

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



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

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

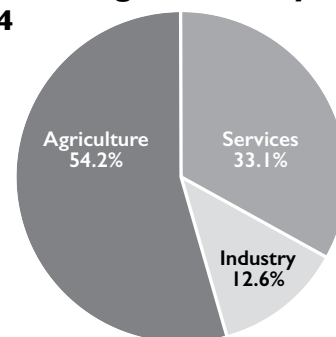
Table I. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Construction,† activities unknown (15) Cutting and transporting lumber;† and creating artisanal woodwork such as handicrafts and decorative items (4,16,17)
Services	Street work,† including vending and helping shoppers carry bags in urban markets,† begging,† guarding or washing cars and motorcycles,† and selling massages and hair-braiding to tourists in beach areas (1,2,4,7,18-25) Recycling† and garbage scavenging† (1,4,20,26) Domestic work,† including caring for children,† cooking, gardening, and shopping for the home (4,7,9,27) Working in retail establishments, hotels, and restaurants, activities unknown (3,4,9,10)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2,4,18,25,28-31) Use in the production of pornography (1,4,7,25,28,30) Recruitment of children by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict (2,4,25,32) Use in illicit activities, including in forced begging, by illegal armed groups and criminal organizations to commit homicides and traffic drugs, and in the production of marijuana and coca (stimulant plant), each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1,2,4,7,9,25,33,34)

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

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

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




Some civil society groups report that the forced recruitment and use of minors in Colombia by illegal armed groups, including *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC) dissidents, the National Liberation Army, the Popular Liberation Army, and non-ideological criminal organizations such as the Gulf Clan, continued and increased from 2017 to 2018. (2,25,39,40) Children are recruited to perform intelligence and logistical activities, store and transport weapons, and engage in commercial sexual exploitation. (4,7,25,32) However, the Colombian government has reported that this recruitment and use of children remained significantly lower than levels prior to the signing of the 2016 peace accord with FARC. (41)

In Colombia, impassable roads, long distances between children’s homes and schools in rural areas, a lack of teachers, and continued violence and insecurity in parts of the country hinder access to education. (4,9,42) Indigenous and Afro-Colombian children in particular face difficulties in accessing education. (7,42) In several communities, classes were interrupted, sometimes for weeks at a time, because of illegal armed group activity in those areas. (40,42) Venezuelan children in Colombia who lack identity documents are provided temporary identification numbers, enabling them to access all aspects of the education system. (4) In 2018, the Ministry of Education and the Director General of Migration jointly issued a circular to facilitate enrollment in school for these children, regardless of their residency or citizenship status. (4,43) UNICEF and NGOs reported that overall implementation of the circular has been successful, if uneven in some districts because of the challenges created by the large number of Venezuelan children, noting strained classroom space and resources. (4)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Colombia has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

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

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

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

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

During the reporting period, members of Congress drafted a bill to strengthen penalties in the Penal Code for crimes of commercial sexual exploitation and to expand the range of criminal practices considered under these crimes. (4,53) The bill also increases minimum sentences to 26 years in prison for the procurement of a minor for commercial sexual exploitation, demanding a minor to perform sexual acts for money, and any involvement in sex tourism. (53) In addition, Congress drafted a bill that would revise the Penal Code to establish more comprehensive criminal provisions to protect children and adolescents from commercial sexual exploitation perpetrated through the internet, social media, and mobile devices. (4,54) This modification would ensure that crimes committed online related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography, would be punished in the same way as similar crimes committed in person. (54)

Challenges remain concerning differences in the minimum age for work and the compulsory schooling age. The minimum age for work is lower than the compulsory education age, and children may be encouraged to leave school before the completion of compulsory education. (44)

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III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

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

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor's (MOL) Inspection, Monitoring, Control, and Territorial Management Department	Receives complaints of labor law violations and conducts labor inspections, including inspections to verify labor conditions for adolescent workers and compliance with other child labor provisions. Oversees the Internal Working Group on Child Labor Eradication. (55) Operates the Integrated Registration and Information System for Child Labor, a child labor monitoring system that identifies children engaged in or at risk of child labor. (1,56)
Active Search Team for Trafficking in Persons, Sexual Exploitation of Children, Girls, and Adolescents and Related Crimes*	Uses a proactive investigation model to identify these crimes in regions where they occur instead of waiting for victims to seek attention at the national level. Created in 2018 by the Bogota Mayor's office. (25)
National Police	Investigates cases of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. (4) Judicial police and the Technical Investigation Corps support the Attorney General's Office throughout the investigation process. (4)
Attorney General's Office	Investigates and prosecutes cases of child recruitment for armed conflict, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, and human trafficking, with support from the Office's Technical Investigation Unit, which also advises the Attorney General in the design of policies and strategies related to the role of judicial police investigators. (4,44) Oversees the Articulation Group for Combating Trafficking in Persons, which includes four prosecutors who focus on investigating and prosecuting cross-border human trafficking and other related crimes. (57)
National Training Service	Collects fines imposed by MOL for labor law violations. (58)

* Agency was created during the reporting period.

