

In 2015, Pakistan made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa passed the Prohibition of Employment of Children Act and the Bonded Labor Systems (Abolition) Act. The Provincial Government of Punjab collaborated with the International Labor Organization to provide free education and books to the children of brick kiln workers. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, which criminalizes serious offenses against children, was passed by the National Assembly and is waiting for Senate approval. However, children in Pakistan are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and bonded labor in brick kilns. Three Provincial Governments have not established a minimum working age, and the Federal minimum age for hazardous work falls short of international standards. Provincial Governments do not have the resources necessary to enforce laws prohibiting child labor, including its worst forms.



## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Pakistan are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and bonded labor in brick kilns. (1, 2) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Pakistan.

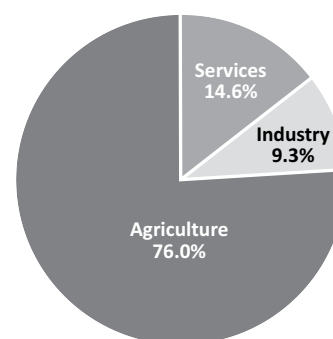
**Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	10-14 yrs.	13.0 (2,449,480)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	72.3
Combining Work and School (%)	10-14 yrs.	1.6
Primary Completion Rate (%)		73.7

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2014, published by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(3)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from the Labor Force Survey, 2010–2011.(4)

**Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 10-14**



Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children's work by sector and activity.

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Farming, including harvesting cotton,* wheat,* dates,* sugarcane,* and potatoes* (5-12)
	Raising livestock (7, 8, 10)
	Fishing,* including deep-sea fishing,* and harvesting and processing shrimp* (13-15)
Industry	Manufacturing glass bangles,† surgical instruments, and palm leaf mats* (10, 12, 16, 17)
	Weaving carpets,† tanning leather, stitching soccer balls,* and weaving cloth using power looms*† (6, 12, 14, 15, 18-23)
	Producing bricks, mining coal and salt,* and quarrying and crushing stone,* including gypsum* (5, 6, 10, 19, 22, 24-28)
	Welding and steel fabrication, carpentry in small workshops, and construction*† (8, 10, 14, 19, 25, 27-29)
Services	Domestic work (6, 25, 27, 30, 31)
	Working in hotels, restaurants, tea stalls, and transportation* (5-7, 9, 10, 19, 22, 25, 27, 28, 31)
	Scavenging and sorting recyclables and collecting waste paper* (6, 10, 11, 18, 19, 22, 28)

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**Table 2. Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity (cont)**

Sector/Industry	Activity
Services	Automobile repair (6, 7, 19, 22, 25, 27, 28)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Forced labor in brickmaking, carpet weaving, agriculture,* manufacturing glass bangles,* and mining coal (2, 15, 23, 32, 33)
	Forced domestic work, sometimes as a result of human trafficking* (1, 33, 34)
	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking* (33, 35)
	Forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking* (33, 36)
	Use in armed conflict as a result of forced recruitment* (33, 37)
	Use in illicit activities, including smuggling small arms* and drugs* (38, 39)

\* 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.

A national child labor survey has not been conducted since 1996, and the lack of recent data hampers the ability of the Federal and Provincial Governments to accurately assess the scope and prevalence of child labor.(40)

Girls are trafficked domestically and internationally into commercial sexual exploitation.(33) Boys are victims of human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation around hotels, truck stops, bus stations, and shrines in Pakistan.(33, 35) Children are sold or kidnapped and forced to beg in Pakistan.(33, 41)

Non-state militant groups, such as pro-Taliban insurgents, force children to engage in espionage, armed conflict, and suicide attacks.(33, 37) Children are used to smuggle drugs and small arms across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.(38, 39)




Some child domestic workers are subjected to sexual assault and extreme abuse, including cases in which child domestic workers were killed by their employers.(1, 34) Some children work as bonded laborers in the production of bricks and in coal mines. This is typically a result of Pakistan’s debt bondage system, *peshgi*, in which children are forced to work to pay off a family loan.(32, 42)

While education is free and compulsory through age 16, access to education is still limited. High rates of teacher absenteeism, inadequate facilities, lack of transportation, and corporal punishment may deter children from attending school.(15, 40, 43) In conflict zones, military operations often disrupt school attendance and damage infrastructure.(44) Armed groups and extremist groups regularly attack and threaten schools, disrupting children’s access to education.(43, 45)

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Pakistan has ratified most key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

**Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor**

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	

The Federal and Provincial Governments have established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4).

**Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor**

Standard	Related Entity	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Federal	No		
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Yes	15	Sections 2(1)(b) and 3(1) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prohibition of Employment of Children Act (46)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Federal	Yes	15	Sections 2 and 3 of the Employment of Children Act (47)
	Punjab	Yes	15	Sections 2 and 3 of the Government of Punjab Employment of Children Act (48)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Yes	19	Sections 2(1)(a) and 3(2) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prohibition of Employment of Children Act (46)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Federal	Yes		Parts 1 and 2 of the Schedule of the Employment of Children Act (47)
	Punjab	Yes		Parts 1 and 2 of the Schedule of the Government of Punjab Employment of Children Act (48)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Yes		Parts 1 and 2 of the Schedule of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prohibition of Employment of Children Act (46)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Federal	Yes		Section 4 of the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act; Section 3 of the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance; Sections 366A, 366B, 367, 370, 371A, 371B, and 374 of the Penal Code; Sections 17–23 of the Emigration Ordinance (49-52)
	Punjab	Yes		Section 4 of the Punjab Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act (53)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Yes		Sections 2(j) and 3 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (54)
	Federal	Yes		Sections 2 and 3 of the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance; Sections 366A and 366B of the Penal Code (50, 51)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Yes		Section 52 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act (55)
	Federal	Yes		Sections 366A and 366B of the Penal Code; Section 3(iii) of the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance(50)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Punjab	Yes		Section 40 of the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act (56)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Yes		Sections 48,50, and 52 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act (55)
	Federal	No		
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Punjab	No		Section 36 of the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act (56)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	No		Sections 35, 38, and 45 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act (55)
	Federal	No		
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	Federal	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Federal	Yes	18	Section 3 of the National Service Ordinance (57)
Compulsory Education Age	Federal	Yes	16	Section 3 of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (58)
	Sindh	Yes	16	Section 3(1) of the Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (59)
	Balochistan	Yes	16	Section 3 of the Balochistan Compulsory Education Act (60)
Free Public Education	Federal	Yes		Section 3 of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (58)
	Sindh	Yes		Section 3(1) of the Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (59)
	Balochistan	Yes		Section 2(f) of the Balochistan Compulsory Education Act (60)

\* No conscription (57)

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The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Pakistan Constitution devolves all child welfare and labor issues from the Federal Government to the four Provincial Governments. Until each Province repeals or adopts a replacement law, Federal laws on child protection and bonded labor are in force.(40)

In 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province passed the Prohibition of Employment of Children Act and the Bonded Labor Systems (Abolition) Act.(46, 54) During the year, the National Assembly passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, which criminalizes serious offenses against children, including child pornography and domestic trafficking in persons. The bill was waiting for Senate approval.(61, 62)

Pakistan's Federal and Provincial laws are not completely in compliance with international standards on child labor, including the worst forms of child labor. The Federal and Provincial Governments, with the exception of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have not established a national minimum age for employment, which may increase the likelihood that very young children engage in activities that jeopardize their health and safety. The Federal law and Punjab Provincial law setting the minimum age of 15 for hazardous work is not in compliance with international standards.(47, 63) Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan Provinces have drafted legislation that prohibits work for children under age 14, and hazardous work for children under age 18; however, legislation in these Provinces has been pending ratification since 2012.(64)

Pakistan's hazardous work prohibitions are not comprehensive because they do not cover domestic work.(39) Pakistan's minimum age for hazardous work does not extend to factories with fewer than 10 people employed.(47)

The Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act do not comply with international standards because they do not provide that children can be trafficked without coercion. These laws are also insufficient because they do not specifically prohibit internal human trafficking.(51, 55) The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act further does not comply with international standards because it prohibits child trafficking only for exploitative entertainment.(55) In 2013, the Federal Government drafted anti-trafficking legislation to address internal and transnational trafficking, with a focus on crimes against women and children; however, it has yet to be introduced in the National Assembly.(65)

The Federal Penal Code prohibits procuring girls under age 18 for prostitution; however, the law does not sufficiently prohibit commercial sexual exploitation because it does not extend to boys under age 18, and it does not prohibit using children for prostitution. It also does not criminalize the use, procuring, or offering of children in the production of pornography and pornographic performances.(50) Punjab Province has enacted legislation that criminalizes the procurement of a child for prostitution; however, the law does not prohibit the use of children for pornography and pornographic performances.(56) Federal and provincial laws do not criminally prohibit the possession of child pornography.(50, 55, 56)

While Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab Provinces have enacted legislation prohibiting the use of children in begging, these Provincial laws and the Federal law are not sufficient as they do not prohibit the use of children in drug production and drug trafficking.(55, 56) The Federal and Provincial Governments have not enacted laws that prohibit the recruitment and use of children by non-state groups for armed conflict.(43)

