adolescent workers and compliance with other child labor provisions. Oversees the Internal Working Group on Child Labor Eradication. (55) Operates the Integrated Registration and Information System for Child Labor, a child labor monitoring system that identifies children engaged in or at risk of child labor. (1,56)
Active Search Team for Trafficking in Persons, Sexual Exploitation of Children, Girls, and Adolescents and Related Crimes*	Uses a proactive investigation model to identify these crimes in regions where they occur instead of waiting for victims to seek attention at the national level. Created in 2018 by the Bogota Mayor's office. (25)
National Police	Investigates cases of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. (4) Judicial police and the Technical Investigation Corps support the Attorney General's Office throughout the investigation process. (4)

How to Read a Country Profile (Continued)

- Table 6 and Table 7 provide data on labor law and criminal law enforcement efforts, respectively, in 2017 and 2018.

- Table 6, *Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor*, provides information on labor law enforcement data, including information about the labor inspectorate's financial and human resources; authority to conduct inspections and assess penalties; and actions and mechanisms to enforce labor laws, including those related to child labor.

- Table 7, *Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor*, provides information on criminal law enforcement data, including information about actions and mechanisms to enforce laws related to the worst forms of child labor.

- Footnotes under each table identify whether the data included in the tables fall outside of the calendar year. A narrative follows each of these tables with more specific information on government mechanisms and efforts, and includes findings in which ILAB has concluded that government efforts fall short.

- Section IV: *Coordination of Government Efforts on Child Labor* The fourth section provides information on institutions charged with coordinating efforts related to child labor. It begins with a statement indicating whether the government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, and whether any gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor.

- Table 8, *Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor*, lists the country's key coordinating bodies; their composition, if known; and their respective mandates, as well as their efforts during the reporting period. A footnote states whether a mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor was created during the reporting period. A subsequent narrative may include findings on gaps in their efforts.

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in Colombia took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the MOL that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$1,016,989 (24)	\$2,400,000 (4)
Number of Labor Inspectors	868 (59)	867 (4)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (60)	Yes (4)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A (4)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Unknown (4)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	247† (9)	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	15 (9)	12 (4)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (7.9)	Yes (4)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (7.9)	Yes (4)

† Data are from January 2017 to October 2017.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (9)	N/A (4)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	4,333 (4)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	3,280 (4)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	359 (9)	607 (4)
Number of Convictions	206 (59)	673 (4)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (63.64)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (4)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist including the inconsistent coordination in human trafficking victim identification.

Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Interagency Committee for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker (CIETI)	Coordinates efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor. Chaired by MOL, includes 13 government agencies and representatives from trade unions, business associations, and civil society organizations. (7) Oversees 32 department-level CIETIs throughout the country, each comprising municipal-level committees. (62) In 2018, department-level CIETIs were trained on the provisions in the National Policy Guidelines to Eradicate and Prevent Child Labor and Protect Adolescent Workers (2019–2029) and subsequently created department-level Action Plans to implement the guidelines in various regions. (4.66)
ICBF's National System of Family Well-Being	Promotes interagency coordination to protect children's rights, including rights related to child labor. (7) Designs, implements, monitors, and evaluates policies that affect children from early childhood to adolescence. Comprises the offices of the President and Vice President, 15 government ministries, and other government agencies. (70) ICBF provided technical assistance in 2018 to 125 officials in agencies comprising the National System of Family Welfare on protocols for referring children engaged in mining to social services in the departments of Cundinamarca, La Guajira, and Cesar. (4)
National Interagency Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation	Coordinates and implements efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Led by MOL and comprises 15 government agencies. (7) Was active during the reporting period. (4)
Interagency Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons	Leads and coordinates efforts among government agencies to combat human trafficking. Created by Law 985, chaired by the Ministry of the Interior, and comprises 16 government entities and 6 permanent invitees, including private sector and international organizations. (1) In 2018, conducted 44 technical advisory meetings with 32 departmental, municipal, and district-level committees to improve coordination. (4.25) Also provided multiple trainings for government agencies, including judicial branch officials and the Colombian National Police, businesses, indigenous communities, and academic institutions on how to identify and combat human trafficking crimes. (4) In May 2018, the Committee formalized an action plan that defines coordinating actions in prevention and awareness raising. The plan came into effect on June 1, 2019. (65)

