2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Required by the Trade and Development Act of 2000

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Philippines. 17-year old Harel used to work in the sugarcane farms in their barangay. Having learned about child rights and the negative effects of child labor, Harel stopped working and became determined to make a positive mark in his community. © Christopher Leones/ABK3 LEAP

On the cover: Young boys remove fish from nets in Yeji, a fishing village on Lake Volta, central Ghana. © Tugela Ridley

On the back cover: GoodWeave programs ensure that Afghan girls receive access to education instead of being forced to work. © GoodWeave International

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

SEP 30 2016

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The Vice President of the United States
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The enclosed report, titled *The Department of Labor's 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, is submitted in accordance with section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464). The report describes the efforts of 137 countries, non-independent countries, and territories to meet commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. We hope this report is useful to the Congress.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. PEREZ

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader

Panama, Puerto Caimito. Kevin Anthony Miranda Gonzalez feeds wood into a furnace as he works at his family's mill, where they produce sugarcane molasses.
© Carlos Spottorno/Panos

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

SEP 30 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The enclosed report, titled *The Department of Labor's 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, is submitted in accordance with section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464). The report describes the efforts of 137 countries, non-independent countries, and territories to meet commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. We hope this report is useful to the Congress.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. PEREZ

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader

Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Secretary of Labor

Foreword

Last fall, all 193 member states of the United Nations spoke with one voice when they adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a roadmap for ending poverty, protecting the environment, and promoting peaceful, inclusive, and just societies by 2030. Among these goals is the promotion of "inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all," which has a specific target of taking "immediate and effective measures" to eradicate forced labor and human trafficking and to "secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour."

Achieving these goals, including this specific target, requires us to work together across sectors and regions — through sustained dialogue and active partnership among governments, international organizations, businesses, trade unions, civil society, and others — to address the 168 million child laborers and 21 million adults and children who suffer in forced labor around the world. To make effective and sustainable progress, we must address the root causes of these practices. We must lift vulnerable populations out of poverty and social exclusion, helping them gain access to education and training, stable livelihoods, and decent work.

Commemorations of World Day Against Child Labor in June spotlighted the risks of child and forced labor in global supply chains, from agriculture to mining and fishing to manufacturing. They also focused both on innovative private sector practices and the critical need for a more universal embrace of "conscious capitalism" to achieve the promise of the SDGs.

Conscious capitalism recognizes that by working collaboratively, governments, businesses, workers, and civil society can do well by doing good. They can achieve success in business, throughout global supply chains, and in sustainable development. Countries' economies and companies' bottom lines can grow by doing right by workers and, in particular, by finding sustainable solutions to end child and forced labor.

And employers agree. Shortly after the adoption of the SDGs, the International Organization of Employers, which represents more than 150 business and employer organizations around the world, signed the Bahrain Declaration committing businesses to support the SDGs.

During the year, the United States also took an important step to remove a legal loophole at odds with

the SDGs. The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act that President Obama signed into law in February 2016 eliminated the "consumptive demand" exemption from the Tariff Act of 1930.[1] For over eight decades, that exception permitted U.S. importation of goods made by forced, slave, convict, or indentured labor if they were not produced domestically in sufficient quantities to meet U.S. demand.

The U.S. Department of Labor works to combat child and forced labor, wherever it may be found. We raise awareness, engage with other governments and the private sector, fund programs to directly intervene in exploitative labor situations, and develop structures for lasting change and fulfillment of the SDGs.

In Afghanistan's Herat Province, a ten-year-old girl named Nazia used to weave carpets for six hours a day to earn money to help her family. She was not alone in the handmade carpet industry, which globally uses an estimated 250,000 child weavers and an untold number of forced laborers. We fund GoodWeave, however, a non-profit that rescues children from South Asian carpet looms and inspects and certifies carpet-weaving facilities as free of child and forced labor. GoodWeave found Nazia during an inspection. Now, in addition to school, Nazia attends extracurricular classes supported by the project. She wants to become a doctor, and according to her mother, Nazia has not only improved in school but now uses what she has learned to assist her family and community, including helping her sibling and other neighborhood children with their studies.

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It is in this context, recognizing the millions of Nazias around the world and the moral imperative of the SDGs and conscious capitalism, that I am honored to release the 15th edition of the annual *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, as mandated by the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA), and the 7th edition of the *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA) and last issued in December 2014. The TDA Report describes the efforts of 137 countries and territories to eliminate the worst forms of child labor through legislative reform, intragovernmental coordination, law enforcement, and policies and programs. The TVPRA Report features the addition of new goods that we have reason to believe are produced by child or forced labor, which brings the total number of goods listed to 139, covering 76 countries.

These reports shine a spotlight on specific sectors in which child and forced labor can be found, the strides some countries have made in upholding their commitments to abolish forced labor and the worst forms of child labor, and how much still remains to be done. These reports help us uncover those for whom the promise of the SDGs is most important and still elusive. They provide us the factual foundation, and the inspiration, to push for the laws, policies, and practices to make this promise a reality, both in the United States and around the world.

THOMAS E. PEREZ
Secretary of Labor
September 30, 2016

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The reports are also available on the Internet at: http://www.dol.gov/endchildlabor.
Comments on the reports are also welcomed and may be submitted to GlobalKids@dol.gov.

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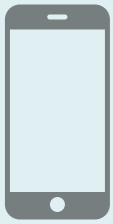
All three of USDOL's flagship reports on international child labor and forced labor are available on our website in .html and PDF formats, at www.dol.gov/endchildlabor. These reports include the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* required by the Trade and Development Act of 2000, the *List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor* required by Executive Order 13126, and the *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor and Forced Labor* required by the Trafficking Victims Protection and 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 action to address the issue.

Easy to slip into your pocket, our USB stores all three reports, as well as fact sheets about our ILAB's work, frequently asked questions about each report, and other report-related materials translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian.



ON YOUR PHONE

Our *Sweat & Toil* App contains over 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 needing an internet connection! You can download the free App on the iTunes or Google Play store and access the data behind the App on our website: http://developer.dol.gov/others/sweat-and-toil.

ON PAPER

Kinder to our environment and easier to carry with you, our *Findings* report is now available in a hard-copy 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 137 countries. In addition, both Lists are also available in hard-copy. Send an e-mail to GlobalKids@dol.gov to request hard copies or download them from our website.

Boy Carrying Pan of Water, Burkina Faso.
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Young boy works with heavy equipment without the use of gloves or mask on September, 2015, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
© Zakir Hossain Chowdhury / Barcro/ Barcroft Media via Getty Images

Acronyms

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
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
EU	European Union
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act
ILO-FUNDAMENTALS	ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
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 Committee of Experts	International Labor Organization Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations
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
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South (America); members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay (membership currently suspended), Uruguay, and Venezuela
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 Cooperation 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
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
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USDOL	U.S. Department of Labor
USDOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
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

Young girls sort out good coffee beans from poor ones in a plant.
© Abbas/Magnum Photos for MFA Italy

Salay Ry, 13, has worked for years at a brick factory to help earn an income to repay the debt of his family. Through the assistance of World Vision's Social Mobilization Against Child Labor Project (SMACL) he is now able to go to school.
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Purpose of this Report

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has prepared this 15th annual report on the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* in accordance with the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA).[1] The TDA expanded country eligibility criteria for several preferential tariff programs to include the requirement that beneficiary countries implement their commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.[2] The expanded country eligibility criteria apply to the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program authorized under the Trade Act of 1974.[3] The TDA mandated the Secretary of Labor to report on each "beneficiary country's implementation of its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor."[4] ILAB carries out this responsibility on behalf of the Secretary.

Research Focus

Country Coverage

This report covers 120 independent countries and 17 nonindependent countries and territories designated as GSP beneficiaries. This includes former GSP recipients who have negotiated free-trade agreements with the United States.[5] Because the population of children is extremely small (less 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 non-independent countries and territories. Rather, the report presents information on child labor and the worst forms of child labor and efforts to eliminate this exploitation in the remaining 120 countries and 14 non-independent countries and territories. The regional breakdown of these countries and non-independent countries and territories covered in this report is as follows: Sub-Saharan Africa: 47, Asia and the Pacific: 31, Europe and Eurasia: 18, Latin America and the Caribbean: 26, and the Middle East and North Africa: 12. Because the report focuses on government efforts, non-independent countries and territories are classified by the region of the country with which each non-independent country and territory is associated, as appropriate. Hereinafter, the use of "countries" in the report will also include territories.

Population Covered

In undertaking research on the "worst forms of child labor," ILAB relied on the definition of a child provided in the TDA, which is the same definition contained in ILO C. 182. The TDA and ILO C. 182 define a "child" to be a person under the age of 18.

Reporting Period

The reporting period for this year's report is January 2015 through December 2015.

Type of Employment

This report focuses on the worst forms of child labor. 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 purposes; (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.[6] 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."[7]

Definitions of Working Children

Definitions related to child labor are guided by ILO Conventions 138 on the Minimum Age and 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. ILO's Resolution Concerning Statistics on Child Labor developed during the 18th Conference of Labor Statisticians provides the international framework for measuring children's work. Below are the categories of working children discussed in our report.

Working Children

Working children (children in employment) are those engaged in any economic activity for at least one hour during the reference period. Economic activity includes market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods and services for own use). The work children perform may be in the formal or informal economy, inside or outside family settings, for pay or profit. This includes children working in domestic service outside the child's own household for an employer (paid or unpaid).[8]

Child Labor

Children in child labor are a subset of working children. Child labor includes employment below the minimum age as established in national legislation (excluding permissible light work) and the worst forms of child labor, including hazardous unpaid household services. Child labor is thus a narrower concept than children in employment, as 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.[9]

Worst Forms of Child Labor

Worst forms of child labor refers to those activities described and as understood in ILO Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999.[10] Under Article 3 of the Convention, the worst forms of child labor comprise—

(a) 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;
(b) The use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic purposes;
(c) 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;
(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.

Forced Child Labor

"Forced labor" under international standards means all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty for its nonperformance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily, and includes indentured labor.[11] "Forced labor" includes work provided or obtained by force, fraud or coercion, including: (1) by threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint against any person; (2) 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 (3) by means of the abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process.[12] Forced child labor is a categorical worst form of child labor under ILO Convention 182.[13]

Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor

For the purposes of 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). See "ILO Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999."[14]

Children, 5-17 years old

*global estimates on the number of children engaged in categorical worst forms of child labor do not exist. See the ILO's Global child labour trends from 2008 to 2012 at http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_23015/lang--en/index.htm for more information about child labor statistics.

ILO Conventions Related to Child Labor

The International Labor Organization (ILO) brings together governments, employers, and workers representatives of member states to establish international labor standards, develop policies, and implement programs to advance decent work.[15] International labor standards are legal instruments drawn up by these ILO constituents that set out basic principles and rights at work. They take the form of either Conventions or Recommendations. Conventions are legally binding international treaties that may be ratified by member states. Ratifying countries commit themselves to applying the convention in national law and practice and reporting on its application at regular intervals. Key ILO Conventions related to children's work are listed below, along with the minimum ages set by countries related to these conventions. Also listed are countries that have not ratified key conventions or did not establish a compulsory education age that extends to the minimum age for work.

ILO Convention 138: Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973

ILO Convention 138 (ILO C. 138) serves as the principal ILO standard on child labor. Under Article 2(3) of ILO C. 138, Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 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." Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum legal working age of 14 when ratifying the convention. Additionally, under Article 7(1), "National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work...." Countries that specify a minimum legal working age of 14 years may permit light work for persons ages 12 to 14 years.[16]

ILO Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999

ILO Convention 182 (ILO C. 182) commits ratifying nations to take immediate action to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Among other actions, ILO C. 182 requires ratifying nations to remove children from the worst forms of child labor and provide them with rehabilitation, social reintegration, and access to free basic education and vocational training; consult with employer and worker organizations to create appropriate mechanisms to monitor implementation of the Convention; take into account the special vulnerability of girls; and provide assistance and/or cooperate with efforts of other members to implement the Convention.[17]

ILO Convention 29: Forced Labor, 1930

ILO Convention 29 is the fundamental convention on forced labor. The convention includes some exceptions for compulsory military service, work as part of normal civic obligations, work as a consequence of convictions, working during emergencies, and minor community services.[18]

ILO Convention 105: Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957

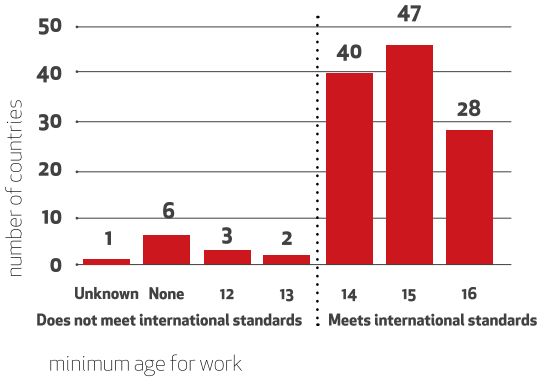
ILO Convention 105 further clarifies Convention 29 as it relates to forced or compulsory labor as a means of political coercion or education or as a punishment for holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social or economic system; as a method of mobilizing and using labor for purposes of 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.[19]

Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labor Convention, 1930

The Forced Labor Protocol requires countries to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate forced and compulsory labor, to sanction perpetrators and to provide protections and appropriate remedies, such as compensation. It also requires countries to develop a national policy and plan of action to address forced or compulsory labor in consultation with employers' and worker' organizations.[20]

Minimum Age* for **Work**

15 years



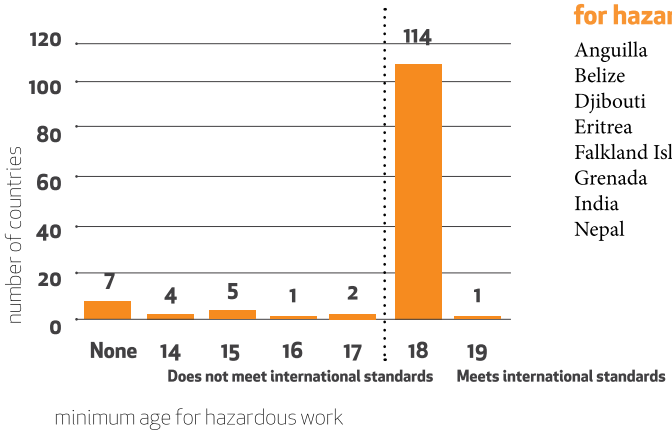
Countries that do not have a minimum age for work at 14 years

Belize
Bhutan
Cook Islands
India
Nigeria
Niue
Norfolk Island
Pakistan (Federal)
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha
Solomon Islands
Tonga

*Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum legal working age of 14 when ratifying the convention.

Minimum Age for **Hazardous Work**

18 years

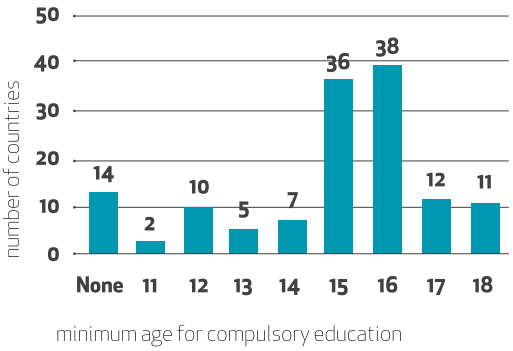


Countries that do not have a minimum age for hazardous work at 18 years

Anguilla
Belize
Djibouti
Eritrea
Falkland Islands
Grenada
India
Nepal
Niger
Niue
Norfolk Island
Pakistan (Federal, Punjab)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Seychelles
Solomon Islands
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

Minimum Age for **Compulsory** ** **Education**

15 years



Countries that do not have a compulsory education age that extends to the minimum age for work

Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Bhutan
Botswana
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Comoros
Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia, The
Georgia
Iraq (non-Kurdistan Region)
Kenya
Kyrgyz Republic
Lesotho
Liberia
Maldives
Mozambique
Nepal
Nicaragua
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Uganda
Vanuatu
Zambia
Zimbabwe

** There is no international standard for compulsory education.

Lebanon. Deir el Ahmad, a camp for Syrian refugees, children work as seasonal workers. A young girl harvests tobacco leaves.
© Joerg Boethling / Alamy Stock Photo

Country Assessments

Each country in the report receives an assessment[21] to indicate clearly the Secretary of Labor's findings on their level of advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period. Countries can receive one of five possible assessments: *Significant Advancement, Moderate Advancement, Minimal Advancement, No Advancement,* or *No Assessment*. [22]

Significant Advancement. Compared with the suggested actions reported in 2014, a country significantly advanced efforts in eliminating the worst forms of child labor in 2015 if it took suggested actions or made other meaningful efforts during the reporting period in **all relevant areas** covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs.