Labor Law Enforcement

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

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$1,016,989 (24)	\$2,400,000 (4)
Number of Labor Inspectors	868 (59)	867 (4)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (60)	Yes (4)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A (4)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Unknown (4)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	247† (9)	Unknown (4)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	15 (9)	12 (4)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (7,9)	Yes (4)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (7,9)	Yes (4)

† Data are from January 2017 to October 2017.

In 2018, the MOL significantly increased its resources dedicated to labor law enforcement, including approximately \$600,000 dedicated specifically to improving training for labor inspectors. (4) The budget also included resources for improving the connectivity and implementation of the electronic case management system which was created in 2017. (4) However, reports indicate that resource allocation for labor law enforcement in rural areas, such as Amazonas and Vichada, was insufficient. (7,59) In some cases, inspectors carried out inspections in a small geographic area due to a lack of transportation resources to reach areas accessible only by boats or small planes. (1) Although unannounced inspections are permitted by the Labor Code, inspectors must obtain prior approval from the Attorney General's Office and be accompanied by judicial police officers to inspect certain kinds of private property, such as private homes, farms, and brothels, which may create delays. (4)

The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Colombia's workforce, which includes over 25 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, Colombia should employ roughly 1,645 inspectors. (7,61) In Colombia, labor inspectors are not considered full civil servants until they are hired through a state-provided civil service exam, which occurs infrequently. (4) To address the high turnover among inspectors and fill all of the MOL's 904 labor inspector positions with permanent inspectors, the government held an exam in April 2018. (4) However, in September, the Council of State suspended the appointments made under the exam based on a legal action filed by the National Association of Labor Inspectors, which argued that proper notification of the exam had not been provided in accordance with the law. Until the Council makes a ruling on these appointments, the hiring of inspectors can only be done through a complex legal process. (4) Despite the government's concerns about forced labor in areas such as illegal mining, domestic servitude, agriculture near the coffee belt, cattle herding, and crop harvesting, the MOL did not have inspector trainings in victim identification. (41) In 2018, with the support of an international organization, the MOL worked to finalize a victim identification protocol for labor inspectors. (41)

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

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in Colombia took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including training for new employees and funding.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Unknown	Unknown (4)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (9)	N/A (4)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Yes (4)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	4,333 (4)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	3,280 (4)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	359 (9)	607 (4)
Number of Convictions	206 (59)	673 (4)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (63,64)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (4)

In 2018, the Attorney General's Office reported that of the 3,280 children and adolescents registered as victims of crimes related to the worst forms of child labor, 36 percent involved child pornography, 18 percent involved

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the use of children to commit illicit activities, and the remaining 46 percent included cases of child recruitment into criminal ranks, commercial sexual exploitation, and trafficking in persons. (4) The Ministry of Defense reported that it received 177 cases of children and adolescents demobilized from illegally armed groups, all of which were referred to the Office of the Attorney General and the Colombian Institute of Family Well-Being (ICBF) for investigation and prosecution. The children were referred to social services. (4)

During the reporting period, the ICBF registered 1,396 children for assistance through its Administrative Program for Reestablishing the Defense of Rights (PARD), a set of procedures to defend the rights of children who have been abused by adults, including through trafficking, forced labor, forced military action, or commercial sexual exploitation. (4,39,65) The process includes psychological evaluation, nutritional assessment, verification of birth registry, and assessment of family environment. (65) Between January and October 2018, 18 children and adolescents entered the PARD process by reason of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. (25) In 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated numerous multilateral efforts for cooperation and technical assistance with other countries to share best practices in the areas of prevention, investigation, and assistance to victims of trafficking. (25) In 2018, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency's Office of Homeland Security Investigations helped establish the Child Exploitation Unit in the Colombian National Police's Transnational Criminal Unit. During the reporting period, this unit opened 24 child exploitation cases, executed 9 search warrants, and arrested 10 individuals for the sexual exploitation of children. (25) Although the government took action on crimes related to the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and collected data on these crimes, the Attorney General's Office reported that its case management system tracks processes through conviction only and does not include sentencing. (4,63,64)