How to Read a Country Profile (Continued)

Section V: Government Policies on Child Labor

The fifth section describes a country's policies and plans to combat child labor and development policies that explicitly incorporate the issue of child labor. It begins with a statement indicating whether the government has established policies related to child labor, and whether policy gaps exist that hinder efforts to address child labor.

Table 9, Key Policies Related to Child Labor, lists the country's key policies, providing a description of each policy's objectives and any developments in implementation that occurred during the reporting period. Footnotes identify policies that were approved during the reporting period and notes small-scale policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor.

The narrative following the table includes findings related to whether existing policies sufficiently address child labor issues in the country.

Section VI: Social Programs to Address Child Labor

The sixth section describes social programs launched or implemented during the reporting period that focus on child labor and programs that address poverty, education, and other related matters that could have a beneficial effect on child labor. It begins with a statement as to whether the government funded or participated in social programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, and whether gaps exist in these social programs.

Table 10, Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor, lists the country's key social programs and a description, including its activities and accomplishments, to the extent known, during the reporting period. Where possible, programs are hyperlinked to project websites for additional information. Footnotes identify policies that were approved during the reporting period, and whether the government had small-scale social programs with the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor.

The narrative following the table includes an analysis of the extent to which social programs were sufficient to address the scope of the problem or covered the key sectors in which children are known to work in the country.

Section VII: Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The last section of each country profile (Table 11) is a set of suggested actions for the country to consider taking in order to advance the elimination of child labor.

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies that are consistent with relevant international standards on child labor (Table 9).

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Policy Guidelines to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labor and Protect the Adolescent Worker (2019–2029)†	Aims to focus on child labor eradication in agricultural policy, develop child labor prevention strategies, improve the quality and coverage of child protection services, protect adolescent workers from hazardous work, create strategies to address child labor in domestic work, and establish evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to assess progress. (66) The government updated this policy during the reporting period and held workshops for civil society in various regions of the country. (4) The Colombian Government, along with the Somos Tesoro Project, the School of Public Administration, and ILO developed an online course to train civil servants on implementation of the policy. (78)
National Policy on Childhood and Adolescence (2018–2030)†	Articulates multiple sub-policies on the worst forms of child labor, protection of adolescents, prevention and eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and prevention of recruitment of children and adolescents by illegal armed groups. (4,79) Policy adopted in June 2018 to contribute to the comprehensive welfare and development of children and adolescents, recognizing them as rights-bearing subjects and integral to national development. (4,79)

In 2018, the Attorney General's Office reported conducting numerous trainings on the worst forms of child labor. Participants included the Colombian National Police, the ICBF, the Judicial Police Investigation Unit, and members of the Family Defenders Offices. (4) The Ministry of the Interior held numerous anti-trafficking in persons trainings, and the Colombian National Police, in cooperation with Interpol and UNODC, trained 130 law enforcement investigators at the national level. (4)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2018, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, which cover the main sectors where child labor has been identified in the country (Table 10).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Present Against Child Labor	Program developed by ICBF to address child labor throughout the country. In 2018, the ICBF's mobile teams conducted 1,962 "Present Against Child Labor" workshops to combat child labor in 267 municipalities across the country, with 6,166 participants, including children, adolescents, and their families—with activities including family strengthening and education on fundamental rights restitution. (4,92,93)
Projects Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children†	As part of the National Policy Guidelines for the Prevention of the Commercial Exploitation of Children, the Colombian government continued its Eyes Everywhere (<i>Ojos en Todas Partes</i>) public awareness campaign, which aims to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector. Led by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, and implemented in coordination with ICBF and the National Tourism Fund. (1,4,25,94) In 2018, it focused on the goal of better identifying solicitors and victims of child sex tourism. (4) The Government of Colombia also supports the "We Protect" program, a web-based tool to collect, monitor, and address complaints of commercial sexual exploitation of children. (95) ICBF also created the Colombia Present Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents campaign, an awareness-raising campaign on commercial sexual exploitation and call to action for the public to report cases. (65)