Moderate Advancement. Compared with the suggested actions reported in 2014, a country moderately advanced efforts in eliminating the worst forms of child labor in 2015 if it took suggested actions or made other meaningful efforts during the reporting period in **some relevant areas** covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs.

Minimal Advancement. There are three types of countries that minimally advanced efforts in eliminating the worst forms of child labor in 2015. The first is a country that, compared with the suggested actions reported in 2014, took suggested actions or made other meaningful efforts during the reporting period in a **few relevant areas** covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs.

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 and/or using children in armed conflict; and continuing to impose administrative barriers to child labor inspections.

- ***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. There are three types of countries that made no advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2015. The first is a country that, compared with the suggested actions reported in 2014, took **no suggested actions and made no other meaningful efforts** in 2015 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 or not, had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being **complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than an isolated incident**, 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 involvement is "direct" or proactive government action to compel children under 18 to work.

- ***No Efforts and Complicit in Forced Child Labor***. This type of country **made no meaningful efforts**, took no suggested actions reported in 2014, and had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being **complicit in the use of forced child labor** in more than an isolated incident in 2015.

- ***Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor***. This type of country **made meaningful efforts**, which may have included taking suggested actions reported in 2014, but had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being **complicit in the use of forced child labor** in more than an isolated incident in 2015.

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

A child harvests coffee beans in the department of El Paraiso, Honduras, December 20, 2010. © Orlando Sierra/AFP/Getty Images

The Year in Review

The Sustainable Development Goals: A Global Commitment to Eliminate Child Labor

The persistence of global poverty and inequality received much attention throughout the past year, particularly during the negotiation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the 193 countries of the United Nations. Adopted in September 2015, these 17 goals form an ambitious 15-year plan of action for ending global poverty, protecting the planet, and combatting inequality and injustice by 2030.[23]

Goal 8 of the SDGs—Decent Work and Economic Growth—links eliminating child labor and ending poverty. Goal 8 calls for the promotion of "inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all," and Target 8.7 calls for "immediate and effective measures" to eradicate forced labor and human trafficking and "secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour."

Recognition of this direct relationship is not new. **Our predecessors in the fight against child labor identified a clear connection between poverty and child labor well over 100 years ago**.

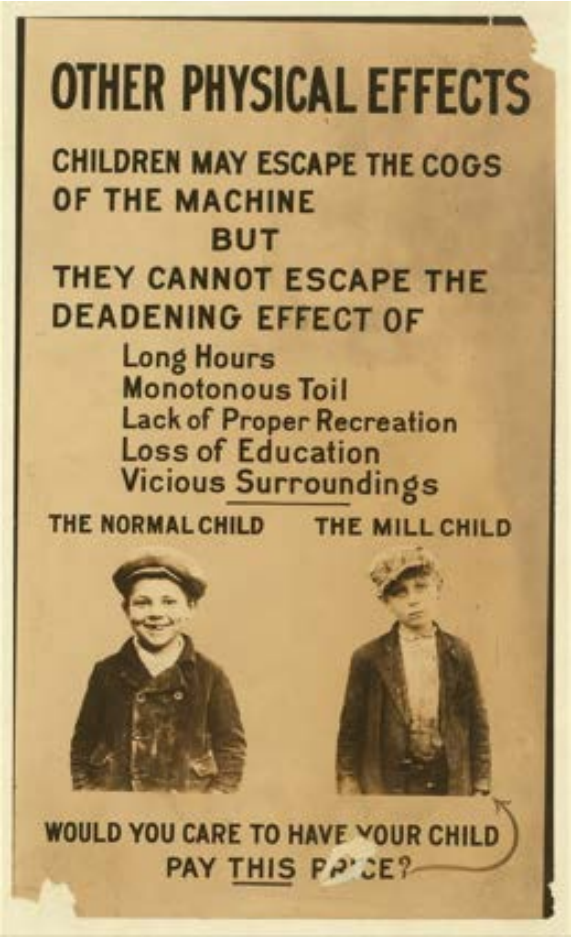
The beginnings of a movement to end the use of child labor in the United States galvanized in 1904 with the founding of the National Child Labor Committee

(NCLC). Its founders argued that without an education, child laborers were condemned to a future of illiteracy, poverty, and misery.[24] The organization hired investigators to document children working in harsh conditions and used photographs and statistics to publicize their plight. This information was urgently needed because the number of children under age 15 who worked in industrial jobs in the United States grew from 1.5 million in 1890 to 2 million in 1910.[25] The advocacy efforts of the NCLC led to the establishment of the Children's Bureau in 1912 as a Federal repository for child labor information. This bureau became part of the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) the following year. Their advocacy also led to a decrease in the number of child laborers by nearly 50 percent by 1920.[26]

Grace Abbott, a trained social worker and child labor reformer, served as head of the Child Labor Division within the Children's Bureau from 1921 to 1934, where among her successes was advocating for a child labor clause to be included in all Federal Government war-goods contracts. Like the founding members of the NCLC, Abbott believed that child labor and poverty are inherently intertwined:

"Child labor and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labor of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labor to the end of time."

Grace Abbott, Social worker, child labor reformer, and head of the Department of Labor's Child Labor Division



The high price of child labor was fully recognized by the National Child Labor Committee in the early 1900s, when this handbill was created.
Image source: http://childlaborhistoryfair.weebly.com/

Child labor decreased significantly in the United States, in no small part due to the tireless work of Grace Abbott and her contemporaries. Roughly a century later, we are witnessing a similar positive trend: **a significant reduction in the number of child laborers around the world**, from 246 million in 2000 to 168 million in 2012—**a decrease of almost one-third**. Even so, while progress has clearly been made, child labor around the world persists, looking very much like what Grace Abbott witnessed in this country in the first decades of the 20th century. Full implementation of SDG Goal 8 and, in particular, Target 8.7 is critical to achieving globally the kind of progress that she and others achieved here at home roughly a century ago.

Left: Child labor in mining looks virtually the same today as it did a century ago. In August 1908, 11-year-old Otha Porter Martin worked as a "tipple boy" in the Turkey Know coal mine which was located in Mac Donald, West Virginia (USA). © Library of Congress. Right: Miguel Hernandez who was 12 years old in April 2005, spent more than 11 hours a day working inside a mine in Llallagua, Bolivia, in order to help his family make ends meet. © Alvaro Ybarra Zavala/Getty Images

The Sustainable Development Goals: A Roadmap for Ending Child Labor

"We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We resolve also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities."

— Excerpted from the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2015, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"[27]

Addressing Child Labor through Sustained Economic Growth and Decent Work

Children today can be found doing virtually every type of work under a wide range of conditions in nearly every corner of the globe. They grow the food we eat, straining to carry heavy loads of produce, wielding dangerous tools, and spraying toxic pesticides. They dive for, load, and process the fish we consume, risking drowning and exposure to cold temperatures.[28] They toil for long hours cleaning homes, often risking physical and sexual abuse from their employers. Children sell goods on the streets, sort through trash, mine for precious gems, and build new hotels and office buildings.[29] Some are enslaved, bonded to repay debts, used by armed groups to wage war, or exploited in prostitution.[30]

Exploitative child labor is a complex, multifaceted problem that stems, in significant part, from poverty. Many other factors, however, contribute to the inequity of opportunity that puts children at higher risk of labor exploitation:

- Lack of access to quality education and training
- Lack of decent work opportunities for youth and adult workers
- Demand for cheap and obedient labor
- Economic shocks
- Customs that emphasize the need for children to gain work experience
- Failure of governments to implement laws and policies designed to protect children
- Household crises
- Discrimination based on race or ethnicity
- Language barriers
- Disabilities
- Armed conflict
- Food crises
- Disease outbreaks[31]

The mission of USDOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs aligns with SDG Goal 8 and Target 8.7 as we seek to improve global working conditions, raise living standards, protect workers' ability to exercise their rights, and address the workplace exploitation of children and other vulnerable populations, helping to ensure that workers around the world are treated fairly and able to share more fully in the benefits of the global economy.

Inequality of Opportunity

The theme of *The State of the World's Children 2016*, recently released by UNICEF, is "Reaching every child: The promise of equity." This report argues that long-term sustainable growth, stability, and prosperity in any country can be predicted by the degree to which it provides every child with a fair chance to succeed. It concludes that promoting equity is "both a practical and a strategic imperative, helping to break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and thus reducing the inequalities that undermine all societies."[32]

Inequity of opportunity, both for vulnerable children and their families, increases the likelihood of exploitative child labor. Due to factors such as family income, social status, disabilities, or gender, among others, many children face barriers to accessing quality schools and advancing to higher levels of education. Along with older members of their families, children who have reached the minimum age for work face obstacles to obtaining safe, legal, secure, and decent jobs that pay fair wages and in which they can freely exercise their rights. These children are also at a higher risk of involvement in child labor.

As this year's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* reflects, over the past year, some governments undertook meaningful efforts to reduce inequities so that shared prosperity could be enjoyed by more children, regardless of gender, disability or health status, race, ethnicity, national origin, migration status, or religion. This included steps to ensure that all children had an opportunity to receive high-quality education or training; health care; and, when age appropriate, decent employment opportunities to help them develop and have a chance at upward mobility in the future.

For example, in Argentina, the National Registry of Agricultural Employers and Workers (RENATEA) program provided infrastructure improvement, operating costs, and pedagogical development to rural schools located in agricultural areas where children may be at risk of child labor. The Government of Ghana's Education Service placed girls' education officers at the regional and district levels, and mobilized communities to enroll more girls in school. The Government of Jordan's Social Support Centre in Marka afforded education, training, and rehabilitation to school dropouts and child laborers, including

Seven-year-old Pakistani Roma girl was orphaned when a mortar round hit her family's house and killed her parents - she fled to Jalozai camp in northern Pakistan. © UNHCR/S.Rich

The Marginalization of Roma Children

Roma children across Europe and parts of Eurasia remain disproportionately represented among victims of child trafficking, forced begging, and commercial sexual exploitation. This remained true in 2015, despite the conclusion of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (The Decade). The Decade was an initiative by the Governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia to eliminate discrimination against Roma people and to help them close societal gaps in income and opportunity.

Each country participating in the Decade, as well as Kosovo, maintained national policies and social programs that aimed to increase birth registration rates and access to inclusive education for Roma children. But many of these plans suffered from a lack of funding and implementation. Despite government efforts, the low rate of birth registration in Roma communities continued, often due to prohibitive registration costs, residency requirements, or a low level of awareness about the importance of registration.[33] The lack of birth registration prevented some Roma children from enrolling in school. Those who did enroll were often placed in segregated schools exclusively for Roma children with a lower standard of education than other public schools, or in schools for children with learning disabilities despite not having such disabilities.[34] While the Decade did raise international awareness, it did not succeed in significantly improving the economic and social status of most Roma families.

The Link Between Disability and Child Labor

There are at least 93 million children with disabilities around the world, only 10 percent of whom attend school.[35] According to UNICEF, children who are poor and who work in dangerous conditions have a higher risk of becoming disabled. Once they become disabled, these children are often unable to access social protection services, which contributes to greater poverty.[36] Some children whose family members are affected by disabilities may be out of school, as they must work to provide for the family or provide care for that relative.[37] EducaFuturo, a USDOL-funded technical assistance project in Panama and Ecuador, works to expand access to education and livelihood opportunities for families affected by child labor and disability.[38] Through this project, more than 5,953 children are enrolled in education services, and 1,675 households are getting support to help end children's involvement in exploitive labor.[39]

children with disabilities. And the Government of Thailand supports the operation of Migrant Learning Centers that helped ensure a basic education to children in migrant communities.

In many other instances, however, initiatives to reduce inequities are nonexistent, have not been implemented adequately, or are otherwise falling short of helping vulnerable children. In some cases, this is because programs fail to address one or more essential social services, such as education, health care, or civil or birth registration. In other cases, governments may not be making the necessary changes to legal, political, and economic structures to address ingrained unfairness and exclusion. These types of foundational changes are critical for helping the most vulnerable and marginalized, especially children who are at high risk of child labor and their families.

Global Crises in 2015

In 2015, numerous shocks and stresses throughout the world—disease epidemics, drought, and food crises; major economic downturns and rapid environmental degradation; and the outbreak, escalation, or persistence of armed conflict—exacerbated inequity of opportunity and increased children's vulnerability to the worst forms of child labor, including human trafficking.[40] Of particular concern during the past year were increased migrations within countries and across national borders, stemming from a number of the aforementioned shocks and stresses, particularly armed conflict.

UNHCR reported that the global number of people displaced by armed conflict—65.3 million individuals—was at its highest level ever by the end of 2015, surpassing the numbers seen in the wake of World War II.[41] More than 30 million of these displaced persons—almost half—were children.[42]

Nearly 1.3 million children across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, for instance, have been displaced by violence attributed to the Boko Haram insurgency.[43] In South Sudan, nearly 2.4 million people fled their homes during two years of armed conflict, 721,000 of whom have become refugees in neighboring countries.[44] As of July 2015, at least 847,872

On February 10, 2015, child soldiers sit with their rifles at a ceremony overseen by UNICEF and its partners about disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration in Pibor, South Sudan.
© Samir Bol/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

A Syrian refugee collects potatoes on a farm in Lebanon.
© Ahmad Baroudi/Save the Children

The Impact of Syria's Mass Migration on Children

2016 marks the fifth anniversary of the Syrian refugee crisis, which is one of the largest population displacement crises in recent history and continues to have ripple effects throughout the region. Syria was the world's top source country of refugees in both 2014 and 2015. Since the beginning of the conflict, 4.9 million Syrian refugees have fled to the neighboring countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, as well as Egypt, including one million within the past year.[49] More than half of these refugees are under 18 and over 700,000 of these children do not attend school.[50] Rather than achieving their greatest potential, these children risk a future of illiteracy and poverty, toiling in Jordan's restaurants, shops, and fields, Turkey's textile mills, and in several countries on the streets and in domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation. In Lebanon, for example, children as young as 10 have been identified as victims of bonded labor in agriculture[51] Save the Children reported that 47 percent of Syrian refugee households in Jordan subsist partly or entirely on income brought in by their children. Children who remain within Syria are also at great risk of involvement in child labor, as the country is home to the world's second largest internally displaced populations, with 7.6 million people internally displaced.[52] As a consequence, children as young as nine years old are involved in hazardous economic activities that limit their access to education, including some who have been forced to take up arms or smuggle goods across borders.[53]

Afghans had been internally displaced as a result of conflict, with 2.7 million becoming refugees.[45] Other violence-induced migrations occurred within or from Burundi, Central African Republic, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria. Children from these countries have been killed, abducted, sexually assaulted, used as suicide bombers, and forced to join armed groups.

Inequity of opportunity manifests frequently in the children, and their families, living in or migrating from regions of conflict, who often lack access to adequate housing, food, social services, legal protections, education, or viable ways to support themselves.[46] In January 2016, for example, UNICEF reported that nearly 25 percent of children living in conflict zones across 24 countries were not attending school.[47] South Sudan, where schools were occupied by armed groups in 2015 and the Government ceased paying teachers' salaries in opposition-held areas, is home to the world's highest proportion of out-of-school children, with 51 percent of primary and lower secondary age children not in the classroom. The situation is nearly as dire in Niger, where 47 percent are unable to attend school, and in Afghanistan, with 40 percent out of school.[48]

Global Analysis of Government Efforts and Country Assessments

This 15th edition of the *Findings of the Worst Forms of Child Labor* describes the actions taken by 137 countries and territories in 2015 to meet their international commitments to address the worst forms of child labor by enacting and enforcing laws, coordinating effectively among stakeholders, establishing policy frameworks, and implementing social programs. It also points out continuing gaps in such efforts and makes recommendations regarding measures that could be undertaken to improve progress in reducing child labor.

Government Efforts

During this reporting period, 111 out of 137 governments covered in this report made at least one meaningful effort in advancing the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Specifically, 63 governments improved their laws, 65 undertook child labor law enforcement activities, 39 better coordinated their child labor initiatives, 61 enacted or implemented policies related to child labor, and 79 governments offered social programs to assist vulnerable children.

Increased Focus on Law Enforcement

Enforcement of child labor laws is critical to preventing and eliminating the worst forms of child labor. The failure to adequately sanction such practices, and secure remediation, maintains a culture of impunity that fails to effectively deter abusive practices. Child labor law enforcement is a challenge for many countries, particularly those with relatively weak law enforcement systems. Law enforcement entities in such countries often do not adequately document the cases on which they work, and when they do, many of the records are handwritten. Law enforcement statistics often are not collected, compiled, or analyzed on a national level, and, in many cases, there is no simple or reliable way for national governments to obtain this information from local jurisdictions, even when they request it. These and myriad other factors make accurately reporting and evaluating labor law enforcement data challenging.

