

In 2019, Argentina made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. During the reporting period, the government issued two regulations to strengthen inspection procedures with respect to child labor and unauthorized adolescent work. Argentine courts continued to render indictments and convictions for child sexual exploitation and child trafficking cases, and the Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Trafficking and Exploitation provided training to prosecutors, defenders, judicial officials, and university students. The Superintendent of Labor Risks also collaborated with the International Labor Organization and youth advocacy groups to adopt a new National Action Plan to Improve the Safety and Health at Work of Adolescents and Youth. In addition, the former Secretariat of Labor, Employment, and Social Security, which now has the title of Ministry, partnered with the Tucuman Ministry of Production, civil society, and the private sector to develop an agricultural child labor monitoring system, which is being piloted in blueberry and yerba mate plantations in Tucuman and Misiones. However, children in Argentina engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and in illicit activities, including the sale and distribution of drugs. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. Moreover, the government does not publish complete information about its labor and criminal law enforcement efforts.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Argentina engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and in illicit activities, such as the transport, sale, and distribution of drugs. (1-3) Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture.(3) In November 2018, the Secretariat of Labor published the final report of the first nationally representative survey of child labor in Argentina. (4,5) It concluded that there were 371,771 working children between the ages of 5 and 15. (5) However, raw data from the government's Survey of Child and Adolescent Activities (EANNA) have not been made publicly available for analysis.

Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Argentina. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	5.3 (371,771)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	98.9
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	6.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		Unavailable

Primary completion rate was unavailable from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020. (6)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Encuentra de Actividades de Ninas, Ninos y Adolescentes, 2016-17. (7)

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	Harvesting blueberries,† carrots,† cotton,† garlic,† grapes,† olives,† onions,† potatoes,† strawberries,† and tomatoes† (3,8-13)
	Harvesting yerba mate (stimulant plant)† and tobacco†(8,14-21)
Industry	Production of garments (1,22,23)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Production of bricks† and wooden crates (1,3,8,24-28)
	Construction,† activities unknown (8,26)
Services	Street begging† and performing,† windshield washing,† handing out flyers or promotional materials, and guarding parked cars (8,29,30)
	Refuse collection, recycling, and garbage scavenging† (3,5,8,11,31)
	Caregiving, including caring for other children, the elderly, or infirmed people (8)
	Working and cooking in food service (8)
	Domestic servitude, including cleaning, laundry, and ironing (5,8)
	Yard work, including cutting lawns and pruning trees (8)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, including use in the production of pornography, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (4,8,24,32,33)
	Forced labor in the production of garments (1,8,32,34)
	Use in illicit activities, including transporting, selling and distributing drugs (2,8,35,36)
	Forced labor in domestic work (1,8)

† 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.

Misiones—producer of 90 percent of Argentina’s and 60 percent of the world’s yerba mate—is one of the provinces most affected by child labor. (21) Children as young as age 5 help their parents harvest yerba mate, sometimes carrying heavy loads. (21) In Salta and Jujuy, children harvest tobacco. (19,37)






Although the extent of the problem is unknown, reports indicate that girls from Argentina’s northern provinces are victims of human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. (1,3,38) Bolivian children and children of Bolivian immigrants in Argentina engage in child labor in agriculture, production of bricks, and domestic service, and in forced child labor in the production of garments. (1,3,8,28,32,34,39) Reports also indicate that Paraguayan children are victims of human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in Argentina. (1,33,40) Although the prevalence of the problem is unknown, reports indicate that sex traffickers exploit minors participating in domestic youth sports clubs. (41)