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

In September 2018, the government launched the National Information System on Trafficking in Persons to collect, process, and analyze trafficking in persons data from the Inter-institutional Committee for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and 32 regional committees. (25) Despite these efforts, the government did not provide clear information on whether funding provided to criminal law enforcement agencies was sufficient. (4) In addition, civil society noted a lack of specific budget allocations by government institutions for addressing trafficking in persons. (25)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

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

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Interagency Committee for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker (CIETI)	Coordinates efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor. Chaired by MOL, includes 13 government agencies and representatives from trade unions, business associations, and civil society organizations. (7) Oversees 32 department-level CIETIs throughout the country, each comprising municipal-level committees. (62) In 2018, department-level CIETIs were trained on the provisions in the National Policy Guidelines to Eradicate and Prevent Child Labor and Protect Adolescent Workers (2019–2029) and subsequently created department-level Action Plans to implement the guidelines in various regions. (4,66)

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Colombian Institute for Family Well-Being (ICBF)	Operates mobile units to coordinate government actions to protect children's rights, including protection from child labor. Supports demobilized child soldiers by strengthening family networks and increasing access to health services, food, education, and shelter. (16) Serves as Administrator of the Fund Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. (67) Processes child labor complaints, operates hotlines to report child labor cases, and provide social services to children engaged in or at risk of child labor. (4,68) In 2018, expanded from 40 to 58 mobile units, comprising 174 professionals nationwide. (4,69) In addition, mobile teams conducted 1,962 workshops on child labor in 267 municipalities across the country in 2018. (4) Also coordinated with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) on a working group to more closely and effectively coordinate service provision for child and adolescent victims of human trafficking. (25)
ICBF's National System of Family Well-Being	Promotes interagency coordination to protect children's rights, including rights related to child labor. (7) Designs, implements, monitors, and evaluates policies that affect children from early childhood to adolescence. Comprises the offices of the President and Vice President, 15 government ministries, and other government agencies. (70) ICBF provided technical assistance in 2018 to 125 officials in agencies comprising the National System of Family Welfare on protocols for referring children engaged in mining to social services in the departments of Cordoba, La Guajira, and Cesar. (4)
National Interagency Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation	Coordinates and implements efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Led by MOL and comprises 15 government agencies. (7) Was active during the reporting period. (4)
Interagency Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons	Leads and coordinates efforts among government agencies to combat human trafficking. Created by Law 985, chaired by the Ministry of the Interior, and comprises 16 government entities and 6 permanent invitees, including private sector and international organizations. (1) In 2018, conducted 44 technical advisory meetings with 32 departmental, municipal, and district-level committees to improve coordination. (4,25) Also provided multiple trainings for government agencies, including judicial branch officials and the Colombian National Police, businesses, indigenous communities, and academic institutions on how to identify and combat human trafficking crimes. (4) In May 2018, the Committee formalized an action plan that defines coordinating actions in prevention and awareness raising. The plan came into effect on June 1, 2019. (65)
Center for the Crime of Trafficking in Persons* (Observatorio del Delito Trata de Personas)	Implemented in October 2018, the Center serves as a mechanism for the collection, registration and systematization of information related to human trafficking. (71) This information is used to strengthen government mechanisms for prevention. (71) The Center's priorities include analysis of Venezuela migration and trafficking in persons, the development of guides for victim assistance at the regional level, and training for judicial officials. (4) In 2018, the Observatory carried out two academic conferences focusing on investigation and prosecution. (4,39)
Inter-sectorial Commission for the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Children by Illegal Armed Groups (CIPRUNNA)	Coordinates efforts to prevent child recruitment by illegal armed groups, including for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Created by Law 552, led by the High Commissioner for Post-Conflict, Human Rights, and Security, and comprises 23 entities, including the Attorney General's Office and MOL as permanent members. (72,73) The Commission held 7 meetings in 2018 and issued a decree that requires relevant government agencies to create a 4-year action plan to implement guidelines under the oversight of the Commission. (4,65,74,75) The Commission also published an extensive progress report in July 2018 that highlighted CIPRUNNA's coverage of 96 percent of the Colombian territory with at least one strategy, program, or prevention project in 1,056 municipalities in the 32 departments of Colombia. (75)
National Reintegration Council	Supervises the reintegration of <i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia</i> (FARC) members, including children, and the preparation of a socioeconomic survey of former FARC combatants. (76) Established on December 20, 2016, pursuant to the Peace Accord, and continues coordination efforts. (4,77) Was active during the reporting period. (4)

* Mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor was created during the reporting period.