In 2015, 65 governments included in this report made at least one meaningful effort to improve their labor and criminal law enforcement to better address child labor. Uganda, for example, trained more than 1,000 criminal law enforcement officers on issues related to the worst forms of child labor. The Philippines' Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking conducted training for 3,693 government personnel and 5,972 nongovernmental participants. Bahrain launched a multilingual hotline for the public to report cases of human trafficking and migrant worker abuse. Ivorian police conducted an operation that rescued 48 child trafficking victims, and Guyana achieved the country's first child trafficking conviction in which the full remedy available under the law – both imprisonment and restitution – was handed down to the offender. Courts in Lebanon and Namibia each convicted one defendant for the crime of child sex trafficking, resulting in prison sentences of 10 or more years. Prosecutors in Costa Rica carried out 50 investigations, initiated 10 prosecutions, and convicted 17 individuals involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Despite these positive steps, 69 governments included in this report made no meaningful efforts to enforce

ARCH's MFS program has inspired Mercy to tap into her own potential and give back to her community. She now serves as a peer mentor in her village, advocating for the elimination of hazardous child labor. When Ebola broke out in her community last year, Mercy stepped in to help educate her community about good hygiene and prevention practices.
© Winrock – ARCH (Actions to Reduce Child Labor)

laws related to child labor. Labor and criminal law enforcement efforts remained inadequate in many countries, particularly in rural areas where child labor is prevalent, as well as in the informal sector where if child labor laws cover children, they are often not enforced. Of the 137 countries included in this report for which data is reported and available, 56 governments did not meet the ILO's recommended benchmarks for an adequate number of inspectors. In three countries—Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, and Ukraine—unannounced inspections were not permitted. Thirty-six countries and mainland Tanzania[54] did not give their inspectors the authority to assess penalties for labor violations, 16 lacked a mechanism to receive child labor complaints, and three—Armenia,[55] Georgia, and Somalia—lacked labor inspectorates entirely. Many enforcement bodies reported being underfunded and understaffed; hindered by corruption and insufficient legal mandates; and lacking adequate training, data collection, and coordination mechanisms to effectively carry out their work.

It is our goal to help improve global awareness and understanding of law enforcement efforts to address child labor through our analysis and reporting of child labor law enforcement data. In preparing this year's report, we endeavored to more systematically request, collect, and document this information through the inclusion of two new charts for each country where child labor is known to occur: the first focuses on labor law enforcement data and the second focuses on criminal law enforcement. In some categories for some countries, readers will note that the corresponding responses are listed as "Unknown." This denotes that governments either did not provide the information to USDOL or the U.S. embassy or consulate in country, or they do not collect such information. USDOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs, in partnership with U.S. diplomatic missions, will continue to work with governments to obtain more comprehensive law enforcement statistics and provide a clearer picture of what successful child labor law enforcement interventions look like, as well as best practices seen around the world.

"As part of enhanced coordination with the Department of Justice, we have also begun receiving referrals for potential violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This is important because we're sometimes able to bring civil cases under the laws we enforce, with a lower burden of proof, where the Department of Justice is unable to bring criminal trafficking charges. This is one of the ways we as a civil enforcement agency can support law enforcement efforts against perpetrators of these crimes, obtaining back wages and liquidated damages for victims."

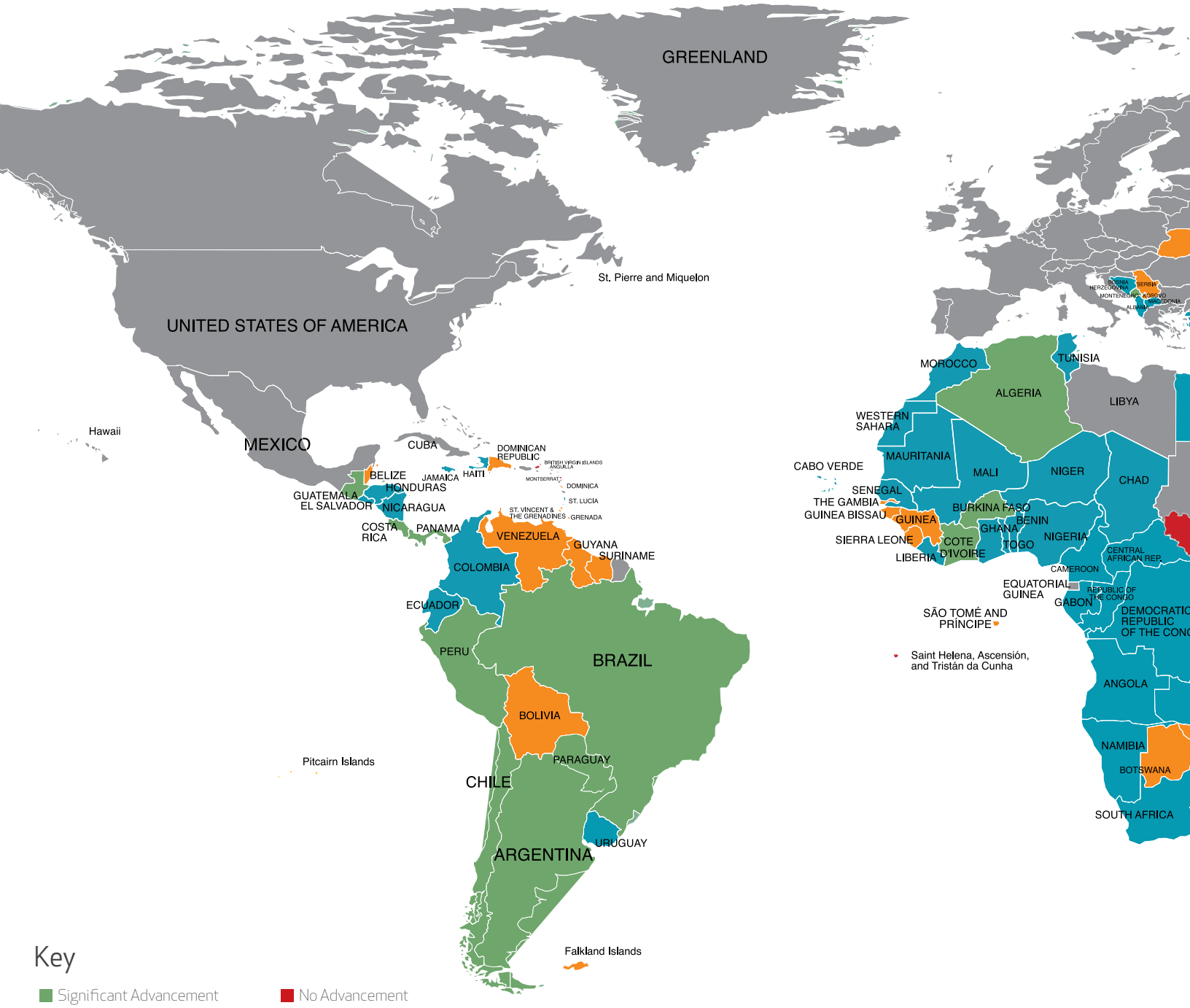
U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, Remarks delivered at press conference announcing next steps of Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team Initiative, June 25, 2015. https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/secretary-thomas-e-perez-delivers-remarks-press-conference-announcing-next-steps-anti

"Right now, 62 million girls worldwide are not in school. . .We cannot address our girls' education crisis until we address the broader cultural beliefs and practices that can help cause and perpetuate this crisis."

First Lady Michelle Obama, Let Girls Learn, November 2, 2015, http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/11/girls-education-michelle-obama/413554/

Girls participate in early childhood education classes adjoining a weaving center where their mothers learn to weave. Many of Goodweave's social programs impacts two generations at once—both parent and child through employment and education respectively.
© Lorenzo Tugnoli/GoodWeave International

2015 Assessment of Country Efforts to



Map not drawn to scale.

Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

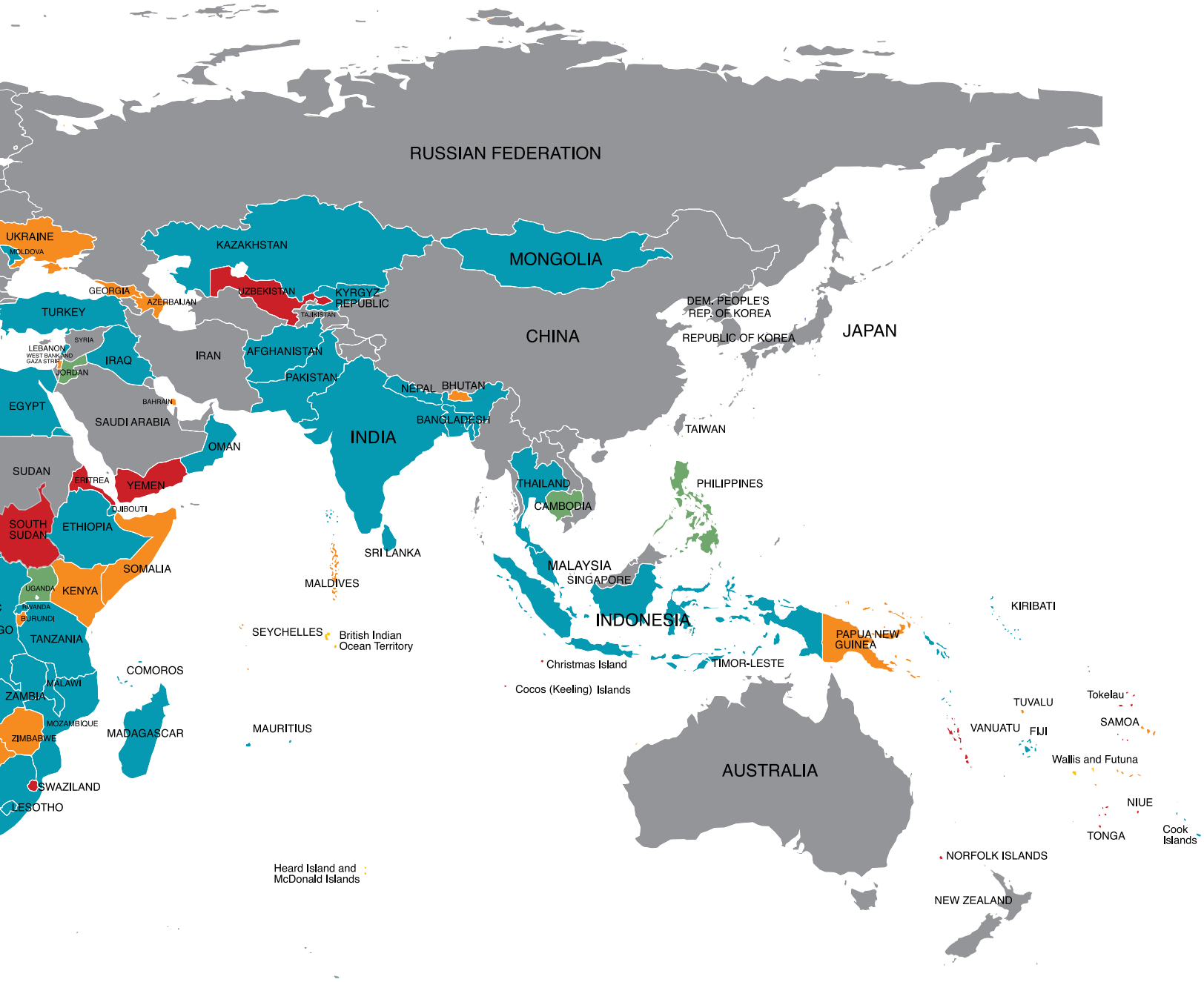


FIGURE 1

Global Breakdown of Country Assessments

137 countries

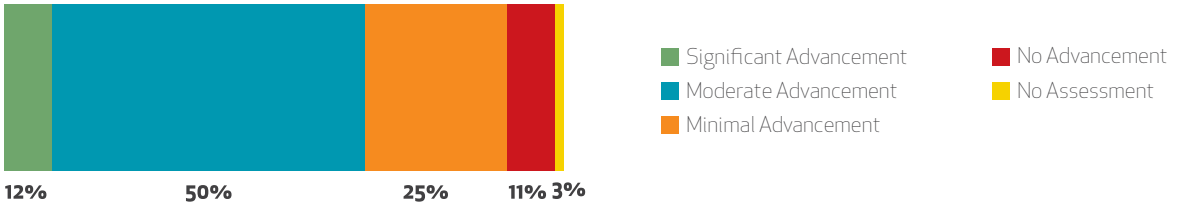


FIGURE 2

Country Assessment by Advancement Level

Significant Advancement 16

Algeria
Argentina
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Chile
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Guatemala
Jordan
Montenegro
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Uganda

Moderate Advancement 68

Afghanistan
Albania
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Colombia
Comoros
Congo, Democratic Republic of
Congo, Republic of
Cook Islands
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Ghana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kosovo
Kyrgyz Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Senegal
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Tanzania
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Uruguay
Western Sahara
Zambia

Minimal Advancement 34

Efforts Made
Anguilla
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Belize
Bhutan
Botswana
Burundi
Dominica
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
Gambia, The
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Kenya
Maldives
Papua New Guinea
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Serbia
Seychelles
Suriname
Tuvalu
Venezuela
West Bank and the Gaza Strip
Zimbabwe

Efforts Made but Regression in Law, Policy, or Practice that Delayed Advancement
Sierra Leone
Somalia

Efforts Made but Continued Law, Policy, or Practice that Delayed Advancement
Armenia
Bolivia
Dominican Republic
Georgia
Ukraine

No Advancement 15

No Efforts Made
British Virgin Islands
Niue
Norfolk Island
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristan da Cunha
Tokelau
Tonga
Vanuatu
Yemen

Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Eritrea
South Sudan
Swaziland
Uzbekistan

No Assessment 4

Ocean Territory
Heard Island and McDonald Islands
Pitcairn Islands
Wallis and Futuna

Country Assessments

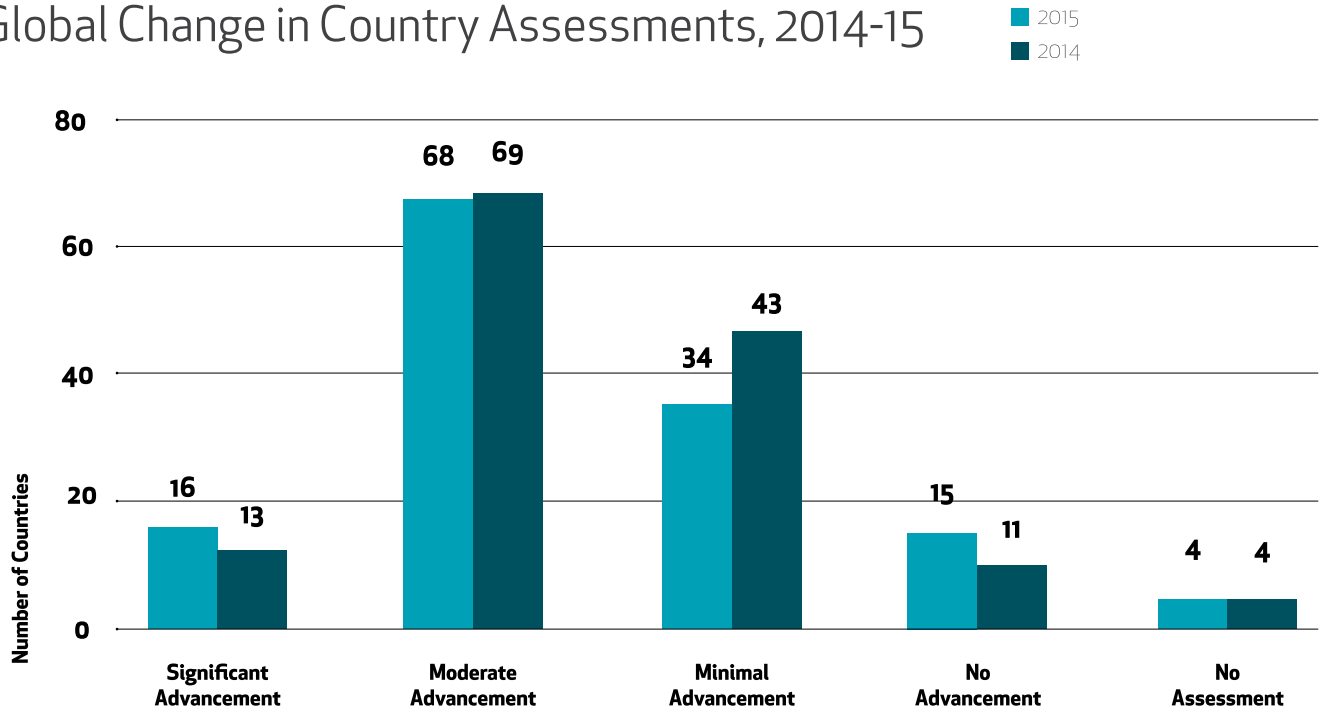
Figure 1 provides a global breakdown of the country assessments in this report. Overall, 84 of the 137 countries (61 percent) received an assessment of Moderate Advancement or higher, compared with 49 countries (36 percent) that received an assessment of Minimal Advancement or lower. The remaining four countries (three percent) received a No Assessment. Sixteen countries received an assessment of Significant Advancement, 68 received Moderate Advancement, 34 received Minimal Advancement, and 15 received No Advancement. Two countries—Sierra Leone and Somalia—received an assessment of Minimal Advancement regardless of meaningful efforts made in relevant areas as a result of establishing a regressive or significantly detrimental policy or practice during the reporting period that delayed advancement in the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. In addition, five countries—Armenia, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, and Ukraine—received an assessment of Minimal Advancement regardless of meaningful efforts made in relevant areas as a result of failing to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law or practice that was established in previous years that delayed advancement in the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. The governments of four countries—Eritrea, South Sudan, Swaziland, and Uzbekistan—received an assessment of No Advancement, regardless of meaningful efforts they made in relevant areas, as a result of a policy or demonstrated practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than an isolated incident.