In Argentina, education is compulsory until age 18. However, reports indicate that many children, including those who are ages 16 and 17, drop out of school. (42,43) These children are not eligible for youth employment programs, including most apprenticeships, because the minimum age to qualify for those programs is age 18. (43,44) Because of this, children who drop out of school are likely to engage in jobs in the informal sector. (43) A government program titled “I will attend” (*Assistire*) that aims to prevent children from dropping out of high school added 150 schools in 2019. (3)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Argentina 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 has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Argentina's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including a gap between the minimum age for work and the compulsory education age.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Articles 2, 7, and 17 of the Prohibition of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Work Law; Article 9 of the Special Code on Contracting Domestic Workers; Article 25 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law; Articles 54–55 of the Law on Agrarian Work (45-48)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 10 of the Prohibition of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Work Law; Articles 176 and 191 of the Law on Labor Contracts; Article 62 of the Law on Agrarian Work (47-49)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 1 of Executive Decree 1117/2016 on Dangerous Work (50)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 15 of the Constitution; Articles 1 and 24–26 of the Modifications to the Prevention of and Sanction Against Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Law; Article 9 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (45,51,52)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 1 and 25–26 of the Modifications to the Prevention of and Sanction Against Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Law; Article 9 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (45,52)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 1 and 21–23 of the Modifications to the Prevention of and Sanction Against Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Law; Article 6 of the Crimes Against Sexual Integrity Law; Article 128 of the Penal Code (52-54)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 11 of the Possession and Trafficking of Drugs Law (55)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 8 of the Voluntary Military Service Law (56)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes*		Article 19 of the Voluntary Military Service Law (56)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 10 of Law No. 26.200 (57)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18	Articles 16 and 29 of the National Education Law; Article 2 of the Law on Early Education (58-60)
Free Public Education	Yes		Articles 15–16 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (45)

* No conscription (61)

During the reporting period, the government issued two new regulations on procedures related to working children: Resolutions 425/2019 and 1725/2019. Resolution 425/2019 requires labor inspectors to issue citations to employers when a child younger than 16 is found working on the premises and Resolution 1725/2019 requires labor inspectors to fill out a special declaration when child workers of 16 and 17 years of age are working on the premises. (3) The regulations also mandate the National Directorate of Labor Inspection and Social Security to design and implement training for labor inspectors and other agents linked to labor inspection activities. (3) Although the former Secretariat of Labor worked with the ILO in 2018 to update Argentina's list of hazardous work, the Argentine government did not formally adopt or promulgate the proposed updates in 2019. (1,3) The minimum age for work is lower than the compulsory education age, which may encourage children to leave school before the completion of compulsory education. (49-52,62-64)

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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 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, Employment, and Social Security	Created by the new Argentine government, which was sworn in on December 10, 2019, which restructured the cabinet creating a new Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security that inherited the responsibilities of the former Secretariat of Labor, Employment, and Social Security. Continues the enforcement efforts of the former Labor Secretariat in coordination with provincial-level labor authorities in each of Argentina's 23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires. (3) Enforces child labor laws in part through its Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and Regulation of Adolescent Work (COODITIA) and collaborates with the National Registry of Rural Workers and Employers (RENATRE) in enforcing child labor laws in the agricultural sector. (4,64) In addition, maintains a national hotline through which labor violations can be reported and leads the Network of Businesses Against Child Labor (<i>Red de Empresas contra el Trabajo Infantil</i>), a network of companies promoting best practices in the private sector to combat child labor. (4,5,36,65,66) Labor inspectors are tasked with enforcing laws related to child labor as part of the Ministry of labor's broader enforcement strategy, the National Plan for the Regularization of Labor (<i>Plan Nacional de Regularización del Trabajo</i> [PNRT]). (3,43-46,56-58) A specific line of action in the PNRT is to detect and eradicate child labor and irregular adolescent work, so the standard operating procedure for inspections includes efforts to detect child labor violations. (3)
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	Manages Line 145, the anonymous national hotline that allows the public to report suspected human trafficking cases, and assists in responding to these calls with the Rescue Program Office (<i>Oficina de Programa de Rescate</i>). (63,64) From January through the end of August 2019, this hotline registered 1,340 complaints. (1) Through its Office for the Rescue and Care of Trafficking Victims, provides emergency legal and other assistance to victims of labor and sex trafficking, including child victims. (64) Maintains regional offices that coordinate the provision of legal and social services to human trafficking victims in the provinces of Chaco, Chubut, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Rio Negro, and Santa Fe. (40,65,67)
National Directorate of Criminal Intelligence, Human Trafficking Unit	Improves the ability of the Ministry of Security and federal police forces to collect information and investigate trafficking in persons. (63)
Federal and National Immigration Police	The Federal Police conduct human trafficking investigations through the Trafficking in Persons Division. (69) The National Immigration Police, directed by the National Immigration Directorate, oversee the rights of migrants and assist in investigating cases of transnational human trafficking. (3)
Federal Administration of Public Revenue	Ensures employer compliance with national laws, assists in workplace and labor-related inspections, and initiates prosecutions of labor violations through the Penal Section of its Social Security Directorate. (70)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2019, labor law enforcement agencies in Argentina took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Ministry of Labor that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including human resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2018	2019
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown (4)	Unknown (3)
Number of Labor Inspectors	395 (71)	315 (3)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	177,734 (4)	141,422 (3)
Number Conducted at Worksite	177,734 (4)	141,422 (3)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	21 (4)	13 (3)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (4)	Unknown (3)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (4)	Unknown (3)