Despite the requirement that children between the ages of 15 and 17 obtain official authorization to work, many adolescents work without such authorization. (62) Although the government did not provide the total number of labor inspections conducted in 2018, it did report that 2,757 inspections were conducted to determine whether authorizations for minors of the legal minimum work age were properly granted and 2,099 followup inspections of work sites were conducted to verify the appropriate conditions of work for authorized minors of the legal minimum work age. (4)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor in Colombia (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Raise the minimum age for work to the age up to which education is compulsory.	2018
Enforcement	Ensure that all labor inspectors have sufficient resources to perform inspections.	2009 – 2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice and ensure the Ministry of Labor employs inspectors trained in victim identification of forced labor.	2009 – 2018
	Ensure that labor inspectors receive timely approval from the Attorney General's Office and judicial officers to conduct timely inspections on private property.	2018
	Collect and publish data on penalties and sentencing for crimes related to the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.	2018
	Ensure that government efforts on human trafficking victim identification and assistance are adequately coordinated between agencies.	2018
Government Policies	Publish information on activities taken under all policies related to child labor, including its worst forms.	2018

Appendix 5

Country Assessment Criteria

Each country in this report receives an assessment to indicate the USDOL's findings on the country's level of advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period. There are five possible assessment levels: Significant Advancement, Moderate Advancement, Minimal Advancement, No Advancement, or No Assessment. (41)

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

For a country to be assessed as having significantly advanced efforts in 2018, the country must have (a) instituted the minimum requirements related to laws and regulations, enforcement mechanisms, and programs to address and prevent the worst forms of child labor (see Box A); and (b) during the reporting period made meaningful efforts in all relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking the suggested actions recommended in the 2017 report.

Box A:

Minimum Requirements Needed to be Considered for a Significant Advancement Assessment

In order for a country to be eligible to receive an assessment of Significant Advancement, a country must have:

- Established a minimum age for work that meets international standards;
- Established a minimum age for hazardous work that meets international standards;
- Established legal prohibitions against forced labor that meet international standards;
- Established legal prohibitions against child trafficking that meet international standards;
- Established legal prohibitions against commercial sexual exploitation of children that meet international standards;
- Established legal prohibitions against the use of children for illicit activities that meet international standards;
- Designated a competent authority or implemented institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor;
- Imposed penalties for violations related to the worst forms of child labor;
- Taken active measures to ensure that children are not inappropriately incarcerated, penalized, or physically harmed for unlawful acts as a direct result of being a victim of the worst forms of child labor;
- Taken active measures to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence public officials who participate in or facilitate the worst forms of child labor;
- Made a good faith effort to collect and publish labor and criminal law enforcement data; and
- Directly funded a significant social program that includes the goal of eliminating child labor or addressing the root causes of the problem, such as lack of education opportunities, poverty, or discrimination.

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

A country moderately advanced efforts in eliminating the worst forms of child labor in 2018 if it made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in some relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking the suggested actions recommended in 2017.

MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT

Three types of countries made minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2018. The first is a country that made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in a few relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking the suggested actions recommended in 2017.

The other two types of countries are those that, regardless of meaningful efforts made in relevant areas, minimally advanced as a result of establishing or failing to remedy regressive or significantly detrimental laws, policies, or practices that delayed advancement in the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Examples of regressive or significantly detrimental laws, policies, or practices include lowering the minimum age for work below international standards, recruiting or using children in armed conflict, and continuing to impose administrative barriers to child labor inspections. The following points make distinctions between regression and continued law, policy, or practice:

- **Regression in Law, Policy, or Practice that Delayed Advancement.** This type of country made meaningful efforts in a few or more relevant areas but established a regressive or significantly detrimental law, policy, or practice during the reporting period that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor.
- **Continued Law, Policy, or Practice that Delayed Advancement.** This type of country made meaningful efforts in a few or more relevant areas but failed to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law, policy, or practice established in previous years, which delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor.