One territory, Wallis and Futuna, was not assessed because there was no evidence of a worst forms of child labor problem and the territory has a good legal and enforcement framework on child labor. Other territories were not assessed due to their small population size: The British Indian Ocean Territory does not have a permanent civilian population, Heard Island and McDonald Islands are uninhabited, and the Pitcairn Islands has a population of fewer than 50 people. Barbados, Russia, and Trinidad and Tobago were included in past years' reports, but were not included in this edition as they are no longer eligible for the Generalized System of Preferences program authorized under the Trade Act of 1974.

The assessment results from 2015 indicate progress. The number of countries receiving Significant and Moderate Advancement assessments increased from 82 in 2014 to 84 in 2015. The number of countries assessed at Minimal Advancement and No Advancement decreased from 54 in 2014 to 49 compared in 2015 (See Figure 2).

FIGURE 3

Global Change in Country Assessments, 2014-15



A total of 24 countries increased their assessment level in 2015. Of the 16 countries that received Significant Advancement this year, eight countries received this assessment after receiving a Moderate Advancement in the previous reporting period: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jordan, Montenegro, and Panama. One country, Algeria, received this assessment after receiving a Minimal Advancement in 2014. Fourteen countries that received an assessment of Minimal Advancement in 2014 received a higher assessment of Moderate Advancement in 2015—the Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Macedonia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, and Tanzania. One country, the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), was upgraded from No Advancement to Minimal Advancement in this year's report.

Twenty-two other countries dropped to lower assessment levels in 2015 compared to 2014. One country—Yemen—dropped two levels from Moderate Advancement to No Advancement (see the 2015 Regional Outlook for the Middle East and North Africa for more information about Yemen). Twenty-one other countries dropped by one level. Six of these countries—Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Madagascar, South Africa, and Thailand—dropped from Significant Advancement to Moderate Advancement; Eleven countries—Azerbaijan, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Ukraine—dropped to Minimal Advancement; and four countries—Niue, Swaziland, Tokelau, and Tonga—dropped one level to No Advancement. Of the countries that dropped one level to Minimal Advancement—Sierra Leone and Somalia—dropped regardless of meaningful efforts made in relevant areas as a result of establishing a regressive or significantly detrimental policy or practice during the reporting period that delayed advancement in the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Of the countries that dropped one level to No Advancement, Swaziland dropped regardless of meaningful efforts made in relevant areas because it demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than an isolated incident. Figure 3 provides a global breakdown on changes in country assessments from 2014 to 2015.

Boy Chipping Ore, Panique Mine, Island of Masbate, The Philippines.
© Larry C. Price/Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

Conclusion: Demanding Change for a New Generation of Working Children

Today, millions of children remain trapped in the worst forms of child labor. The names, faces, and locations may have changed since Grace Abbott and other contemporaries began calling for increased awareness and action, but the factors that lead children to work and the conditions under which they do so remain largely the same. Child labor continues to demand champions, like Grace Abbott, to meet the SDGs' target, and moral imperative, of ending child labor in our time.

Ask Questions, Take Action, Demand Change.

For over 20 years, our Bureau of International Labor Affairs has been asking questions about how the global community can work together to end child labor. This year's report and its accompanying *Sweat & Toil* app contain detailed and accessible information that provides readers, and consumers, a foundation for looking further into this issue. They provide the basis for asking governments, employers, and other stakeholders what they are doing to help eliminate child labor in workplaces and throughout supply chains, and demanding change.

Greater awareness of child labor already has led to significant change. As this report indicates, many governments continue to improve their responses to these abuses, including through economic development, education, and social protection efforts that invest in and safeguard children, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, or socio-economic status.[56] Many stakeholders, including businesses, trade unions, and other civil society organizations, continue to work together and collaborate with governments, leveraging resources and competencies.

Child labor is deeply entrenched, however, and its underlying causes are wide and varied. Success will not come quickly or easily. Governments encounter significant challenges along the way, such as limited resources, conflicting priorities, insufficient capacity, difficulty mobilizing stakeholders, and unexpected crises. This report suggests specific actions that governments can take, even when facing such limitations, to move forward in their fight against child labor. These recommendations can serve not only as a roadmap for government efforts, but also as a framework for conversations among a full range of stakeholders.

Nearly a century ago, Grace Abbott advocated that sustainable economic development cannot be achieved on the backs of children. We remain inspired by her courage to speak out and demand change. We stand on her shoulders when we ask questions through this report; take action through direct engagement; and demand that governments, businesses, and other stakeholders do more. This report stems from the legacy that she left us. We are committed to using it as a tool to carry on her work on behalf of a new generation of children.

> "The future we want, all of us want — opportunity and security for our families, a rising standard of living, a sustainable, peaceful planet for our kids — all that is within our reach. But it will only happen if we work together."

Barack Obama, delivered during the State of the Union Address, January 12, 2016, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sotu

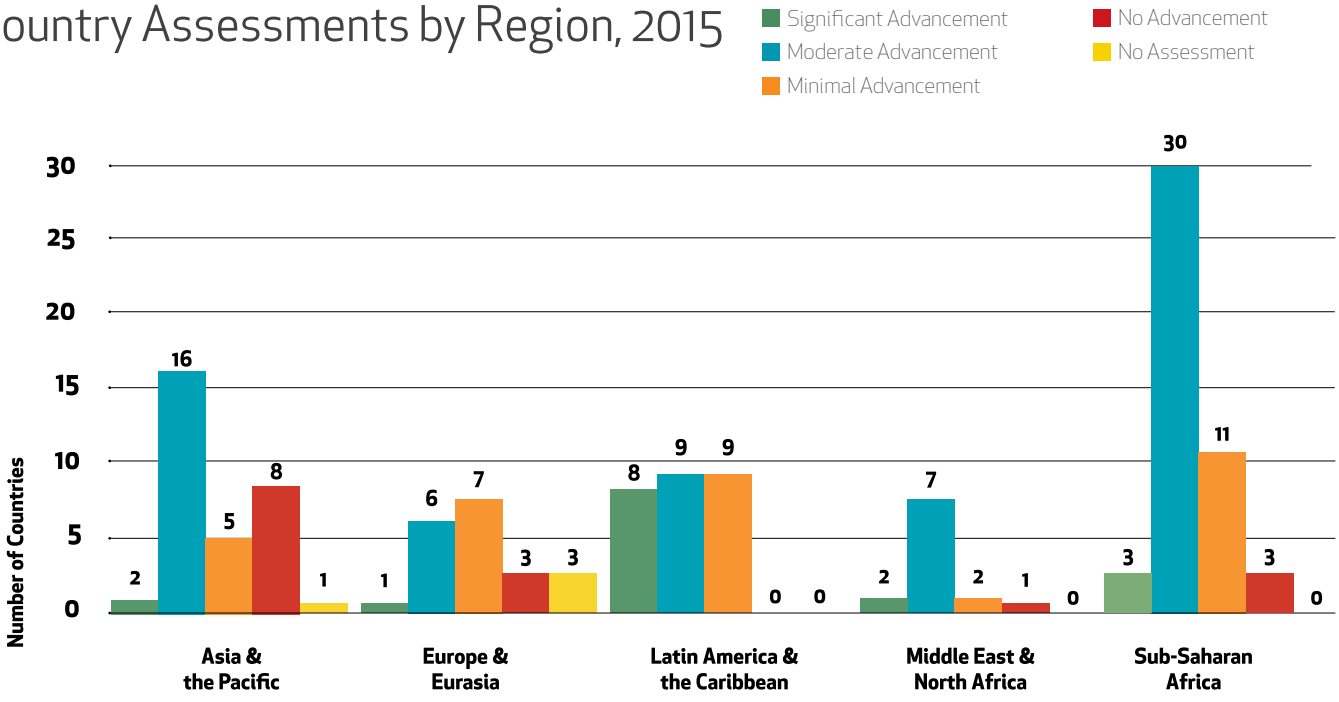
A 10-year-old boy looks for metal scraps at a garbage heap in Mbale town, east of Kampala. He sells metal scraps and empty plastic bottles in exchange for money, food, or petrol to sniff. © Edward Echwalu 2014

Regional Analysis of Government Efforts and Country Assessments

This 2015 report includes a regional analysis of country assessments and regional trends in government actions to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Figure 4 provides a regional breakdown of the country assessments. Every region had at least one country receive an assessment of Significant Advancement, with Latin America and the Caribbean with eight countries, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa with three countries, and Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa with two countries each. The remaining part of this discussion reviews trends and gaps in efforts to eliminate child labor, including the worst forms, by region.

FIGURE 4

Country Assessments by Region, 2015



Asia and the Pacific

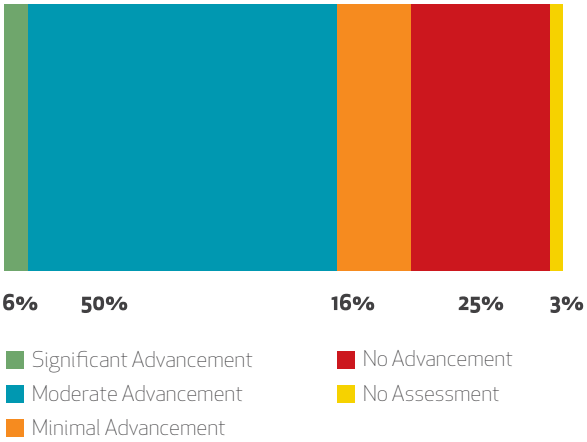
FIGURE 5

2015 Regional Outlook

77.8 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labor

KEY = 1,000,000 children

32 countries



Meaningful Efforts

- Strengthened legal frameworks to prohibit hazardous work for children and designate specific activities as hazardous.
- Improved sub-regional cooperation to combat child labor in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands.
- Provided cash transfers and food support programs for children of impoverished households.

Challenges and Existing Gaps

- Inadequate legal prohibitions against the worst forms of child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation.
- Insufficient number of labor inspectors to provide adequate coverage of labor forces.
- Persistent barriers to accessing education for child laborers, including lack of schools and prohibitive costs to attend school.

In Asia and the Pacific, 77.8 million children ages 5 to 17 are engaged in child labor, or 9.3 percent of all children in the region.[57] Children are engaged in child labor, predominately in agriculture and as domestic workers in third-party households. Children are also engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation. In 2015, 2 of the 32 Asian and Pacific countries covered in this report received a rating of Significant Advancement—Cambodia and the Philippines. Countries in Asia and the Pacific made meaningful efforts to strengthen legal frameworks to prohibit hazardous work for children; improve sub-regional cooperation to combat child labor in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands; and provide cash transfers and food support programs for children of impoverished households. However, many countries in the region still have persistent barriers to education for child laborers; inadequate legal protection against the worst forms of child labor, particularly against commercial sexual exploitation; and an insufficient number of labor inspectors. Uzbekistan made meaningful efforts, which may have included suggested actions reported in 2014, but had a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than an isolated incident during its 2015 cotton harvest.

In 2015, several governments in the Asia and Pacific region strengthened laws related to the employment of children in hazardous work. Pakistan's Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province adopted hazardous work prohibitions for children; Kiribati passed legislation specifying hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children; Samoa passed legislation that prohibits children from engaging in work in dangerous

Afghan children work in a poppy field in the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, Helmand province, April 14, 2010. © REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

environments; and Cambodia adopted new regulatory procedures to prevent children ages 15 to 18 from engaging in hazardous work.

In addition, several countries in the region increased the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat child labor. Bangladesh increased its number of labor inspectors and Fiji significantly increased the number of labor inspections conducted during the year. Cambodia and the Kyrgyz Republic strengthened procedures for identifying children vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor and Pakistan's Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province created a mechanism for receiving labor complaints. Nepal also deployed police personnel to identify incidents of child trafficking following the April 2015 earthquake.

Many countries sought to address the root causes of child labor by administering social programs for impoverished families. In 2015, 10 countries in the region implemented cash transfer programs to improve access for poor families to education, adequate nutrition, and health care. Seven of these 10 governments provided the funding for the cash transfer programs—Indonesia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Uzbekistan, while Bangladesh and Indonesia administered food support programs for impoverished households and India, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste implemented school feeding programs.

During the reporting period, sub-regions within Asia and the Pacific worked together to combat child labor. The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children finalized a Regional Action Plan to End Child Labor in countries in the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation. Kiribati, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands participated in the ILO-supported Pacific Sub-Regional Child Labor and Trafficking Program, which expanded best practices learned from the ILO's child labor program in Fiji, such as establishing an inspection unit focused on child labor. ASEAN countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, adopted the Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which seeks to improve regional coordination on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases and enhance assistance for victims.

In many countries in the region, there are also legal and enforcement gaps related to the worst forms of child labor. Laws prohibiting hazardous work for children

[5] For seven countries in the region, information on the number of labor inspectors was unavailable. For three territories, where there is no child labor problem, this information is not reported.

Child laborer turned youth leader Ryan (Alunsabe) leads his fellow youth in conducting catch-up classes for struggling learners in the far-flung sitios in their village.
© Dorothy Mae Albiento, ABK3 LEAP Project

A Government's Commitment to Ending Child Labor: The Case of the Philippines

In 2009, USDOL's first *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor* documented the use of child labor in the production of 12 goods in the Philippines, including sugarcane. In 2011, when USDOL first began to assess the level of government efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in this report, the Philippines received a moderate advancement in the first year, and has since received the highest assessment of significant advancement for its numerous efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Their efforts have included conducting in-depth studies on child labor in hazardous agricultural work, updating the list of hazardous work prohibited for children, supporting the enforcement of criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor, coordinating government efforts to address the use of children in armed conflict, implementing a national program against child labor, and creating 159 child labor-free districts. Because of its commitment to ending child labor and the robustness of its efforts, USDOL has funded more than 10 projects in the country since 1995. For example, the $16.5 million Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection (LEAP) Against Child Labor in Sugarcane project provided educational services to 54,479 children engaged in or at-high risk of the worst forms of child labor in sugarcane growing areas, sustainable livelihood services to 30,348 members of their households, and support to institutions to improve policies, programs, and the delivery of social protection services.

Over the years, thousands of children and their families in the Philippines have benefited from these projects, including Ryan, a child in Bago City. Ryan's older brother lost interest in school when he started earning money from working on sugarcane farms. Ryan, on the other hand, was among the youth in his village who, after graduating from high school, signed up for vocational technology courses sponsored by LEAP. He finished a six-month course in basic computer literacy and received the Best in Excel award. In 2015, Ryan earned a scholarship to West Visayas State University, and he is now studying for a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education. Seeing all his achievements, Ryan's parents are encouraging him to persevere with his studies. "You are our only hope," they tell him.