In 2018, the Ministry of Tourism hosted the International Summit for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in the Tourism Sector, which brought together representatives from 90 countries to address challenges related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector. (4)

Civil society organizations have noted inconsistent coordination in the areas of human trafficking victim identification and assistance, may hinder anti-trafficking efforts. (25)

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V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Policy Guidelines to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labor and Protect the Adolescent Worker (2019–2029)†	Aims to focus on child labor eradication in agricultural policy, develop child labor prevention strategies, improve the quality and coverage of child protection services, protect adolescent workers from hazardous work, create strategies to address child labor in domestic work, and establish evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to assess progress. (66) The government updated this policy during the reporting period and held workshops for civil society in various regions of the country. (4) The Colombian Government, along with the <i>Somos Tesoro</i> Project, the School of Public Administration, and ILO developed an online course to train civil servants on implementation of the policy. (78)
National Policy on Childhood and Adolescence (2018–2030)†	Articulates multiple sub-policies on the worst forms of child labor, protection of adolescents, prevention and eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and prevention of recruitment of children and adolescents by illegal armed groups. (4,79) Policy adopted in June 2018 to contribute to the comprehensive welfare and development of children and adolescents, recognizing them as rights-bearing subjects and integral to national development. (4,79)
Child Labor Pact (2014–2018)	Seeks to address the revision of policies on the prevention and eradication of child labor and to make such policies an integral part of national strategies; improve coordination among MOL and other government agencies, ILO, and industry associations; raise awareness of child labor issues in capital cities and tourist destinations; and train department-level officials on laws related to child labor and services available to victims. (62) The government did not publish information on activities taken under this pact in 2018 for inclusion in this report.
National Strategy for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (2016–2018)	Aims to prevent human trafficking by raising awareness to detect potential victims, providing immediate assistance to victims, promoting inter-institutional collaboration, strengthening and developing international cooperation mechanisms, and developing a data-gathering mechanism. (80) Established by Decree No. 1036 in 2016 and led by the Interagency Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons. (81) During the reporting period, the government implemented the strategy with participation from trafficking survivors and civil society. (25)
Progressive Plan for the Social Protection and Defense of Rights for Rural Workers†	Includes campaigns for the eradication of child labor, including its worst forms. Across 75 municipalities, 2,111 people received training on fundamental rights at work during the reporting period. (4) Created under the 2016 peace accord, this plan was implemented in 2018 in municipalities targeted for rural development. (4)
2016 Peace Accord (Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace)	Provides for the creation of the National Reincorporation Council to oversee the demobilization and release of minors from FARC's ranks. Under the policy, the government and FARC agreed to conduct a child labor eradication campaign, take immediate measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, strengthen onsite labor inspections, create a mobile inspection unit to reach rural areas, and increase access to education. (7,81) In 2018, the Progressive Plan for the Social Protection and Defense of Rights for Rural Workers was developed under this agreement, which includes campaigns for the eradication of child labor, including its worst forms. (4)
Roadmap for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labor in Mining	Aims to reduce and eliminate child labor in mining through the following activities: (1) create municipal diagnostics, (2) define criteria to determine risks of child labor, (3) create mechanisms to focus municipal governments on addressing child labor, (4) create protocols and questionnaires to report child labor cases, (5) design strategies to strengthen coordination of child labor monitoring at the municipal level, and (6) design strategies to prevent and remove children from child labor. (82) The government did not provide information on activities taken under this roadmap in 2018 for inclusion in this report.
National Policy to Prevent the Recruitment of Children and Adolescents by Illegal Armed Groups	Directs actions to prevent the recruitment and use of children by illegal armed groups. Aims to address violence against children, including the worst forms of child labor, and improve interagency coordination. (83) In 2018, the government updated the policy through a presidential decree which mandates that specific institutions include prevention of child recruitment in their programming and operational focus. (25,84)
National Development Plan (Todos por un Nuevo País) (2014–2018)	Outlined Colombia's strategy to promote inclusive economic growth and national development. Sought to improve access to quality education, lengthen the school day to 7 hours, and provide preschool for children under age 5. (85) In 2018, the government cited trafficking in persons as one of the main crimes committed by organized criminal organizations in its forthcoming National Development Plan. (4)

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor (Cont.)