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (Cont.)

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2018	2019
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (4)	Yes (3)

Between April and November 2019, the Ministry of Labor hosted several online and digital video conference labor inspector trainings focused on addressing child labor and adolescent work issues. The Ministry of Labor also hosted a classroom training on “law and operational aspects of inspections of child labor and adolescent work and signs of labor exploitation” for labor inspectors from Jujuy Province. (3)

However, the number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Argentina’s workforce, which includes approximately 17.7 million workers. According to the ILO’s technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, Argentina would employ about 1,200 labor inspectors. (72) The government does not report on the number of provincial inspectors, so the totals reflect only the number of federal inspectors; NGOs continue to report that the number is insufficient. (3,4) Moreover, the government does not publish labor enforcement data on the total number of child labor violations identified or penalties imposed. (4)

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Labor identified 13 child labor violations, 10 in the service or commerce sectors, 2 in agriculture, and 1 in the food service industry. These violations involved children working in the provinces of Santa Cruz, Santiago del Estero, and Chubut, as well as in the City of Buenos Aires. (3) The Ministry of Labor did not provide further information regarding referrals to social services in response to these child labor violations. (3) The Ministry of Labor requires inspectors to refer victims of child labor to the Provincial Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor for social services assistance. (3) The Ministry of Labor’s inspection protocol mandates that federal labor inspectors notify the relevant provincial child protection authorities after detecting a child labor violation. (3,4) Labor inspectors are also required to file a criminal complaint with the provincial courts of the relevant jurisdiction for any child labor violation detected. (3,4,8) The Ministry of Labor reported that its labor inspectors cooperated with law enforcement authorities in criminal matters resulting from the criminal complaints that inspectors filed after finding child labor violations. (3) National authorities were unable to provide information about the budget for labor inspections or investigations. (3)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2019, criminal law enforcement agencies in Argentina 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 allocating human resources.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2018	2019
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Number of Investigations	Unknown (4)	Unknown (3)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown (4)	29 (3)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	8 (4)	Unknown (3)
Number of Convictions	10 (4)	5 (3)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (3)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (4)	Yes (3)