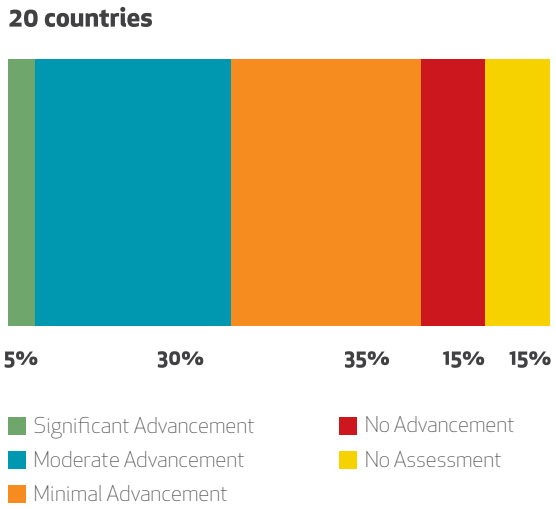
do not meet international standards in 10 countries in the Pacific Islands and 5 countries in South and Central Asia. In addition, laws prohibiting the commercial sexual exploitation of children do not conform to international standards in 5 South and Central Asian countries, 10 Pacific Island countries, and Mongolia. Most governments in the Asia and Pacific region also lacked resources to effectively enforce laws related to child labor, including its worst forms. For example, eight countries in the region did not have a sufficient number of labor inspectors to provide adequate coverage of the labor force.[58]

Despite progress in addressing child labor in the region, many children in the Asia and Pacific region face significant obstacles to accessing education. Six countries lack both free primary education and compulsory education ages. Four countries have the age to which education is compulsory below the minimum age for work, which increases children's vulnerability to child labor because they are not required to be in school but are not legally permitted to work either. Costs associated with education—such as books, uniforms, and teacher fees—prevent children from attending school in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kiribati, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and the Solomon Islands. Physical access to education is also a problem for children living in remote, rural areas, particularly in Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Kiribati, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand. In addition, children from minority and migrant communities face barriers to accessing education in Cambodia, India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Thailand. Safety concerns due to physical distance, violent conflict, and harassment make it difficult for girls to attend school in Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea.

Europe and Eurasia

FIGURE 6

2015 Regional Outlook



Regional statistics on child labor do not exist for Europe and Eurasia

Meaningful Efforts

- Strengthened legal frameworks to expand minimum age protections for children.
- Improved criminal law enforcement in sectors where children are most vulnerable.
- Implemented social programs to address poverty, including conditional cash transfer programs.

Challenges and Existing Gaps

- Weak legal frameworks in countries that do not specify the types of hazardous work prohibited for children.
- Insufficient human and financial resources allocated to the enforcement of child labor laws.
- Unequal access to education for minorities and other disadvantaged children.

Regional statistics on child labor do not exist for Europe and Eurasia. However, children in Europe and Eurasia are engaged in child labor, predominantly in agriculture and street work. Children are also engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and forced begging, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking. In 2015, 1 of the 20 countries covered in the report received an assessment of Significant Advancement: Montenegro. Countries in the region made meaningful efforts to implement social programs to address poverty, including conditional cash transfer programs, strengthened legal frameworks to expand minimum age protections for children, and improved criminal law enforcement in sectors where children are most vulnerable. Despite these gains, exploitive child labor persisted due to gaps in hazardous work prohibitions, inadequate resources allocated to the enforcement of child labor laws, and unequal access to education for minorities and other disadvantaged children. In addition, three countries—Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine—made meaningful efforts in a few or more relevant areas, but failed to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law that was established in previous years that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor. Armenia and Georgia's previous repeal of laws establishing a labor inspectorate left these countries continuing to lack a functioning labor inspectorate to monitor, inspect, and enforce child labor laws, and Ukraine introduced by law bureaucratic restrictions on the State Labor Service that effectively imposed a moratorium on inspections, including for child labor.

During the year, new efforts were made in three countries to collect statistics on child labor and expand minimum age protections for children. Both Armenia and Georgia conducted National Child Labor Surveys and Ukraine analyzed the data collected during a 2014 survey. Countries also made efforts to strengthen laws related to child labor. Albania raised the minimum age for light work from 14 to 15, and both Armenia and Turkey introduced legislation regulating children's work in the entertainment industry. In addition, several countries strengthened protections against the worst forms of child labor in their criminal codes. Bosnia and Herzegovina increased penalties for human traffickers, while Macedonia increased the minimum

Child labour in Uzbekistan during cotton harvest. Young school children collecting cotton. © Thomas Grabka

sentence for individuals paying for the services of child victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, Moldova expanded the powers of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights to monitor the legislative process and appeal legislative proposals that could be damaging to children's rights.

In 2015, European and Eurasian governments also took steps to target law enforcement efforts in sectors where children were most vulnerable. Several governments accomplished this by focusing criminal law enforcement efforts on identifying and assisting children involved in street work. Law enforcement agencies in Kosovo and Moldova conducted nation-wide operations to identify child beggars who were victims of human trafficking. Similarly, Macedonian police and social workers worked together in mobile patrols to remove 78 children from street work and refer them to social services. A number of governments in the region also built the capacity of their law enforcement mechanisms to address the needs of children. The Government of Montenegro trained prosecutors and social workers on addressing child trafficking and child begging. Law enforcement and judicial officials in Albania received training on working with children in the justice system, including protecting child victims and investigating and prosecuting criminal offences against children. More than 100 judges in Ukraine also received training on working with victims of human trafficking and child labor, including procedures on protecting victims and witnesses, and understanding the vulnerability of victims.

A few governments in the region launched policies to protect children from the worst forms of child labor. Both Bosnia and Ukraine adopted national action plans to improve the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking crimes, as well as the provision of services to trafficking victims. Albania also developed the Action Plan for the Identification and Protection of Children in Street Situations, which defines the roles of various government agencies in preventing the exploitation and abuse of children working on the street. Recognizing that economic instability leaves children more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, many countries in the region also supported social programs to address poverty in 2015. Macedonia and Serbia both supported a conditional cash transfer program for vulnerable children in schools, while Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, and Moldova provided financial assistance to low-income families. Georgia and Ukraine also provided non-financial incentives, such as free textbooks and lunches, to keep low-income students in schools.

There are a number of challenges that impede progress in addressing child labor in the region. Anguilla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the British Virgin Islands, Montenegro,

Serbia, and Ukraine do not have laws that clearly and comprehensively define the types of hazardous work prohibited for children, which limits the capacity of labor inspectors to identify and remove children from exploitative labor situations. In Azerbaijan, children without written labor contracts are excluded from protection and, similarly, in Turkey, legal protection for children working in small agricultural enterprises and shops, and in domestic work, is lacking.

There are also challenges related to the enforcement of child labor laws in Europe and Eurasia. The number of labor inspectors in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Ukraine is insufficient to provide adequate labor force coverage according to the ILO's recommendation.[59] Labor inspectorates in Kosovo, Moldova, and Serbia lack funding for training, equipment, and transportation for inspectors, which compromises the quality of inspections. Georgia has lacked a mechanism to enforce child labor laws since its labor inspectorate was abolished in 2006, and a pilot labor monitoring program established in 2015 did not include child labor violations within its purview. In Ukraine, bureaucratic restrictions requiring that the State Labor Service seek formal approval from the Cabinet of Ministers before conducting most inspections effectively imposed a moratorium on inspections in 2015. Similarly, following the Government of Armenia's restructuring of its labor inspectorate into the State Health Inspectorate in 2014, confusion surrounding the mandate of the agency resulted in a moratorium on inspections in 2015, leaving Armenia without a mechanism to enforce child labor laws.

Across the region, refugee and migrant children; children who have been internally displaced; and children who belong to ethnic minority groups, such as the Roma, continued to experience challenges in accessing education. Roma children lacking birth registration or identity documents in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine were sometimes prevented from enrolling in schools. In Turkey, despite the Government's efforts to expand education access for school-aged Syrian refugees, many refugee children living in urban areas remained unable to access education due to language barriers or an inability to pay for tuition and transportation to school.

Increasing the Knowledge Base on Child Labor Globally

Knowledge is power. Asking questions and acquiring knowledge is important to inform action and measure progress. That is why ILAB is currently funding a four-year project that seeks to increase the knowledge base about child labor around the world by measuring the prevalence of working children, child labor, and hazardous work. As part of this project, in 2013 the ILO began collecting new data, analyzing existing data, and building capacity to conduct research in 10 countries. During 2015, the project worked with national statistical offices to develop child labor questionnaires and collect data, including in Armenia and Georgia. The project also supported two thematic studies on child labor amongst children living in Roma communities in Serbia and Azerbaijan.

Research is not the end goal. As such, the real question is: What will be done with the knowledge gained from this project? Will it remain merely an academic exercise or prompt relevant stakeholders to ask further questions and take action? For the ILO's part, they have begun to systematically identify existing efforts being made by governments, as well as necessary short and medium-term actions to enable governments to develop comprehensive national strategies to combat child labor. This project will also provide the public with basic information they need to identify problems and demand appropriate responses from relevant governments and other key stakeholders.

Irregular migrants and asylum-seeking children, many of whom are Syrian, also faced difficulties enrolling in schools in Serbia. Other common barriers to education in Europe and Eurasia include discrimination, lack of support for children with disabilities, and distance to schools. Children who do not attend school are particularly vulnerable to exploitation in the worst forms of child labor.

Latin America and the Caribbean

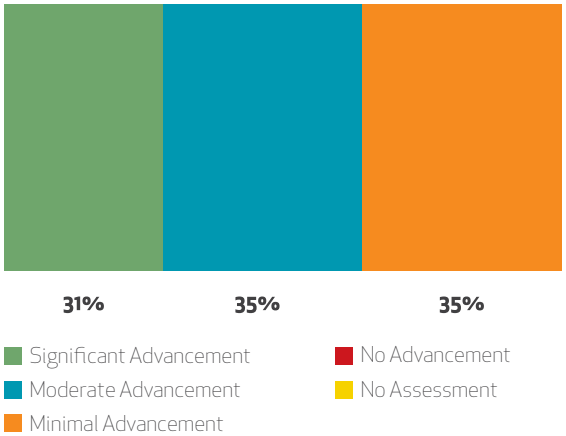
FIGURE 7

2015 Regional Outlook

12.5 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labor

KEY = 1,000,000 children

26 countries



Meaningful Efforts

- Increased efforts to combat child labor in domestic work.
- Strengthened national policy frameworks to address child labor, including its worst forms.
- Enhanced social programs to address child labor that combine anti-poverty and educational measures.

Challenges and Existing Gaps

- Continued recruitment and use of children by gangs to commit illicit activities.
- Weak legal frameworks in countries that do not adequately prohibit hazardous work.
- Insufficient human and financial resources allocated to the enforcement of child labor laws.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 12.5 million children ages 5 to 17 are engaged in child labor, or 8 percent of all children in the region.[60] Children are primarily engaged in child labor in agriculture and street work. Children are also engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including being used by gangs to commit illicit activities. Many migrant children, as well as children of indigenous and African descent, remain particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.[61] In 2015, 8 of the 26 countries covered in the region received an assessment of Significant Advancement: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru. The region continued to strengthen national policy frameworks to address child labor, including its worst forms; implement enhanced social programs to address child labor that combine anti-poverty and educational measures; and increase efforts to combat child labor in domestic work. Despite these efforts, countries did not have laws adequately prohibiting hazardous work and did not allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the enforcement of child labor laws. Two countries made meaningful efforts in relevant areas, but failed to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law, policy, or practice that was established in previous years that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor: Bolivia, where some children as young as age 10 may be self-employed, and the Dominican Republic, where some children without birth registration are denied access to education.

Latin American and Caribbean governments continued to develop comprehensive legal protections to prevent and eliminate child labor, including through sector-specific efforts. The region leads in legal efforts to combat child labor in domestic work, which is prevalent in most of the countries covered. In 2015, Chile, the Dominican Republic, and Panama ratified ILO C. 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, which commits these governments to ensure that domestic workers have the same protections as other workers, and to take steps to prevent child labor.[62] Panama adopted a policy to combat child labor in domestic work, and Paraguay, which ratified the convention previously, raised the minimum age for domestic work from 16 to 18. In addition, 12 countries in the region were among the 22 worldwide that have ratified ILO C. 189.

Denis, 12 years old, returning from the forest, by the other side of the river by Pedernales (Dominican Republic). He had gone looking for wood, which he can sell in the village, or use for cooking. ©Valérie Baeriswyl

In 2015, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean mainstreamed child labor issues in regional declarations on decent work and labor rights. At the XIX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, 21 countries covered in the region resolved to promote decent work with social inclusion, in part through policies that aim to eliminate child labor and promote education and vocational training for youth. The five member states of MERCOSUR (the Common Market of the South)—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela—also signed a social and labor declaration that aims to protect core labor standards in their decent work agenda, including child labor and forced labor standards. Across the region, 23 countries covered in the report implemented national policies to address child labor, including its worst forms. Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, and Panama adopted new national policies or action plans that outline efforts to prevent and eliminate child labor, and to regulate adolescent work.

Governments also strengthened their policy frameworks to combat human trafficking, including Bolivia, Chile, and Peru in the Andean region, and Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. Nicaragua conducted their first human trafficking prosecutions under legislation that was passed during the previous reporting period.

Throughout the region, many countries expanded on holistic approaches to the prevention and elimination of child labor by combining anti-poverty measures with educational efforts. In 2015, more than half of the Latin American and Caribbean countries covered in this report implemented cash transfer programs whose assistance was conditioned on families sending their children to school, including Brazil, which expanded its *Bolsa Família* program for the fourth consecutive year. In addition, many governments made schooling more accessible to impoverished children who might otherwise engage in child labor by providing meals and supplies. Notable examples include the expansion of the school meals program in Honduras and the national school supplies program in Nicaragua. Colombia also allocated more resources to education than to any other area of the national budget, including defense, for the first time.

Despite substantive efforts made in the region to address child labor issues, important challenges remain. In Central America, the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras continue to combat gang violence, which includes the coercive recruitment of children by gangs into the worst forms of child labor. In these situations, boys are used to commit extortion, drug trafficking, and homicides, and girls are used in commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, gangs in these countries, as well as in Colombia, continue to recruit children while at school, complicating access to education, which in some cases is already hindered by widespread violence.

While legal frameworks across the region are generally comprehensive, there are gaps in legal protections. Four countries covered in the report lack a minimum age for work that conforms to international standards, including Belize, Bolivia, Dominica, and Guatemala. Belize, for example, sets the minimum age for work at 12, and Bolivia allows children as young as age 10 to be self-employed under certain circumstances. Six countries—Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines—lack adequate prohibitions on the use of children in illicit activities. Research also found that nine countries lack prohibitions on hazardous work that conform to ILO C. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Argentina, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Uruguay.

Many countries in the region also lack the capacity to adequately enforce child labor laws. Although 12 countries covered increased their number of labor inspectors in 2015, 18 countries did not meet the ILO's recommendation for an adequate number of inspectors.[63] A lack of labor inspectors impedes government efforts to identify and sanction child labor violations, including in remote areas. This problem often stems from a lack of dedicated financial resources. For the majority of the countries in the region, reports from government officials, labor unions, and other civil society organizations indicated that labor inspectorates lack the resources they need to carry out their mandates.

People hoping to reach the U.S. ride atop the wagon of a freight train, known as *La Bestia* (The Beast) in Ixtepec, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca June 18, 2014.
© REUTERS/José de Jesús Cortes

Vulnerabilities for Unaccompanied Children from Central America's Northern Triangle

Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, known collectively as the Northern Triangle, comprise by far the largest source of unaccompanied child migrants to the United States – more than 28,000 of which migrated in 2015. Many of the children who undertake this journey say they do it to escape pervasive violence, forced recruitment into gangs, or lack of educational and economic opportunities. And the dangers do not end there. Once en route, child migrants are at high risk of becoming victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. In 2015, USDOL funded the $13 million Youth Pathways – Central America project, implemented by Catholic Relief Services in El Salvador and Honduras. This project helps prevent at-risk youth in high-violence neighborhoods from engaging in exploitative child labor and addresses one of the root causes of the unaccompanied child migrant crisis by providing them with market-relevant vocational training, employment services, and social support.

Middle East and North Africa

FIGURE 8

2015 Regional Outlook

9.2 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labor

KEY = 1,000,000 children

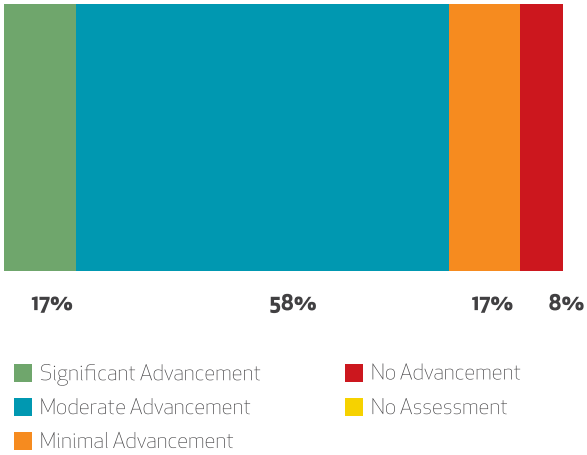
Meaningful Efforts

- Strengthened legal frameworks to address child labor.

Challenges and Existing Gaps

- Limited access to education and high dropout rates.
- Insufficient enforcement of child labor laws.
- Insufficient programs to combat child labor.