Policy	Description
Cooperative Agreement Between the Ministry of Mining and Energy and the ICBF to Prevent Child Labor in Mining	Aims to strengthen and implement initiatives to prevent and eradicate child labor in mining. (86,87) Under the agreement, ICBF provided training to 125 officials in 2018 on protocols for referring children engaged in mining to social services agencies in the departments of Cordoba, La Guajira, and Cesar. (4) ICBF also provided social services to 257 children engaged in or at risk of child labor in mining. (4)
Roadmap for the Restoration of Rights, Assistance, and Reparation for Children and Adolescent Victims of the Armed Conflict	Establishes protocols to assist child victims of armed conflict. Approved in 2016 and implemented through inter-institutional mechanisms in various departments. (9,88) The government continued to use the roadmap in 2018. (4)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (4,7,62,89-91)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

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

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Present Against Child Labor	Program developed by ICBF to address child labor throughout the country. In 2018, the ICBF's mobile teams conducted 1,962 "Present Against Child Labor" workshops to combat child labor in 267 municipalities across the country, with 6,166 participants, including children, adolescents, and their families—with activities including family strengthening and education on fundamental rights restitution. (4,92,93)
Projects Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children†	As part of the National Policy Guidelines for the Prevention of the Commercial Exploitation of Children, the Colombian government continued its Eyes Everywhere (<i>Ojos en Todas Partes</i>) public awareness campaign, which aims to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector. Led by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, and implemented in coordination with ICBF and the National Tourism Fund. (1,4,25,94) In 2018, it focused on the goal of better identifying solicitors and victims of child sex tourism. (4) The Government of Colombia also supports the "We Protect" program, a web-based tool to collect, monitor, and address complaints of commercial sexual exploitation of children. (95) ICBF also created the Colombia Present Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents campaign, an awareness-raising campaign on commercial sexual exploitation and call to action for the public to report cases. (65)
Model for Identification of Child Labor Risks	Pilot project led by ILO's Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor. Aims to design a system that classifies territories according to their probability of risk for child labor and identifies the principal factors associated with this risk based on existing databases in participating countries. (96) Participating countries include Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, and Peru. (96) The government did not provide information for activities taken under this model in 2018 for inclusion in this report.
Projects Addressing Trafficking in Persons	Eye on Trafficking† aims to increase awareness of human trafficking among high school students, and School Environments in Coexistence and Peace† focuses on identifying potential trafficking victims. (7) Ministry of Foreign Affairs' campaign, Do not Ignore Trafficking (<i>#AnteLaTrataNoSeHaga</i>), is directed at border populations with limited access to digital platforms. (97) In 2018, the Attorney General's Office launched the <i>#EsoEsCuento*</i> public awareness campaign to prevent Colombians from being engaged in domestic and international trafficking in persons crimes, employing social media and audiovisual tools in public spaces to raise awareness of false employment efforts. (4,25,65,98) Through the crime prevention program <i>Futuro Colombia</i> , coordinated by the Attorney General's Office, the government held prevention campaigns in 30 cities throughout the country. (65)
Development for Social Prosperity Programs†	More Families in Action (<i>Más Familias en Acción</i>) uses a conditional cash transfer program seeking to combat poverty and build human capital, United Network (<i>Red Unidos</i>) coordinates actions to reduce inequality and end extreme poverty, Healthy Generations (<i>Generaciones con Bienestar</i>) operates a children's rights program offering cultural and recreational activities for children ages 6 to 17 identified as vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, and Youth in Action (<i>Jóvenes en Acción</i>) provides technical job training and conditional cash transfers to vulnerable urban youth ages 16 to 24. (99-106)

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Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor (Cont.)