### 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
Provincial Labor Inspectors	Inspect industrial areas and markets to identify child labor violations, enforce Provincial labor laws, and pursue legal action against employers.(66)
Provincial and Regional Police	Enforce violations of Federal and Provincial laws, including the Pakistan Penal Code and the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, concerning the worst forms of child labor. Refer children taken into custody to Child Protection Officers.(67)
District Vigilance Committees	Implement the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act and assist in rehabilitating bonded laborers.(49)

**Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement (cont)**

Organization/Agency	Role
Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Federal Investigation Agency	Enforce transnational trafficking-related laws, particularly the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance. Cooperate with other governments on trafficking cases, operate a hotline for victims, and publish information on anti-trafficking efforts on its Web site.(68)
Child Protection Units	Take into custody at-risk children, including those rescued from exploitative labor situations. Present cases of children taken into custody to the Child Protection Court or the appropriate authority. Established in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh Provinces.(55, 56, 69, 70)
Child Protection Courts	Determine protective custody for at-risk children, including those rescued from exploitative labor situations. Established in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces.(55, 56, 71)

**Labor Law Enforcement**

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in Pakistan 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	Related Entity	2014	2015
Labor Inspectorate Funding		Unknown	Unknown (62)
Number of Labor Inspectors	National Total	2800 (62)	2711 (62)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	54 (43)	54 (43, 62, 72)
	Sindh	Unknown	138 (62)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties		Yes (62)	Yes (62)
Training for Labor Inspectors			
	■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown (62)
	■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	Unknown (62)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Yes (62)	
Number of Labor Inspections	National Total	Unknown (62)	Unknown (62)
	Sindh	Unknown	50,000† (62)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Unknown	2,094 (62)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite		Unknown	Unknown (62)
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews		Unknown	Unknown (62)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	National Total	Unknown	Unknown (62)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Unknown	120 (62)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	National Total	Unknown	Unknown (62)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Unknown	1 (62)
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected		Unknown	1 (62)
Routine Inspections Conducted		Yes (73)	Yes (62)
	■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown	Unknown (62)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted		Yes (62)	Yes (62)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted		Unknown	Unknown (62)
Complaint Mechanism Exists		Yes (62)	Yes (62)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services		Yes (62)	Yes (62)

† Data are from 2014 and 2015.

Following the devolution of Federal powers to Provincial Governments, the Provinces are responsible for enforcing labor laws, including those involving child labor law violations. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Provinces were the only Provinces to provide information about labor law enforcement actions taken during 2015.(62)

Pakistan has a critical shortage of labor inspectors and provincial agencies that support law enforcement are severely under-resourced. For example, labor inspectors receive very little training and have insufficient resources to adequately inspect workplaces.(43, 62, 73) Labor inspections vary across Provincial Governments. In Punjab, inspections are conducted regularly, while in Sindh, inspectors are required to give advance notice to employers.(73) Fines and penalties are assessed only infrequently and are insufficient to deter employers from using child labor.(40, 62)

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In 2015, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province created a labor complaint cell and allocated \$160,990 to establish a child labor and bonded labor unit in the Directorate of Labor.(62)

### *Criminal Law Enforcement*

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in Pakistan 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 (62)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Unknown (62)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (74)	Yes (75)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	Unknown (62)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown (62)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	Unknown (62)
Number of Convictions	Unknown	Unknown (62)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (62)	Yes (62)

Research has found no evidence that Balochistan has a referral mechanism by which rescued children can be placed in protective custody and obtain rehabilitation services. The Province has not yet passed legislation mandating the creation of child protection units.(76)

Law enforcement officials lack the necessary personnel, training, and equipment to confront the armed guards who often oversee bonded laborers.(2) These circumstances have hampered the effectiveness and enforcement of the Bonded Labor System Abolition Act and, since its passage in 1992, no convictions have been made under the Act.(33) District Vigilance Committees have been established in Punjab, and cases of bonded labor have been reported by the local police. In other Provinces, however, District Vigilance Committees may not be functioning.(33)

In 2015, the Federal Investigation Agency hosted anti-human trafficking training for local law enforcement officials and judges who hear trafficking cases.(75)