12 countries



In the Middle East and North Africa, 9.2 million children ages 5 to 17 are engaged in child labor, or 8 percent of all children in the region.[64] Children are engaged in child labor, primarily in agriculture, domestic work, and street work. Children are also engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in armed conflict. In 2015, 2 of the 12 countries covered in the region received an assessment of Significant Advancement: Algeria and Jordan. Although countries in the Middle East and North Africa made meaningful efforts to strengthen legal frameworks to address child labor, these legal protections were not adequately enforced. In addition, access to education was limited and there were insufficient programs to combat child labor in many of the countries covered in the region. Yemen received an assessment of No Advancement because the Government remained in exile due to large-scale armed conflict.

In 2015, countries throughout the region expanded legal protections for children engaged in child labor. Algeria passed legislation banning the use of children in begging and Iraq adopted a new labor law that requires the establishment of a child labor complaint mechanism. The Government of Morocco also drafted a new law to combat human trafficking.

Countries in the region also made efforts to improve the enforcement of child labor laws. The Government of Bahrain launched a multi-lingual hotline to report cases of human trafficking. The Government of Egypt established a counter-human trafficking unit to provide services to victims, and the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq launched a committee to investigate cases of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. Lebanon's Ministry of Labor revamped its Web site to receive child labor complaints, and Jordan and Tunisia conducted more child labor inspections compared to the previous year. Finally, the Government of Oman established a mechanism to receive child labor complaints and refer them for investigation.

Despite these efforts, only 6 of the region's 12 countries were authorized to assess penalties for violation of child labor laws, namely Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and Yemen. Routine child labor inspections were carried out in only five countries—Iraq, Jordan, Morocco,

Batoul (left) and Mousab volunteered their time after school to hear the stories of child laborers in their communities. © ILO/Nisreen Bathish

Moving Towards a Child Labor-Free Jordan

As part of a USDOL project established in partnership with the ILO and the Government of Jordan, youth advocates volunteered their time after school to interview over 3,000 of their peers engaged in child labor. These interviews aimed to identify causes and potential solutions to help the Government of Jordan tackle a child labor problem made more dire by the recent influx of thousands of Syrian refugees. When Batoul and Mousab, ages 14 and 15, first took to the streets of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Amman to interview working children, they had to overcome some nerves. "I was worried that I would not have enough courage to speak to the children or face their employers, but we had to talk to them and hear their stories," said Batoul. "We met children who were doing odd jobs in the streets. Some children told us that they would get beaten, shouted at and threatened if they didn't do the work properly."

The USDOL project has also helped the Government of Jordan implement its National Plan to Combat Child Labor by establishing strong child labor enforcement units at the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs; forming local coordination mechanisms to ensure that services and legal protections now reach children everywhere in Jordan; and tailoring services and protections to meet the needs of Jordan's most vulnerable children, including Syrian refugee children.

Tunisia, and West Bank and the Gaza Strip—and just four countries had a reciprocal referral mechanism between labor authorities and social services—Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, and West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Iraq and Morocco had an insufficient number of labor inspectors based on the ILO's recommendation.[65]

In 2015, non-state armed groups, including the Houthis in Yemen, Da'esh (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant [ISIL]) in Iraq, al-Nusra and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia, recruited children to serve as informants, human shields, suicide bombers, bomb makers, and executioners or to play support roles, such as carrying food and ammunition to the front line. Some children in the Gaza Strip also received military training from Hamas. Even though Iraq and Yemen are affected by armed conflict, they do not have programs to assist child soldiers. The protracted conflict in Syria has also resulted in many refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. In Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, despite government efforts, Syrian refugee children did not have sufficient access to education and remained vulnerable to child labor in street and retail work.

A young Egyptian boy in Islamic Cairo pulls a dolly full of merchandise. © Pius Lee/Alamy Stock

Sub-Saharan Africa

FIGURE 9

2015 Regional Outlook

59 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labor

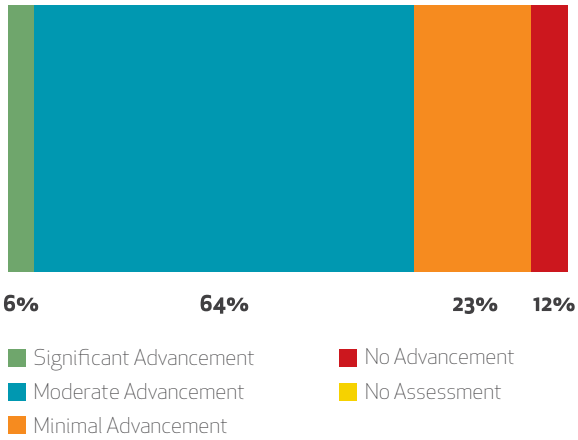
KEY = 1,000,000 children

Meaningful Efforts

- Strengthened anti-child trafficking legislation.
- Improved policy frameworks and coordination of government efforts.
- New social programs with the goal of preventing or eliminating child labor.

Challenges and Existing Gaps

- Continued recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.
- Prohibitions on hazardous occupations and activities for children do not meet international standards.
- Limited capacity to enforce child labor laws.
- Social protection programs are insufficient to address the scope of the problem.



In Sub-Saharan Africa, 59 million children are engaged in child labor, or 21 percent of all the children in the region.[66] Children are engaged in child labor, largely in agriculture, mining, and domestic service.[67] In 2015, 3 of the 47 countries covered in the region received an assessment of Significant Advancement—Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Uganda. Countries in the region made meaningful efforts to address child labor by strengthening anti-child trafficking legislation, improving policy frameworks and coordination of government efforts, and implementing new social programs with the goal of preventing or eliminating child labor. Nevertheless, much needs to be done to prevent and eliminate child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa, including by ensuring that prohibitions on hazardous occupations and activities for children meet international standards, increasing the capacity to enforce child labor laws, implementing sufficient social protection programs to address the scope of the problem, and addressing the continued recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

In 2015, two countries made meaningful efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, but also established a regressive or significantly detrimental policy or practice during the reporting period that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor: Sierra Leone did not permit pregnant girls to attend school or take national exams, and Somalia recruited and used children in armed conflict. Three countries made meaningful efforts in relevant areas, which may have included suggested actions reported in 2014, but had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than an isolated incident in 2015: Eritrea forced children to participate in agricultural, environmental, or hygiene-related public works projects during their annual summer holidays from school; South Sudan's national army forcibly recruited and used children in armed conflict; and Swaziland forced children to weed the King's fields and perform other agricultural work.

DANGERS OF CHILD LABOR IN COCOA

Over 2.1 million children work on cocoa farms in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. More than half report being injured by their work. Dangerous conditions on these farms that may impact children's health, access to education and future livelihoods include:

Working long hours

Spraying pesticides

Lifting heavy loads

Burning fields

Using sharp tools

Learn what DOL is doing to combat child labor in cocoa: dol.gov/ilab

During the year, legal frameworks were strengthened in many countries. Somalia and South Sudan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Angola, Benin, The Gambia, and Senegal adopted or amended legislation to establish 18 as the minimum age for hazardous work. Benin, Cabo Verde, Liberia, and Senegal adopted or amended legislation to prohibit hazardous occupations and activities for children. Six governments—Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, and Togo—adopted or amended anti-child trafficking legislation. In addition, Lesotho, South Africa, and Tanzania passed implementing regulations for anti-human trafficking legislation.

To strengthen the enforcement of child labor laws, Côte d'Ivoire integrated a 50-hour module on child labor issues into the training curriculum for criminal law enforcement officers. Senegal prosecuted and convicted a Koranic school teacher for child trafficking, and Burkina Faso intercepted seven child traffickers posing as Koranic school teachers and rescued 43 children who were destined for agricultural work in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. Police officers in Angola and the Republic of the Congo conducted mapping projects to better understand the nature of human trafficking in their respective countries. The Governments of Mali, Seychelles, and Sierra Leone established national referral mechanisms to ensure that victims of child labor, including child trafficking, receive appropriate social services. In addition, 25 governments conducted unannounced labor inspections during the reporting period.

In 2015, the Governments of Botswana, Central African Republic, Chad, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe established new national committees to coordinate efforts to eliminate child labor, including its worst forms. Six governments—Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, and Uganda—adopted or updated national action plans on the worst forms of child labor. Eight countries—Angola, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, and Togo—launched new social programs with the goal of preventing or eliminating child labor. In addition, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia expanded cash transfer programs to ensure that vulnerable children are able to attend school.

Despite the gains made in addressing child labor during the year, Sub-Saharan Africa faced many challenges. In

2015, terrorist activity, civil conflict, and the Ebola virus disease outbreak impacted the governments' ability to address the worst forms of child labor. The terrorist group Boko Haram continued to recruit and use child soldiers as young as age 8, and there was an increase in the number of children, particularly girls, used as suicide bombers in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.[68] More than 1.4 million children in the four affected countries have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict. In 2015, 250,000 children were able to return to schools in Northeast Nigeria; however, 2,000 schools remained closed across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria at the end of the year.[69] In addition, children in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia, and South Sudan were forcibly recruited and used in armed conflict. Although the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone appeared to be waning, nearly 23,000 children lost one or both of their primary caregivers to the disease, increasing their vulnerability to the worst forms of child labor.

There is still an urgent need for governments to improve legal frameworks and the enforcement of child labor laws. Of the 47 Sub-Saharan African countries covered in this report, 38 percent have prohibitions on hazardous occupations and activities for children that do not meet international standards. Ten countries, namely the Central African Republic, Comoros, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan, and Zambia, have not ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Eight countries—Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan, and Zambia—have not ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and five countries—Comoros, the Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda—have not ratified the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

Most countries' law enforcement bodies did not collect comprehensive statistics on child labor and lacked resources and trained personnel, which impeded efforts to identify and sanction child labor violations. During the reporting period, 24 countries had an insufficient number of labor inspectors and the labor inspectorates of 40 countries had inadequate resources to effectively enforce child labor laws. Furthermore, 20 countries have labor inspectorates that are not authorized to assess penalties for child labor violations. Most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have national social protection programs; however, these programs can help provide vulnerable children with access to education through the provision of uniforms, school supplies, and unofficial school fees. Without social safety nets, vulnerable families may continue to rely on child labor to cope with the effects of poverty and economic shocks.

Gaudencia Maeno, 17, and Neema Maeno, 6, orphaned sisters who are working as domestic workers at a restaurant, where they are employed by their aunt, which serves food to gold miners at the Kahama goldmines, Tanzania. © Sven Torfinn/Panos

U.S. Secretary of Labor, Thomas E. Perez, speaks with Job Corp students.
© U.S. Department of Labor

The U.S. Experience

The Federal Government of the United States has several key responsibilities with regard to children and youth—namely, to help ensure that they are protected from harm, including from labor exploitation, and to provide them with opportunities to learn and prepare for decent, productive work. This section of the report highlights the current efforts of a sample of Federal organizations that play a key role in fulfilling the responsibility, including USDOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Employment and Training Administration (ETA); the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the U.S. Department of Education's Migrant Education Program. These organizations work in coordination and collaboration with each other, and with other Federal and local government and nongovernmental stakeholders, on efforts that are aimed to ensure the well-being of children and youth, including the prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the United States.

U.S. Department of Labor

Within USDOL, WHD takes the lead in enforcing Federal child labor laws and raising awareness about them. OSHA protects the safety and health of children and youth in the workforce. The ETA provides education and training opportunities for at-risk youth.

Wage and Hour Division and Occupational Health and Safety Administration

The WHD enforces the most sweeping Federal law that regulates the employment of child workers—the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and related regulations, enforced by USDOL's OSHA, apply to all employees regardless of age. The WHD and OSHA work together on investigations and have an active referral process in place for cases involving children under age 18.

The Federal Minimum Ages for Work

The FLSA sets a minimum age of 14 for most employment in non-hazardous, non-agricultural industries, but limits the times of day and the number of hours that 14- and 15-year-olds may work and the tasks that they may perform. Children are permitted under the FLSA to work at a younger age in agriculture than in other sectors. For example, the FLSA allows children working on farms owned or operated by their parents, regardless of their age, to perform farm work. The FLSA establishes a minimum age of 18 for non-agricultural occupations that the Secretary of Labor declares to be particularly hazardous or detrimental to children's health or well-being. There are currently 17 Hazardous Occupations Orders (HOs), which include a partial or total ban on work for children in the occupations or industries they cover. In fiscal year (FY) 2015, 355 children were found to be employed in violation of HOs in the United States; of these, 4 were engaged in mining and 26 were involved in manufacturing.

There were 8,898,000 children ages 16–17 employed in the United States in 2014 and 8,852,000 employed in 2015.[70] Despite the restrictions and limitations placed on their work, in 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, there were 14 fatal occupational injuries among children ages 16–17, and 8 fatal occupational injuries among children below age 16 in the United States.[71]

Enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act in Fiscal Year 2015

The WHD is committed to ensuring that the FLSA is strictly enforced. Every investigation carried out by WHD investigators looks for violations of the FLSA's child labor provisions. Complaints from the public about child labor, although not numerous, are given the highest priority within the agency. From October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015, the WHD concluded 542 cases where child labor violations were found. In 189 of these cases, violations of HOs were found, with 355 minors employed in violation of HOs. More specific information about each of these cases can be found in the WHD's enforcement database at http://ogesdw.dol.gov/views/search.php.

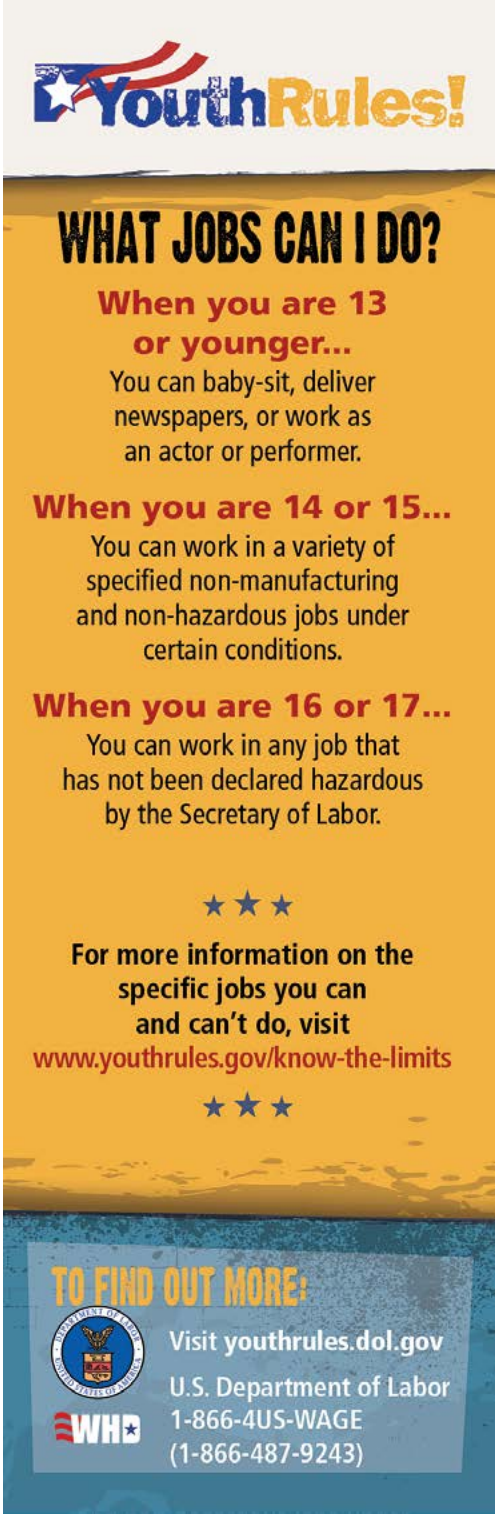
NGOs have expressed concern about U.S. law on agricultural occupations permissible for children. In particular, two reports from the NGO Human Rights Watch documented the exposure of children working in the U.S. tobacco industry to nicotine, toxic pesticides, and other dangers.[72] The ILO Committee of Experts has called on the U.S. government to continue to make efforts to ensure the safety of children working in agriculture. To maximize the likelihood of detecting child labor violations, WHD investigations are generally conducted during the suckering and harvesting portion of the tobacco season, when children are more likely to be present.

The WHD's Outreach and Education Efforts to Prevent Child Labor in Agriculture and Other Sectors

The WHD conducts extensive outreach and education to worker and employer organizations in agriculture. At the national level, the WHD receives referrals from organizations such as Farm Worker Justice and the National Center for Farmworker Health, and provides training and information to them. At the State level, the WHD works with a variety of stakeholders, including employee organizations, unions, and other governmental organizations and NGOs, to address child labor issues.