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During 2019, the Special Prosecutor’s Office for Human Trafficking and Exploitation (PROTEX) reported five convictions for sex trafficking of minors involving the cities of Santa Fe, Corrientes, Comodoro Rivadavia, Tucuman, and Jujuy. PROTEX was, however, unable to provide information on the penalties imposed as a result of these convictions. (3) Argentine courts secured indictments in four child labor trafficking cases involving rural activities and both domestic and commercial work. The victims, six boys and three girls, were Argentine. (3) Argentine courts handed down indictments in two sex trafficking cases involving 12 girls. (3) Although the government was unable to report the total number of child labor investigations, the database at the General Prosecutors Office indicated that Argentina had started 157 human trafficking investigations, 29 of which involved children or adolescents. Although the government was unable to provide the total number of child labor prosecutions initiated, PROTEX reported that federal courts started prosecutions against 87 individuals, 50 men and 37 women, for trafficking-related offenses involving minors. (3) In May 2019, PROTEX reported providing training for prosecutors, defenders, and judicial officials on human trafficking in the framework of an International Conference on Childhood and Human Rights in La Plata, Buenos Aires Province. Also in May, PROTEX provided training on “Human Trafficking and Illicit Smuggling of Migrants” for university students at the University of Buenos Aires. (3) In June 2019, PROTEX conducted a training titled “Human Trafficking in Social Media” at the Special School for Integral Training of Adolescents and Youth With Disabilities. In July 2019, the Trafficking in Persons Executive Committee hosted the workshop “Tools for the Detection of Trafficking in Persons Crimes, Exploitation, and Child Pornography” for inspectors, supervisors, and other relevant officials in the General Director of Schools in Mendoza Province. (3)

Argentine law enforcement authorities report a lack of funding and resources. (4) UNHCR identified the need for the government to build the capacity of its judiciary and police to investigate cases of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including those involving children, and recommended that the government increase funding for shelters and assistance to girl victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. (73) The Argentine government did not report investigating the use of children for illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, despite reports that this practice occurs. Moreover, the government does not publish criminal enforcement data on the total number of child labor violations identified or penalties imposed. (4)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including efficacy in accomplishing mandates.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI)	Housed in the Ministry (formerly Secretariat) of Labor, Employment, and Social Security, coordinates national efforts to monitor and eliminate child labor and implement the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor. (74-77) Led by the Secretariat of Promotion, Protection, and Technological Change and comprises 16 government agencies, representatives from UNICEF, ILO, industry associations, and labor unions. In 2019, organized a workshop on the Project for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Labor. Participants discussed child and adolescent work in the forestry, citrus, tobacco, and yerba mate sectors. (3) During the reporting period, collaborated with the Chubut Province Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor on the first Provincial Awareness Day for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor at the National University of Patagonia in 2019. More than 100 teachers, health workers, labor inspectors, social workers, legislators, and government officials participated. (3) In 2019, incorporated 5 officials representing 24 Provincial Commissions for the Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETI), one per region. (3,77-80) Held the annual national COPRETI conference in July and hosted officials from the 24 provincial COPRETI for training and exchanges regarding best practices, and increasing coordination activities between national and provincial authorities. (3) Consisting of representatives from government agencies, NGOs, labor unions, and religions institutions, COPRETI coordinate efforts to prevent and eliminate child labor at the provincial level, including through municipal level roundtables. In 2019, COPRETI held trainings, outreach activities, and regional and local meetings. (3,78-80)

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Coordination of Child Labor Eradication and Adolescent Work Protection Policies (Ministry of Labor)*	Established in 2019 and housed in the Ministry (formerly Secretariat) of Labor, executes the policies established in the Third National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work. During 2019, hosted training sessions on child labor throughout the country, led information campaigns, encouraged regional meetings, and implemented virtual training sessions for public officials. (3)
COODITIA	Housed in the Ministry of Labor, implements audits to detect child labor and irregular adolescent labor, trains inspectors on auditing and monitoring child and adolescent work, promotes the creation of special inspection units, and provides technical assistance and advice to inspectors. (4) For the last two years, it has continued to conduct the above activities to fortify labor inspections to combat labor trafficking of children and adolescents.
Child and Adolescent Labor Monitoring Office	Conducts qualitative and quantitative research on child and adolescent labor to provide policy analysis and inform programming to eradicate child labor and regulate adolescent labor. (75,78,82) In 2019, collaborated with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and ILO to produce the “Child Labor Risk Identification Model,” which provided detailed information on geographic areas in Argentina with greater risk for child labor. (3)
<i>Programa Andares</i> (Coordinating Unit for Children and Adolescents in Danger of Commercial Sexual Exploitation)	Provides guidance to relevant institutions; runs workshops and research programs on commercial sexual exploitation; and assists children, adolescents, and their families. Part of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. (66,83) In 2019, continued to support research and workshops to address child commercial sexual exploitation, and to provide assistance to victims and their families. (3)