Program	Description
Mobile Teams for Comprehensive Protection—Child Labor (EMPI)†	Led by ICBF, assist families with children vulnerable to child labor by linking them to the National System of Family Well-Being. (7) In 2018, EMPI mobile teams strengthened procedures for providing assistance to children, adolescents, and their families, and expanded their capacity from 39 to 58 teams comprising 174 professionals nationwide. (4,69,107)
Public-Private Partnerships‡	Colombia Network Against Child Labor (<i>Red Colombia Contra el Trabajo Infantil</i>), a public-private partnership that builds on the UN Global Pact Initiative to create collaboration between Colombian businesses and MOL to eliminate child labor. Comprises 32 businesses and 17 partners that continued to collaborate in 2018. (4,108-111)
Differential Path to Life Program	Office of Presidential Counselor for Human Rights and ICBF-managed program, with support from USAID and other international organizations, that establishes a reintegration process for disengaged FARC minors. Has successfully reintegrated more than 124 rescued child soldiers as of May 2018. (4,25,76,114)
I Stay at School, Protecting My Dreams†	Ministry of Education-led program that provides strategies for teachers to prevent school desertion due to the worst forms of child labor, including forced recruitment, the use of children in illicit activities, and other forms of child exploitation by illegal non-state armed groups. (9) The government did not provide information on activities taken under this program in 2018 for inclusion in this report.
USDOL-Funded projects	Preventing and Reducing Child Labor and Forced Labor in Palm Oil Supply Chains (<i>Palma Futuro</i>), a \$6 million project that works to improve the implementation of social compliance systems that promote acceptable conditions of work and the prevention and reduction of child and forced labor in palm oil supply chains; Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers, a \$11 million global project implemented by ILO with Colombia as one of eight countries that works to promote the safety and health of young workers; Promoting Compliance with International Labor Standards, which strengthens the institutional capacity of MOL to adequately enforce Colombian labor laws and promote social dialogue among organizations and their stakeholders; <i>Colombia Avanza</i> , a \$2 million project that focuses on building the capacity of civil society to more adequately combat child labor and other abuses in Colombia's coffee sector; Building the Capacity of Civil Society to Combat Child Labor and Improve Working Conditions in Colombia (<i>Pilares</i>), a \$2 million project that strengthens the capacity of civil society organizations to detect and address child labor and working conditions in gold mining; and We Are a Treasure (<i>Somos Tesoro</i>), a \$11.25 million, 4 year project to combat child labor and promote safe work in the mining sector, implemented by PACT, Inc., in partnership with the Alliance for Responsible Mining, Mi Sangre Foundation, and the Fund for Environmental Action and Childhood. Additional information is available on the USDOL website.
Campaigns Against Child Labor†	ICBF-led campaigns to increase coordination among ICBF, Child Protection Police, MOL, and municipal authorities on child labor issues, and to promote education about the risks of hazardous work. (59) In 2018, MOL also launched a campaign, "Working is not a child's task" (<i>Trabajar no es tarea de niños</i>), which aims to prevent and eliminate child labor through awareness-raising efforts. (4,115,116)
Anti-trafficking hotline	Ministry of Interior-led hotline that reports and tracks cases of human trafficking and facilitates access to social services for victims. (117) Continued to maintain the hotline in 2018. (4)

*Program was launched using the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Colombia.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (4,9,118-123)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

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

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Raise the minimum age for work to the age up to which education is compulsory.	2018
Enforcement	Ensure that all labor inspectors have sufficient resources to perform inspections.	2009 – 2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice and ensure the Ministry of Labor employs inspectors trained in victim identification of forced labor.	2009 – 2018

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor (Cont.)

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Publish information on labor law enforcement efforts, including information on training for inspectors and investigators, the total number of labor inspections conducted, the number of child labor violations found, penalties imposed that were collected for child labor violations, and whether criminal investigators receive initial training.	2009 – 2018
	Ensure that all adolescents who work in permissible sectors have received official authorization.	2015 – 2018
	Provide sufficient resources to criminal law enforcement officials to enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor.	2014 – 2018
	Ensure that labor inspectors receive timely approval from the Attorney General's Office and judicial officers to conduct timely inspections on private property.	2018
	Collect and publish data on penalties and sentencing for crimes related to the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.	2018
	Ensure that government efforts on human trafficking victim identification and assistance are adequately coordinated between agencies.	2018
Government Policies	Publish information on activities taken under all policies related to child labor, including its worst forms.	2018
Social Programs	Ensure that children are protected from armed conflict while at school.	2013 – 2018
	Expand efforts to improve access to education for all children, particularly for indigenous and Afro-Colombian children, including by improving transportation infrastructure, building more schools in rural areas, and increasing the number of teachers.	2013 – 2018
	Collect data on work activities and ages of workers as part of the National Household Survey questionnaires to allow for a determination of child labor rates.	2017 – 2018
	Publish information on activities taken under the I Stay at School, Protecting My Dreams and the Model for Identification of Child Labor Risks social programs.	2018

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