The WHD disseminates materials in English and Spanish to help agricultural employers and workers better understand their responsibilities and rights. A booklet for employers provides simple and comprehensive information on the laws and requirements governing agricultural employment, including wages, housing, transportation, and field sanitation. The WHD also provides a pocket card for agricultural workers with information about their rights and how to file a complaint with the WHD if they believe that these rights have been violated.[73]

The WHD continues to work with the tobacco industry to improve compliance with labor laws and conditions for workers. This includes working with the Farm Labor Practices Group (FLPG), a tobacco industry stakeholder organization composed of manufacturers, growers, and worker representatives, which has recognized the importance of maintaining compliance with child labor laws in the industry, and has taken steps to improve compliance levels industry-wide. In 2016, the FLPG plans to train



more than 10,000 growers, farm labor contractors, farm workers, and others in the industry on U.S. labor laws prior to and during the growing season. Large manufacturers are now self-monitoring or contracting with a third party to monitor labor law compliance among their suppliers.

Beyond agriculture, the WHD's YouthRules! website is a child labor information portal that targets all teenage workers with a user-friendly design, multimedia content, social media links, and a Young Worker Toolkit of teen-friendly resources.[74] The site maintains links to compliance assistance materials for employers, parents, and educators. It also has links to important worker resources, including information on filing legal complaints, Federal and State child labor laws, Federal and State labor offices, and links to other USDOL and government-wide sites with information for children and young workers. A WHD toll-free helpline is also available (1–866–4US–WAGE or 1–866–487–9243) to provide information about child labor laws.

Employment and Training Administration

At-risk and vulnerable youth in the United States are often faced with a choice between education and work. This choice, in reality, is between education and an income. All too often, they must choose the latter, and are forced to apply for entry-level positions with no advancement opportunities or are unable to find work.[75] The cycle of poverty thus remains unabated.

Through the National Farmworker Jobs Program, YouthBuild, and Registered Apprenticeships, three programs administered by USDOL's ETA, at-risk and vulnerable youth are able to secure high-quality education and employment opportunities. These opportunities can help break the cycle of poverty and reduce their risk of involvement in the worst forms of child labor.

The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)

The NFJP is a nationally directed, locally administered program that provides job training and educational opportunities to eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers (including farmworker youth), as well as their families. Assistance includes career services, training, housing support, specific youth services, and related assistance. The program operates in all States and Puerto Rico, with the exception of the District of Columbia and Alaska.

The NFJP is an integral part of the public workforce system and a partner in the nationwide network of American Job Centers. The program also partners with community organizations and State agencies to comprehensively address the multiple barriers impacting farmworkers, including low wages, low levels of education, limited English proficiency, disability status, limited access to health care, and inferior housing. The NFJP grantees provide opportunities for farmworkers and their families to get the training they need to enter year-round stable employment, offering farmworker youth a chance to focus on their education, and plan and pursue careers out of the fields.

YouthBuild

YouthBuild is a community-based alternative education program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16–24. Youth learn construction skills while building or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Participants split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they earn their high school diploma or equivalency degree, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for college and other postsecondary education opportunities. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services. There are more than 215 USDOL-funded YouthBuild programs in 43 States, the District of Colombia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, serving approximately 7,500 youth annually.

YouthBuild programs make explicit links between what is being done at the work site and what is being taught in the classroom through project-based and contextualized learning. The work experience, coupled with earning an industry-recognized certificate, increases opportunities for post-program employment.

To protect the health and safety of youth participants, all construction trainers are required to be certified in occupational safety and health, and the youth participants are also required to take and pass this certification before they are allowed on the work site. Participants under the age of 18 also are prohibited from engaging in certain type of construction activities that are considered hazardous. YouthBuild addresses the challenges faced by unemployed, high school dropouts by providing them with an opportunity to gain both the education and the occupational skills that will prepare them for good jobs with good wages.

Registered Apprenticeship

Registered Apprenticeship (RA) is an "earn-and-learn" model that offers an array of benefits to youth, including on-the-job learning; related Career and Technical Education (CTE) classroom instruction; a paycheck; and, in many programs, dual enrollment in college and college credit. RAs are offered in high-demand industries, including in health care, information technology (IT), transportation, advanced manufacturing, financial services, and construction. Young people participating in an RA must be at least 16 years of age when they start and 18 years of age to be an apprentice in hazardous occupations. However, some RA programs have strategies that allow apprentices under age 18 to begin training in hazardous equipment as they reach the legal age.

In September 2015, USDOL invested $175 million in the American Apprenticeship Initiative, which supports 46 grantees in advancing the growth and diversity of RAs in the United States. Several of these grantees are leveraging funds to create RA opportunities for at-risk youth. Despite this effort, as of May 2016, there were only roughly 450,000 apprentices in the U.S., which represents a relatively small proportion of the labor force compared with other European countries. The President has challenged the Nation to double the number of apprentices to 750,000 by 2019.

A successful example of the program is the work done by Managed Career Solutions and OpenTech in California, which are working in collaboration with the City and County of Los Angeles to increase access to technical careers through RAs. Currently, a number of programs serving low-income and minority youth are integrated into OpenTech, including Hire LA Youth and LA Summer Youth Programs. By co-enrolling participants from low-income and impacted neighborhoods into these subsidized summer employment programs, which include work readiness and financial literacy training, OpenTech is able to impact the lives of at-risk youth exponentially. Pre-apprenticeship training organized as accelerated learning "boot camps" prepares participants with the technical and soft skills necessary to enter the workforce. Public training dollars allocated through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act also are leveraged to provide tuition and support services to participants throughout the process. The result is a system that directly targets barriers to employment for at-risk and vulnerable youth, and provides participants with the 21st century skills necessary to escape the cycle of poverty.

USDOL's Office of Apprenticeship (OA) administers the apprenticeship system in the United States and is leading many initiatives to expand and diversify RAs with a focus on disadvantaged groups. In 2016, $90 million in new funding was appropriated to expand RAs among States, high-demand industries, and underrepresented communities. Also in 2016, OA created a Youth Apprenticeship Working Group to address challenges and gaps in recruiting and retaining more apprentices under age 18. The group is part of USDOL's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA) and includes representatives

from the ACA, U.S. Department of Education, and select subject-matter experts, including CTE State directors, employers, and other experts. International apprenticeship development also has advanced over the last year and a half, largely due to the Joint Declarations of Intent signed by the United States and Germany, and the United States and Switzerland. The Joint Declarations provide a framework for the countries to collaborate on work-based training, curriculum development, credential recognition, pathways to career development, and the expansion of apprenticeship programs into new industries.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

HHS has two agencies that provide social protection for children: the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Administration for Children and Families

The ACF serves as the lead HHS agency to combat human trafficking and modern forms of slavery by administering anti-trafficking programs through grants and contracts, and collaborating with Federal, State, tribal, and local government organizations and NGOs.

In 2015, the ACF established a new Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) to further strengthen collaboration and coordination of anti-trafficking efforts across multiple systems of care, including refugee resettlement, child welfare, runaway and homeless youth, Native Americans, and health care services systems.

The ACF provides assistance to foreign and domestic (U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident) victims of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation through multiple grant programs. During FY 2015, a total of 1,726 individual clients received case management services through the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, a national victim assistance program for foreign victims of human trafficking and their families. This represents a 52 percent increase in clients served by grantees from the previous fiscal year. Seventeen percent of the clients served were children.

Unaccompanied children who are victims of trafficking may be referred to HHS's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program, which offers a variety of assistance, including licensed foster care homes, therapeutic foster care homes, semi-independent living programs, and residential treatment centers. Other services provided include medical care, independent living skills training, educational support, English language training, career and college counseling and training, mental health services, access to legal services for immigration status adjustment assistance, recreational opportunities, support for social integration, and activities that support cultural and religious preservation. The URM Program served 124 minor victims of trafficking in FY 2015.

HHS also issues Eligibility Letters for foreign minors to be eligible for benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act requires any Federal, State, or local official to notify HHS within 24 hours after discovering a foreign child who may be a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons to facilitate the provision of assistance (22 U.S.C. 7105). HHS issues Interim Assistance Letters to a foreign child who may have been subjected to a severe form of trafficking in persons, providing potential victims with a 90- to 120-day period of eligibility. In FY 2015, HHS issued 34 such letters. HHS subsequently issues Eligibility Letters to foreign child trafficking victims upon receiving credible information that the child was subjected to a severe form of human trafficking. Eligibility Letters do not expire, but some benefits are time-limited.

In FY 2015, the ACF issued 240 Eligibility Letters to children. Thirty-five percent of the child victims who received Eligibility Letters in FY 2015 were female (compared to 40 percent in FY 2014), and 65 percent were male. More than 78 percent of child victims who received Eligibility Letters were labor trafficking victims (up from 66 percent in 2014), 19 percent were sex trafficking victims (compared to 31 percent in FY 2014), and 3 percent were victims of both labor and sex trafficking, which is the same percentage as in FY 2014. The top four countries of origin of child victims who received Eligibility Letters in FY 2015 were Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Grant programs assisting domestic victims of trafficking include new grant funding to provide comprehensive case management support for U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident victims of trafficking. In addition, child victims of trafficking are served through the child welfare system, runaway and homeless youth programs, and culturally specific Native American community programs. In FY 2015, the HHS Children's Bureau provided grants to nine organizations to develop the child welfare

system's response to human trafficking through partnerships with law enforcement, juvenile justice, court systems, and other service providers.

In 2016, HHS's Family and Youth Services Bureau released the findings of a Street Outreach study that surveyed 873 runaway and homeless youth in 11 cities. The study found that 36 percent of homeless youth had traded sex for money, a place to spend the night, food, protection, or drugs. Most of the youth who reported trading sex for money did so only after they became homeless. More than half of homeless youth became homeless for the first time because they were asked to leave home by a parent or caregiver. In FY 2015, the HHS Administration for Children and Families continued grant funding for program activities, including providing a culturally grounded support group for young American Indian men ages 16–21, who are at high risk for involvement in commercial sexual exploitation.

The HHS-funded National Human Trafficking Resource Center operates a national 24-hour hotline that connects survivors of human trafficking anywhere in the country to local services. Since 2007, the hotline has identified 25,000 cases of human trafficking. In 2015, 29 percent of the 5,544 trafficking cases reported to the hotline involved minor victims of trafficking.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

NIOSH undertakes several activities to protect children from involvement in exploitive labor. NIOSH produces and disseminates *Are You a Teen Worker?* to educate children and young workers about their rights and other resources on child and young worker safety and health.[76] NIOSH also developed the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), working in partnership with the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. NAGCAT provides information on children's physical, mental, and psychosocial abilities in relation to the requirements of specific types of farm work and has been effective in reducing child agricultural injuries.[77]

The U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education, within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, administers a program to provide support to migrant children in the United States who may be vulnerable to involvement in the worst forms of child labor.

Office of Migrant Education

Children of migrant farmworkers are particularly vulnerable to involvement in exploitive child labor. Some children may have to forego their education entirely to work to support their families, while others may be able to enroll in school, but their learning and social adjustment are interrupted when they have to change schools frequently due to crop cycles.[78] Migrant children also often find it difficult to achieve academic success because they must balance the demands of learning with the fatigue and mental stress of work in the fields.[79]

The U.S. Department of Education's Migrant Education Program works to ensure that migrant children who move from one State to another are not penalized by disparities among States in curriculum, graduation requirements, State academic content, or student academic achievement standards. The program provides services to migrant children, such as remedial and compensatory instruction, bilingual and multicultural instruction, vocational instruction, career education services, counseling, testing, health services, and preschool care.[80]

Endnotes

[1.] *Trade and Development Act of 2000,* P.L. 106-200, H.R. 434 (106th), enacted November 3, 1999. https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/106/hr434/text/eas.

[2.] *19 U.S. Code § 2462 Designation of Beneficiary Developing Countries,* enacted 1974. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/19/2462. *19 U.S. Code § 2464 Review and report to Congress,* enacted 1974. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/19/2464.

[3.] *Trade Act of 1974,* P.L. 93-618, enacted January 3, 1975. http://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/93-618.pdf.

[4.] *Trade and Development Act of 2000,* P.L. 106-200, H.R. 434 (106th), enacted November 3, 1999. https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/106/hr434/text/eas.

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Children enrolled in school taking a break from their studies.
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How to Read a Country Profile

Each country profile begins with an overview for 2015 in a single paragraph, beginning with a statement identifying the assessment level assigned to the country for 2015.

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 in which the government advanced in implementing 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.

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 a country. For some countries, data are unavailable from the sources used in this report.

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 and UCW 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.

Table 2 is footnoted to (1) identify sectors or activities for which information is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown, (2) identify sectors or activities determined to be hazardous by national law or regulation as understood under Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182, and (3) provide the definition of "Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor" as previously described.

Following Table 2, the section may highlight additional sector-specific information in a brief narrative. In addition, the narrative may discuss any social, economic, or political issues that impact 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.

Philippines

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

In 2015, the Philippines made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Government agencies signed a joint memorandum on the Rescue and Rehabilitation of Abused Domestic Workers, which established a protocol for interagency coordination on efforts to rescue and assist exploited domestic workers, including child domestic workers. The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking established five new regional task forces to support enforcement of criminal laws related to child labor and provided training on trafficking in persons to a total of 3,693 government personnel and 5,972 non-government participants. In addition, the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography adopted a new strategic plan that aims to eradicate child pornography in the Philippines. However, children in the Philippines are engaged in child labor, including in the production of sugarcane, and in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. Despite the existence of strong mechanisms to respond to cases of child labor, enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging due to the limited number of inspectors and lack of resources for inspections.

I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in the Philippines are engaged in child labor, including in the production of sugarcane, and in the worst forms of...

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	7.5 (1,549,677)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	93.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	7.8
Primary Completion Rate (%)		101.0

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2013, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.
Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Survey on Children, 2011.

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

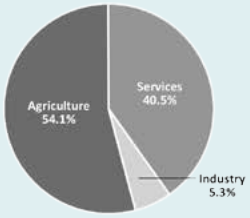

Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Production of sugarcane, including growing, weeding,* harvesting,* cutting,* and carrying sugarcane bundles*
Industry	Mining† and quarrying,† including gold extraction
	Manufacturing pyrotechnics†
Services	Domestic work
	Street work, including scavenging, selling flowers,* and begging*
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, including use in the production of pornography, sometimes as a result of human trafficking

* Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown.
† 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.

Children, primarily girls, are trafficked domestically from rural communities as well as conflict- and disaster-affected areas...

Section 2 begins with **Table 3**, "Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor." The conventions listed include ILO C. 138 and 182 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Protocol). A checkmark indicates the country's ratification, acceptance, accession, or succession to the instrument, given that these actions have the same practical legal effect regarding the substantive obligations of the instruments as ratification. If other relevant international instruments (beyond those listed in Table 3) were ratified during the reporting period, this may be recognized in a short narrative following the table.

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Philippines 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 Confli t	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 139 of the Labor Code; Section 16 of the...
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 139 of the Labor Code
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Yes		Department Order 4 on Hazardous Work and Activities to Persons Below 18 Years of Age; Section 12-D of the...
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Section 4-5 of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act;...
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against...
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Article 3 of the...
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Articles 6 and 10...
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Combat: Yes	18	Section 5.A.4 of Memorandum Circular No. 13 on Selective Enlistment/Reenlistment of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines; 2003...
	Noncombat: Yes	17	
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18‡	Section 4 of the Enhanced Basic Education Act
Free Public Education	Yes		Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution

* No conscription
‡ Age calculated based on available information

In December 2015, pursuant to the Sugarcane Industry Development Act, the Sugar Regulatory Administration issued...

Table 4, "Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor", lists a set of standards that should be established through national legislation in order to fully implement ILO C. 182. These include the minimum ages for work and hazardous work; hazardous occupations and activities prohibited to children; prohibitions of forced labor, child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and using children in illicit activities; the minimum ages for voluntary and compulsory military service; the compulsory education age; and whether the government has a law on free basic education. Table 4 is footnoted to identify (1) if a government does not use conscription for military service, (2) if a government does not have a standing military, and (3) an age calculated based on available information.

Table 4 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 then assesses whether existing laws meet international standards and are sufficiently comprehensive to cover the child labor issues that are present in the country.

Section 3 begins with a broad statement about whether the government has established institutional mechanisms to enforce laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms. It then presents three tables: the first, **Table 5**, is the "Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement" table ; the second and third, which are new to the report this year, provide data on labor and criminal law enforcement efforts in 2014 and 2015. country.

Table 6 the "Labor Law Enforcement Efforts" table, provides information on: labor inspectorate funding; the number of labor inspectors and for some countries, the number of child labor dedicated inspectors; whether the labor inspectorate is authorized to assess penalties; training for inspectors; the number of labor inspections and whether they were conducted at work sites or by desk reviews; the number of child labor violations found, and penalties imposed and collected; whether routine inspections were conducted and if any were targeted; whether unannounced inspections were permitted and if they were conducted; and whether there is a complaint mechanism and a reciprocal referral mechanism between labor authorities and social services.