NO ADVANCEMENT

Three types of countries made no advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2018. The first is a country that made no meaningful efforts to advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period.

The other two types of countries are those that, regardless of whether meaningful efforts in relevant areas were made, had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents, which is considered an egregious form of exploitation. Complicity can occur when a government is involved in forced child labor at any level of government, including at the local, regional, or national level. Such incidents involve direct or proactive government action to compel children under age 18 to work. The following points make distinctions between a country making no efforts and being complicit and a country making efforts but being complicit:

- **No Efforts and Complicit in Forced Child Labor.** This type of country made no meaningful efforts, took no suggested actions reported in 2017, and had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents in 2018.
- **Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor.** This type of country made meaningful efforts, which may have included taking the suggested actions reported in 2017, but had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents in 2018.

NO ASSESSMENT

This assessment is reserved for countries in which the population of children is either non-existent or extremely small (fewer than 50), there is no evidence of the worst forms of child labor, and the country appears to have an adequate preventive legal and enforcement framework on child labor; or when a country is included in the report for the first time or receives a suggested action for the first time. Currently, only Wallis and Futuna falls into this category.

Country Assessments, by Assessment

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT		
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement
Colombia	LAC	Significant Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Significant Advancement
Ecuador	LAC	Significant Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Significant Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement
India	AP	Significant Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement
Rwanda	AF	Significant Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Significant Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Significant Advancement
MODERATE ADVANCEMENT		
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Algeria	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement
Belize	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bolivia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cambodia	AP	Moderate Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chile	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cook Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement

Country Assessments, by Assessment (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Dominican Republic	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Eswatini	AF	Moderate Advancement
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement
Gambia, The	AF	Moderate Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Moderate Advancement
Guyana	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement
North Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Peru	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Philippines	AP	Moderate Advancement

Country Assessments, by Assessment (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Samoa	AP	Moderate Advancement
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Thailand	AP	Moderate Advancement
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Uganda	AF	Moderate Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Uzbekistan	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Moderate Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT		
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Minimal Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Minimal Advancement
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement
Haiti	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Kazakhstan	AP	Minimal Advancement
Kenya	AF	Minimal Advancement
Kiribati	AP	Minimal Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Minimal Advancement
Liberia	AF	Minimal Advancement
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement

Country Assessments, by Assessment (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Montserrat	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Niue	AP	Minimal Advancement
Papua New Guinea	AP	Minimal Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement
Solomon Islands	AP	Minimal Advancement
South Africa	AF	Minimal Advancement
Timor-Leste	AP	Minimal Advancement
Tokelau	AP	Minimal Advancement
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement
Vanuatu	AP	Minimal Advancement
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT CONTINUED LAW THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT CONTINUED POLICY THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT CONTINUED PRACTICE(S) THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mongolia	AP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practices that Delayed Advancement
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Tonga	AP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement

Country Assessments, by Assessment (continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT CONTINUED POLICY AND PRACTICE THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Mauritania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT REGRESSION IN LAW AND PRACTICE THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Moldova	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT REGRESSION IN PRACTICE THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Gabon	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
Yemen	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
NO ADVANCEMENT		
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	AP	No Advancement
Grenada	LAC	No Advancement
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement
NO ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT COMPLICIT IN FORCED CHILD LABOR		
Afghanistan	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Burma	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
NO ASSESSMENT		
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment

Comparison in Assessments from 2017 to 2018, by Country

COUNTRY	REGION	2017 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Afghanistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Algeria	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Belize	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Bolivia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
British Virgin Islands	EUR	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Burma	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cambodia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Chad	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Chile	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Colombia	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Comoros	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement

Comparison in Assessments from 2017 to 2018, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2017 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Cook Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Dominican Republic	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Ecuador	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Eswatini	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	No Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Gabon	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
Gambia, The	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Grenada	LAC	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Guinea	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Guyana	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Honduras	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
India	AP	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement

Comparison in Assessments from 2017 to 2018, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2017 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kazakhstan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Kenya	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Kiribati	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Liberia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mauritania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice and Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Moldova	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mongolia	AP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement

Comparison in Assessments from 2017 to 2018, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2017 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Niue	AP	No Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
North Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Papua New Guinea	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Philippines	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Rwanda	AF	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Samoa	AP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Senegal	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement
Solomon Islands	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practices that Delayed Advancement
South Africa	AF	Significant Advancement	Minimal Advancement
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement

Comparison in Assessments from 2017 to 2018, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2017 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2018 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Thailand	AP	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Timor-Leste	AP	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tokelau	AP	No Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Tonga	AP	No Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Uganda	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Uzbekistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Vanuatu	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment	No Assessment
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Yemen	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
Zambia	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement

Appendix 6

Laws and Ratifications, by Country

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Afghanistan	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Algeria	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	12	Yes
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	12	17	Yes
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	18	Yes
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	10	Yes
Belize	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	14	Yes
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	13	N/A	Yes
Bolivia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes

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Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	N/A	Yes
Brazil	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	16	17	Yes
Burkina Faso	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Burma	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	14	10	Yes
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	12	Yes
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Cambodia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	N/A	Yes
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	14	12	Yes
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Chile	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	18	Yes
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	17.5	Yes
Cocos (Keeling) Island	AP	No Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	17.5	Yes

Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

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Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Eswatini	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	12/13	No
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	N/A	No
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	14	16	Yes
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	15	No
Gabon	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Gambia, The	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	16	16	Yes
Georgia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	15	Yes
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Grenada	LAC	No Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	No
Guyana	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Haiti	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	15	Yes

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Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
India	AP	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	12	Yes
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Kazakhstan	AP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
Kenya	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	16	14	Yes
Kiribati	AP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	15	Yes
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	15	Yes
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	14	15	Yes
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	13	Yes
Liberia	AF	Minimal Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	16	15	Yes
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes

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Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	18	Yes
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Mauritania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	16	14	Yes
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Moldova	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	18	Yes
Mongolia	AP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Montserrat	EUR	Minimal Advancement	No	No	No	No	No	No	16	16	Yes
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes

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Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15	13	Yes
Nicaragua	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	12	Yes
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	N/A	Yes
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	15	Yes
Niue	AP	Minimal Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	16	Yes
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	17	Yes
North Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15	16	Yes
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Papua New Guinea	AP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	16	N/A	No
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Peru	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
Philippines	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	18	Yes
Rwanda	AF	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	EUR	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	16	16	Yes

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Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Samoa	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15	14	No
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	15	Yes
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Serbia	EUR	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Solomon Islands	AP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	12	N/A	No
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	15	14	Yes
South Africa	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	No
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	13	Yes

Appendix 6

Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Suriname	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	16	12	Yes
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	14	No
Thailand	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Timor-Leste	AP	Minimal Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Tokelau	AP	Minimal Advancement	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	16	Yes
Tonga	AP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	18	No
Tunisia	MENA	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	15	15	No
Uganda	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	16	13	Yes
Ukraine	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
Uzbekistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	18	Yes

Appendix 6

Laws and Ratifications, by Country (Continued)

COUNTRY	REGION	2018 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Vanuatu	AP	Minimal Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	N/A	No
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15	16	Yes
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Yemen	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	15	Yes
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	N/A	Yes
Zimbabwe	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	12	No

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On the cover:

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Washing ground stone to extract
gold nuggets. Goldmines of
Komabangou, Niger, November 2003.



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Farahedee School for boys and girls was refurbished by UNICEF. Now, 1,500 children attend the school, where they take classes and receive Mine Risk Education sessions. While many of the children are from east Mosul, increasing pressure has been put on the school as an influx of students from west Mosul have arrived and enrolled at the school. Iraq, June 12, 2017.

WHAT CAN YOU



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