## 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
Federal and Provincial Child Labor Units	Advise Provincial Governments and coordinate reporting responsibilities on the implementation of child labor conventions.(77) Conduct research, build capacity, and coordinate anti-child labor activities.(68)
Interagency Task Force	Coordinate the anti-human trafficking efforts of the Ministry of the Interior; intelligence and law enforcement agencies; the Ministry of Law and Justice; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Support 13 anti-trafficking units that work with Provincial and district police officers to monitor and combat internal and transnational human trafficking.(74) Maintain an Integrated Border Management System.(78)
Punjab Child Protection and Welfare Bureau	Coordinate the protection of destitute and neglected children by appointing child protection officers, supervising child protection units, and establishing child protection institutions and child protection courts.(56)
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Commission	Coordinate efforts to enhance the safety, welfare, and well-being of children, including by running programs for the prevention of exploitative child labor practices.(79)
Sindh Child Protection Authority	Coordinate efforts to ensure the rights of children in need of special protection, including child laborers, by establishing child protection units and appointing child protection officers.(70) The Provincial minister heads the authority and members include two parliamentarians, lawyers, social activists, and representatives from departments that deal with children's issues.(80) As of May 2015, the Sindh Child Protection Authority has not set up district child protection units nor established rules of business or a budget.(81)

Research has found no evidence that Balochistan Province has a coordination mechanism to ensure the welfare and protection of children at the provincial level. A new version of the Balochistan Child Welfare Protection Bill, which would mandate the creation of child welfare and protection bureau, was drafted in 2015, but it has yet to be passed by the Provincial Assembly.(76, 82)

## V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

**Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor**

Policy	Description
National Action Plan for Children	Aims to prohibit, restrict, and regulate child labor with the eventual goal of its elimination.(83) Lays out 14 key strategies and actions, including harmonizing work among Government agencies, NGOs, and donors; promoting research on child labor issues; developing non-formal education for child laborers; providing microcredit for families of child laborers; and conducting national surveys on child labor. Also addresses child trafficking and outlines key objectives for its elimination.(83)
National Education Policy	Focuses on increasing the literacy rate and providing livelihood skills to children, including those engaged in child labor. Aims to expand non-formal and vocational education programs to children, including child laborers.(84)
National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking	Describes prevention, prosecution, and protection strategies for ending human trafficking, including child trafficking.(85)
Provincial Plans of Action to Combat Child Labor	Details how each Province plans to revise child labor legislation, including by strengthening the capacity of labor inspectors, generating awareness of child labor, improving reporting, and computerizing labor inspection data.(77, 86)
Sindh and Punjab Provincial Plans of Action to Combat Bonded Labor	Details how the Sindh and Punjab Provinces plan to revise their bonded labor laws. Includes plans to strengthen the capacity of labor inspectors, generate awareness of bonded labor, improve reporting, and computerize labor inspection data.(86, 87)
Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Child Protection Policy	Describes how FATA will promote and create a protective environment for all children. Includes actions to be taken toward the prevention and elimination of child labor.(88)
Punjab Labor Policy†	Seeks to improve working conditions, eradicate child and bonded labor, and establish social safety for workers and their families. Includes the goal of ending all child labor in brick kilns, in addition to the construction of schools, hospitals, and residences for workers.(89)
National Plan of Action to Accelerate Education-Related Millennium Development Goals (2013–2016)*	Aims to increase enrollment of out-of-school children in primary education, to retain all children enrolled in school and ensure they complete their primary education, and to improve the quality of primary education. Sets out province-level action plans to achieve these goals.(90)
One UN Program II (2013–2017)*	Identifies key strategic priority areas for UN development assistance, including increased access to social services and food security, development of sustainable livelihoods, and strengthened governance and social protections for excluded and vulnerable populations.(91)
Balochistan Education Sector Plan (2013–2017)*	Seeks to increase the quality and relevance of school curriculum and increase inclusion of excluded communities and children in primary, secondary, and non-formal educational institutions.(92) In 2014, Balochistan Province was awarded \$34 million from the Global Partnership for Education to implement its State Action Plan.(93)
Punjab Reforms Road Map*	Aims to achieve 100 percent enrollment of all school-age children, 100 percent retention of all enrolled children up to age 16, and to provide free and compulsory education for all in the Punjab Province.(94)
Sindh Education Sector Plan (2014–2018)*†	Aims to increase equitable access to education and to improve the quality of the teachers and curriculum.(95) In 2014, the Sindh Provincial Government was awarded \$66 million from the Global Partnership for Education to implement the Plan.(96)
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Plan (2010–2015)*	Set out strategies to increase student enrollment, improve the quality of education, and improve school infrastructure and learning environments.(97)

\* Child labor elimination and prevention strategies do not appear to have been integrated into this policy.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

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

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**Table 10. Social Programs to Address Child Labor**