Table 7, the "Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts" table, provides information on: training for investigators; the number of investigations; the number of violations found; the number of prosecutions initiated; the number of convictions; and whether there is a referral mechanism between criminal authorities and social services.

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5).

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Bureau of Working Conditions	Enforce child labor laws; regularly train inspectors and regional personnel. Inspect establishments and monitor compliance with labor laws in all sectors, including in the informal sector and agricultural and mining operations.(3) Register DOLE enforcement activities using the Labor Law Compliance System...

In April 2015, the National Police Commission issued Resolution 2014-441 to strengthen and restructure the Women and Children's Protection Center as a specialized unit under the Philippines National Police (PNP-WCPC)...

Labor Law Enforcement

Labor law enforcement agencies in the Philippines took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2014	2015
Labor Inspectorate Funding	$4,050,000	$706,480
Number of Labor Inspectors	462	541
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No	No
Training for Labor Inspectors		
• Initial Training for New Employees	Yes	Yes
• Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
• Refresher Courses Provided	Yes	Yes
Number of Labor Inspections	69,749	44,524†
• Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown
• Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Penalties for which Penalties were Imposed	N/A	N/A
• Number of Penalties Imposed that were Collected	N/A	N/A
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes	Yes
• Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes	Yes
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes	Yes
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes	Yes
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes	Yes
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes	Yes

† Data are from January 1, 2015 to November, 2015.

For the second year in a row, the Department of Labor and Employment's Bureau of Working Conditions hired additional...

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in the Philippines took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2014	2015
Training for Investigators		
• Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown
• Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
• Refresher Courses Provided	Yes	Yes
Number of Investigations	610	654†
Number of Violations Found	189	159
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	138	102
Number of Convictions	42	40
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes	Yes

† Data are from January 1, 2015 to November, 2015.

In 2015, the PNP-WCPC employed 4,316 personnel, assigned to 2,493 women and children's desks throughout the country...

A narrative follows each of these tables, with more specific information on government mechanisms and efforts, and includes findings where ILAB has concluded that a shortfall exists between international standards and government efforts.

Both tables are footnoted to identify whether the government makes enforcement information publicly available and if the data from 2014 and 2015 falls outside of the calendar year.

Section 4 is typically brief, beginning with a short statement as to whether the government has any coordinating mechanism focused on or related to combatting child labor, followed by a table listing the relevant coordinating bodies, their composition (if known), and their respective mandates, as well as their efforts during the reporting period. A subsequent narrative may include findings on gaps in their efforts.

Section 5 begins with a statement indicating whether the government has established any policies related to child labor, including its worst forms. This is followed by a table listing the relevant policies, providing a description of each policy's objective and any developments in implementation that occurred during the reporting period. The table is footnoted to identify policies that were approved during the reporting period as well as policies that do not include child labor prevention and elimination strategies. The narrative following the table is reserved for findings related to whether existing policies sufficiently address child labor issues, including its worst forms, in the country. Analysis of the extent to which these efforts were sufficient to address the scope of the problem and/or covered the key sectors in which children are known to work in the country.

Section 6 opens with a statement as to whether the government funded and/or participated in social programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms. As with the policy section, this section lists relevant programs, including larger development programs such as poverty strategies or education-focused initiatives that may have an impact on child labor. Footnotes also identify projects that are funded by the government and/or were launched during the reporting period. The table provides a description of each social program and its activities and accomplishments, to the extent known, during the reporting period. A narrative may follow with analysis of the extent to which these efforts were sufficient to address the scope of the problem and/or covered the key sectors in which children are known to work in the country.

Section 7, the last section of each country profile, is a set of suggested actions. These suggested actions serve as a roadmap of efforts that individual countries can follow to more fully address the worst forms of child labor. The year in which a suggested action was first provided is listed in the table followed by every year the action was included in the report and not addressed.

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

Table 8. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)	Coordinate national efforts to combat child labor under DOLE.(29) Promote information-sharing at the national, regional, and provincial levels...

In 2015, several government agencies signed a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on the Protocol on the Rescue and...

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government of the Philippines has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 9).

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography Three-Year Strategic Plan†	Aims to eradicate child pornography in the Philippines by focusing efforts in five strategic areas: (1) advocacy and prevention; (2) law enforcement and prosecution; (3) protection, recovery, and reintegration; (4) research, monitoring, and management of information systems; and...

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of the Philippines funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Convening Stakeholders to Develop and Implement Strategies to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Working Conditions in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (COSTREC-ASGM) (2015–2019)*	$5 million USDOL-funded, 3.5-year project implemented by the ILO that aims to support efforts to reduce child labor and improve working conditions in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Ghana and the Philippines. The project supports efforts to (1) implement laws, policies, and action plans to address child labor and working conditions in ASGM; (2) increase access of ASGM communities to livelihood and social protection programs; and (3) develop tools to increase transparency and monitoring of child labor and working conditions in gold mining supply chains.
Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons†	DSWD and IACAT program that provides recovery and reintegration services to victims of human trafficking and raises awareness in vulnerable communities...

* Program was launched during the reporting period.
† Program is funded by the Government of the Philippines.

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in the Philippines (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Authorize the labor inspectorate to assess penalties.	2015
Coordination	Ensure that the National Child Labor Committee has the legal mandate and resources necessary to effectively coordinate national efforts to combat child labor, including its worst forms.	2015
Social Programs	Ensure that all children are able to safely access and attend school and do not face prohibitive costs for education-related expenses.	2010 – 2015

REFERENCES

Appendix 1.

Country Assessments, *by Assessment*

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT		
Algeria	MENA	Significant Advancement
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Significant Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Significant Advancement
Cambodia	AP	Significant Advancement
Chile	LAC	Significant Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Significant Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Significant Advancement
Montenegro	EUR	Significant Advancement
Panama	LAC	Significant Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement
Philippines	AP	Significant Advancement
Uganda	AF	Significant Advancement
MODERATE ADVANCEMENT		
Afghanistan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement
Colombia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cook Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Moderate Advancement
Ecuador	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement
Gabon	AF	Moderate Advancement
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement
India	AP	Moderate Advancement
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Kazakhstan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Kiribati	AP	Moderate Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Moderate Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement
Liberia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mauritania	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement
Moldova	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Mongolia	AP	Moderate Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement
Solomon Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement
South Africa	AF	Moderate Advancement
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement
Tanzania	AF	Moderate Advancement
Thailand	AP	Moderate Advancement
Timor-Leste	AP	Moderate Advancement
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Uruguay	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT		
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Bahrain	MENA	Minimal Advancement
Belize	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Gambia, The	AF	Minimal Advancement
Grenada	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement
Guyana	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Kenya	AF	Minimal Advancement
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement
Papua New Guinea	AP	Minimal Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Samoa	AP	Minimal Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Seychelles	AF	Minimal Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement
Venezuela	LAC	Minimal Advancement
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Minimal Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT CONTINUED LAW, POLICY OR PRACTICE THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Bolivia	LAC	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Dominican Republic	LAC	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – EFFORTS MADE BUT REGRESSION IN LAW, POLICY OR PRACTICE THAT DELAYED ADVANCEMENT		
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Policy that Delayed Advancement
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
NO ADVANCEMENT		
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	AP	No Advancement
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement
Niue	AP	No Advancement
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement
Tokelau	AP	No Advancement
Tonga	AP	No Advancement
Vanuatu	AP	No Advancement
Yemen	MENA	No Advancement
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
Swaziland	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Uzbekistan	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
NO ASSESSMENT		
British Indian Ocean Territories	EUR	No Assessment
Heard Island and McDonald Islands	AP	No Assessment
Pitcairn Islands	EUR	No Assessment
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment

Country Assessments, *by Country*

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
Afghanistan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Algeria	MENA	Significant Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Bahrain	MENA	Minimal Advancement
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement
Belize	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
Bolivia	LAC	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Significant Advancement
British Indian Ocean Territories	EUR	No Assessment
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Significant Advancement
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cambodia	AP	Significant Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chile	LAC	Significant Advancement
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	AP	No Advancement
Colombia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cook Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Significant Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Moderate Advancement
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Dominican Republic	LAC	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Ecuador	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement
Gabon	AF	Moderate Advancement
Gambia, The	AF	Minimal Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement
Grenada	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement
Guyana	LAC	Minimal Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Heard Island and McDonald Islands	AP	No Assessment
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement
India	AP	Moderate Advancement
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Significant Advancement
Kazakhstan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Kenya	AF	Minimal Advancement
Kiribati	AP	Moderate Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Moderate Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement
Liberia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mauritania	AF	Moderate Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement
Moldova	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Mongolia	AP	Moderate Advancement
Montenegro	EUR	Significant Advancement
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement
Niue	AP	No Advancement
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement
Panama	LAC	Significant Advancement
Papua New Guinea	AP	Minimal Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement
Pitcairn Islands	EUR	No Assessment
Philippines	AP	Significant Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	ASSESSMENT
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Samoa	AP	Minimal Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Seychelles	AF	Minimal Advancement
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Policy that Delayed Advancement
Solomon Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
South Africa	AF	Moderate Advancement
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Swaziland	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Tanzania	AF	Moderate Advancement
Thailand	AP	Moderate Advancement
Timor-Leste	AP	Moderate Advancement
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement
Tokelau	AP	No Advancement
Tonga	AP	No Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement
Uganda	AF	Significant Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Uruguay	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Uzbekistan	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Vanuatu	AP	No Advancement
Venezuela	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Yemen	MENA	No Advancement
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Minimal Advancement

Change in Assessments from 2014 to 2015, *by Country*

COUNTRY	REGION	2014 ASSESSMENT	2015 ASSESSMENT
Afghanistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Algeria	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Significant Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Argentina	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Bahrain	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Belize	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Bolivia	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
British Indian Ocean Territory	EUR	No Assessment	No Assessment
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement	No Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cambodia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Chile	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Colombia	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cook Islands	AP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Dominican Republic	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2014 ASSESSMENT	2015 ASSESSMENT
Ecuador	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement - Efforts Made but Complicit	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	No Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Gabon	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Gambia, The	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Grenada	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Guinea	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Guyana	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Heard Island and McDonald Islands	AP	No Assessment	No Assessment
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
India	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Kazakhstan	AP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kenya	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Kiribati	AP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Liberia	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Macedonia	EUR	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mauritania	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Moldova	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mongolia	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2014 ASSESSMENT	2015 ASSESSMENT
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement	No Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Niue	AP	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Significant Advancement
Papua New Guinea	AP	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Pitcairn Islands	EUR	No Assessment	No Assessment
Philippines	AP	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement	No Advancement
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Samoa	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Senegal	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Seychelles	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Sierra Leone	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Policy that Delayed Advancement
Solomon Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Somalia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
South Africa	AF	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement - Efforts Made but Complicit	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Swaziland	AF	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Thailand	AP	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Timor-Leste	AP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tokelau	AP	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2014 ASSESSMENT	2015 ASSESSMENT
Tonga	AP	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Uganda	AF	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Uruguay	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Uzbekistan	AP	No Advancement - Efforts Made but Complicit	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Vanuatu	AP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Venezuela	LAC	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	Moderate Advancement	No Advancement
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement

Appendix 2.

Laws and Ratifications, *by Country*

Country	Region	2015 Assessment	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC Optional Protocols		Palermo Protocol	Minimum Ages for Work		Education	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC		Min Age/ Work	Min Age/ Haz Work	Compulsory Education Age	Free Public Education
Afghanistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Algeria	MENA	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	12	X
Anguilla	EUR	Minimal Advancement			X				14	14	17	X
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	18	X
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Bahrain	MENA	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Bangladesh	AP	Moderate Advancement		X	X	X	X		14	18	11	X
Belize	LAC	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	12	14	14	X
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	11	X
Bhutan	AP	Minimal Advancement	N/A	N/A	X	X	X		13	18		X
Bolivia	LAC	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	17	X
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18		X
Brazil	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	17	X
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	18	16	X
Burkina Faso	AF	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Burundi	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18		X
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Cambodia	AP	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18		X
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X		X	X	14	18	12	X

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Country	Region	2015 Assessment	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC Optional Protocols		Palermo Protocol	Minimum Ages for Work		Education	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC		Min Age/ Work	Min Age/ Haz Work	Compulsory Education Age	Free Public Education
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X		X	14	18	15	X
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	16	X
Chile	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	18	X
Christmas Island	AP	No Advancement		X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17	X
Cocos (Keeling) Island	AP	No Advancement		X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17	X
Colombia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	18	X
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X			15	18	12	X
Congo, Dem Rep of	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	12	X
Congo, Rep of	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X		16	18	16	X
Cook Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement			X				13	18	16	X
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17	X
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Djibouti	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16		16	X
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Dominican Republic	LAC	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	18	X
Ecuador	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	18	X
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made But Complicit in Forced Child Labor	X		X	X	X	X	14			
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18		

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Country	Region	2015 Assessment	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC Optional Protocols		Palermo Protocol	Minimum Ages for Work		Education	
						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC		Min Age/ Work	Min Age/ Haz Work	Compulsory Education Age	Free Public Education
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	15	16	X
Fiji	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X				15	18	15	
Gabon	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Gambia, The	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X		X	16	18	12	X
Georgia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy that Delayed Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	15	X
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X		X	X	15	18	15	X
Grenada	LAC	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16		16	X
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	15	X
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X		X	16	18	16	X
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	15	X
Guyana	LAC	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	17	X
India	AP	Moderate Advancement			X	X	X	X		14	14	X
Indonesia	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Iraq	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	12/15	X
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	18	X
Jordan	MENA	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Kazakhstan	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	17	X
Kenya	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X		X	X	16	18	14	X
Kiribati	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	16	X
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	18	15	X
Kyrgyz Republic	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	15	X
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X		X	14	18	15	X

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						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC		Min Age/ Work	Min Age/ Haz Work	Compulsory Education Age	Free Public Education
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	13	X
Liberia	AF	Moderate Advancement		X	X			X	16	18	15	X
Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	16	X
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	16	X
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	16/18	18	X
Maldives	AP	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	13	X
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	15	X
Mauritania	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X		X	14	18	14	X
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Moldova	EUR	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	18	X
Mongolia	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Montenegro	EUR	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	18	16	X
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	13	X
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	16	X
Nepal	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X		14	17		X
Nicaragua	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	12	X
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	16	16	X
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	12	18	15	X
Niue	AP	No Advancement	N/A	N/A	X						16	X
Norfolk Island	AP	No Advancement		X	X	X	X	X			15	X
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Pakistan	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X			N/A	15	16	X
Panama	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	15	X
Papua New Guinea	AP	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X				16	18		
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	15	X
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	17	X

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						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC		Min Age/ Work	Min Age/ Haz Work	Compulsory Education Age	Free Public Education
Philippines	AP	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	18	X
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement		X	X					18	15/16	X
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement		X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	14	16	X
Samoa	AP	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X				15	18	14	
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X			X	14	18	12	X
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	16	X
Serbia	EUR	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Seychelles	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15		16	X
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Policy that Delayed Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Solomon Islands	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X				12	15		
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement		X	X				15	18		X
South Africa	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made But Complicit in Forced Child Labor	X	X	X				14	18	13	X
Sri Lanka	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	14	X
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement		X	X	X		X	14	18	12	X

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						CRC- CSEC	CRC- AC		Min Age/ Work	Min Age/ Haz Work	Compulsory Education Age	Free Public Education
Swaziland	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made But Complicit in Forced Child Labor	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18		X
Tanzania	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	14	
Thailand	AP	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	16	X
Timor-Leste	AP	Moderate Advancement		X	X	X	X	X	15	17	16	X
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Tokelau	AP	No Advancement	U	U	U	U	U	U		18	16	X
Tonga	AP	No Advancement	N/A	N/A	X						18	
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	16	X
Turkey	EUR	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17	X
Tuvalu	AP	Minimal Advancement			X				14	15	15	
Uganda	AF	Significant Advancement	X	X	X	X	X		14	18	12	X
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	17	X
Uruguay	LAC	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17	X
Uzbekistan	AP	No Advancement – Efforts Made But Complicit in Forced Child Labor	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18	18	X
Vanuatu	AP	No Advancement		X	X	X	X		14	15		
Venezuela	LAC	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	15	X
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment	X	X	X	X	X	X	14	18	16	X
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement	N/A	N/A	X	X	X	N/A	15	18	16	X
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	15	X
Yemen	MENA	No Advancement	X	X	X	X	X		14	18	15	X
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement	X	X	X			X	15	18		X
Zimbabwe	AF	Minimal Advancement	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	18		

A child laborer pushing a hand cart loaded with wasted leathers, at Hazaribagh area of Dhaka City, Bangladesh. These are used as raw material in the glue factories in the area.
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Girl Carrying Coal Basket , India.
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A young boy working in the mechanical industry in Nicaragua.
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