Civil society groups report that coordination to provide services to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation is ineffective, obstructing full implementation of some programs and causing some programs’ objectives and target groups to overlap. (88)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies related to child labor (Table 9). However, policy gaps exist that hinder efforts to address child labor, including a lack of information on activities taken under each policy during the reporting period.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Third National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work (2018–2022)	Aims to prevent and eliminate child labor, including its worst forms, and to regulate adolescent work. Promotes the dissemination of information on child labor, strengthens COPRETI and creates local roundtables on child labor, promotes families’ livelihoods, strengthens the labor inspectorate, fosters civil society engagement on child labor issues, provides for a more inclusive educational system, raises awareness of the safety and health implications of child labor, and promotes institutional and legislative strengthening for child labor issues. (8,89-92) During the reporting period, the National Action Plan to Improve the Safety and Health at Work of Adolescents and Youth was adopted, helping to implement goals 5 and 6 of this Third National Action Plan. (3)
National Action Plan to Improve the Safety and Health at Work of Adolescents and Youth (2020–2022)†	Adopted in 2019, aims to coordinate the following actions: (1) improve statistics and research, (2) promote compliance and inspections, (3) encourage the incorporation of occupational safety and health in education and vocational training, and (4) develop networks and awareness and promotion activities. (93,94) In addition to the Ministry of Labor, other partners to this program include the Super Intendency of Labor Risks, the Argentine Industrial Union, the General Confederation of Labor, and the National Youth Institute. (3)
Strategic Framework for Cooperation Between Argentina and the UN System for Development (2016–2020)	Establishes development priorities for Argentina as agreed upon by the government and the agencies comprising the UN System for Development in Argentina. Comprises five areas for cooperation, including the expansion of social protection support and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, which prioritizes the prevention and elimination of child labor and forced labor, and the protection of adolescent workers. (95) The government did not provide information on activities taken under this policy in 2019 for inclusion in this report.
Inter-Agency Agreement for Prevention of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker	Collaborative agreement between the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Education to integrate child labor prevention and protection of adolescent workers in curricula and teacher training courses. (8,96) The government did not provide information on activities taken under this policy in 2019 for inclusion in this report.

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

Policy	Description
Biennial National Plan Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation, and for Protection and Assistance of Victims (TIP Action Plan 2018–2020)	Approved by the Federal Council to Fight Human Trafficking and to Protect and Assist Victims. (1,97) Focuses on prevention, prosecution, and protection of human trafficking victims and incorporates an institutional goal of fortifying inter-agency coordination, including by establishing a unified database on human trafficking victims. (1) The Federal Council coordinates the plan's implementation and includes NGO representation in its meetings. In November 2019, the government published a report on the progress of the plan, indicating that 59 percent of it has been implemented. (1) The report highlighted the creation of the direct victim assistance fund and the launch of the Registry System for Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Argentina, which aims to consolidate information on victims assistance to improve services both in the provinces and nationally. The government did not allocate a special budget for the Trafficking in Persons Action Plan. (1)

† 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. (99,100)