Program	Description
National Centers for Rehabilitation of Child Labor†	Pakistan <i>Bait-ul-Mal</i> program that aims to remove children ages 5–14 from hazardous labor and provide them with education, clothing, and a stipend.(98)
Child Support Program†	Pakistan <i>Bait-ul-Mal</i> program that distributes conditional cash transfers to families living below the poverty line to send their children ages 5–16 to primary school. Approximately \$3 million has been disbursed.(99)
Benazir Bhutto Income Support Program†	Federal Government scheme that provides financial assistance to underprivileged families and offers incentives for parents to keep their children in school and out of work.(40)
Decent Work Country Program (2010–2015)	ILO technical assistance program that included strategies to reduce the worst forms of child labor by strengthening institutions and taking direct action to withdraw children from the workforce. Program also sought to combat forced labor by strengthening law enforcement interventions in cases of internal human trafficking and bonded labor in the Sindh and Punjab Provinces.(100)
Sabawoon Rehabilitation Center†	Pakistan Army center that rehabilitates children who were recruited and ideologically influenced by terrorist organizations and militant groups. Reintegrated more than 2,200 youth into society.(74)
Project to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Punjab Provincial Child Labor Unit program that provides non-formal education and literacy services to children in the worst forms of child labor in four Punjab districts. Provides livelihood services to target families and improve working conditions.(101)
Education Program for Children of Brick Kiln Workers*	ILO-funded project implemented by the Government of Punjab to provide free education to children of brick kiln workers, enrolls children in school and provides them with free school bags and books. Covers all brick kilns in the Punjab Province.(102)
Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues*	USDOL-funded project, implemented by the ILO in approximately 40 countries to support the priorities of the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor by 2016 established by The Hague Global Child Labor Conference in 2010. Aims to strengthen legal protections and social services delivery for child domestic workers in Pakistan.(103)
Education Voucher Scheme‡	Punjab Educational Foundation program that provides stipends to students from low-income areas to attend private schools.(14, 104)

\* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Pakistan.

‡ Program is funded by the Provincial Government of Punjab.

In 2015, the Government of Punjab conducted a survey of brick kilns in the district and found 23,000 children residing at 6,600 brick kilns. The survey resulted in the enrollment of 18,622 brick kiln children in school.(105)

The social programs of the Federal and Provincial Governments are insufficient to address the prevalence and scope of Pakistan's child labor problem. Existing programs also do not provide enough protection and rehabilitation services for bonded laborers and victims of human trafficking.(33) Government initiatives are needed to specifically target child domestic workers and child labor in the informal sector. Additional social programs are also necessary to raise awareness and provide assistance to children used by non-state militant groups to engage in armed conflict.(43, 64)

## 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 Pakistan (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ratify the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict and the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.	2013 – 2015
	Establish a minimum age for employment that is harmonized with the compulsory education age.	2009 – 2015
	Create comprehensive prohibitions against additional specific hazardous activities and clearly establish a minimum age of 18 for hazardous work.	2009 – 2015
	Ensure that relevant child labor laws and regulations apply equally to children working in all sectors, regardless of the size of the establishment.	2011 – 2015
	Ensure that the law criminalizes child trafficking in compliance with international standards, including internal trafficking within Pakistan.	2011 – 2015



**Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including Its Worst Forms (cont)**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the law criminalizes the use of both female and male children in all forms of commercial sexual exploitation, including child pornography and pornographic performances and prostitution.	2011 – 2015
	Ensure that the law prohibits the use of children in illicit activities, including in producing and trafficking of drugs.	2011 – 2015
	Prohibit the recruitment and use of children by non-state groups for armed conflict.	2015
Enforcement	Collect and publish enforcement data for child labor violations and criminal violations of laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor.	2010 – 2015
	Provide the funding necessary to adequately hire, train, and equip inspectors and investigators to enforce laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor.	2010 – 2015
	Allow labor inspectors in all Provinces to conduct inspections and assess penalties at any time, without notice.	2011 – 2015
	Ensure that fines and penalties are sufficient to deter employers from violating child labor laws.	2014 – 2015
	Ensure that referral mechanisms exist among labor investigators, law enforcement officers, and child protection services in all Provinces.	2014 – 2015
	Ensure that vigilance committees are established and active throughout Pakistan.	2013 – 2015
Government Policies	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into the education and development policies of the Federal and Provincial Governments.	2014 – 2015
Social Programs	Ensure that all children have access to free and compulsory education, as required by law.	2011 – 2015
	Conduct child labor surveys at the Federal and Provincial levels.	2009 – 2015
	Increase the size and scope of government programs to reach children working in the worst forms of child labor, including domestic work, bonded child laborers, and victims of human trafficking.	2009 – 2015
	Implement programs to raise awareness of and provide assistance to children used by non-state militant groups to engage in armed conflict.	2011 – 2015

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