During the reporting period, Argentina put forward a UN General Assembly Resolution to declare 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor, which was adopted unanimously. (3) In 2019, the Misiones Province Ministry of Labor and Employment and the Municipality of Obera signed an agreement with the Eliminating Child Labor in Tobacco-growing Foundation to collaborate in the fight against child labor. (3)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2019, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including adequacy to address the problem in all sectors.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Universal Child Allowance Program (<i>Asignación Universal</i>)†	Government program, funded in part by the World Bank, that provides a cash transfer to unemployed parents and workers in the informal economy, contingent upon parents' fulfillment of health and education requirements for their children. (8,78) The government did not provide information on activities undertaken for this social program in 2019 for inclusion in this report.
RENATRE Awareness-Raising Campaigns†	RENATRE campaigns that raise awareness of child labor in agriculture and inform families and children of the right to education. (101,102) The government did not provide information on activities undertaken for this social program in 2019 for inclusion in this report.
Ministry (formerly Secretariat) of Labor, Employment, and Social Security–CONAETI Programs†	CONAETI/Network of Businesses Against Child Labor campaigns that make businesses and the general public aware of child labor in sourcing and supply chains. (24,87) In 2019, the Ministry of Labor, together with ILO, carried out an initiative to generate knowledge, public policies, and best practices to raise awareness about child labor in rural areas of Argentina in the framework of the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Labor (2018–2022) through the project “Offside: marking the court!” (103) In July 2019, the Santa Fe Provincial Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor coordinated with CONAETI and ILO to host its first “Offside!” project workshop to prevent and eradicate agricultural child labor, with the participation of government, business, and union representatives. (3) Good Harvest Day Care and Future Programs provide child care and recreational activities to children up to age 9. They are part of COPRETI/Network of Businesses Against Child Labor programs to reduce child labor in crop production, for which work is often performed by entire families. (4,8,104) The government did not provide information on activities undertaken for the Good Harvest Day Care and Future Programs in 2019 for inclusion in this report.
National Campaign Against Child Labor in Brickmaking†	Developed in 2017 by the Ministry of Labor and the Argentine Brick Workers Union. (105) Aims to develop policies that improve labor inspections in this sector and to better support brick workers so their children do not have to work. (105,106) The government did not provide information on activities undertaken for this social program in 2019 for inclusion in this report.

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

Program	Description
USDOL-funded Projects	Project to Promote Workplace-Based Training for Vulnerable Youth in Argentina (Noemi Project) (2016–2021), \$3 million project implemented by <i>Centro de Desarrollo y Autogestión</i> (DyA); Promoting Apprenticeship as a Path for Youth Employment in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Kenya through Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN) National Networks (2016–2019), \$2.9 million project; SafeYouth@Work Project: Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers (2014–2019), \$11 million global project implemented by ILO; Multi-Stakeholder Strategy for Child Labor Elimination in Agriculture in Argentina (2019–2021), \$2.5 million project implemented by DyA; “Offside Project”: Improving the Capacity of Labor and Agriculture Stakeholders to Address Child Labor in Agricultural Areas of Argentina Project, \$2.5 million project implemented by ILO. Measurement, Awareness-Raising, and Policy Engagement (MAPI6), \$140,000 global project implemented by ILO to improve the knowledge base on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. In 2019, implementation of the Risk Model began in Argentina to develop local child labor maps at the municipality level for each of the country’s 23 provinces. Additional information is available on the USDOL website.

† Program is funded by the Government of Argentina.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (4,8,11,24,28,67,110,111)

In 2019, the Ministry of Production and Labor partnered with the Tucuman Ministry of Production, civil society, and the private sector to develop an agricultural child labor monitoring system, which they are piloting in blueberry and yerba mate plantations in Tucuman and Misiones. (112) Research found no evidence of social programs that specifically target children engaged in street begging and performing, windshield washing, and guarding parked cars.

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 Argentina (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 – 2019
Enforcement	Publish federal and provincial information on the level of funding allocated to the labor inspectorate.	2015 – 2019
	Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for enforcing laws on child labor to meet the ILO’s technical advice.	2015 – 2019
	Publish information on the total number of federal and provincial inspectors responsible for enforcing labor laws nationwide, the number of child labor violations identified and for which penalties were imposed, and the number of child labor penalties imposed that were collected.	2017 – 2019
	Publish federal and provincial information on the total number of children removed from child labor nationwide, including whether they received appropriate protective services.	2014 – 2019
	Publish federal and provincial information on the number of criminal investigations found, the number and severity of penalties imposed as a result of child labor convictions, number of prosecutions initiated, and the adequacy of the budget and resources available to agencies responsible for enforcing criminal laws on the worst forms of child labor.	2014 – 2019
	Investigate the use of children for illegal activities, such as drug trafficking.	2018 – 2019
	Strengthen the capacity of Argentina’s judiciary and policy to investigate child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation cases.	2019
Coordination	Improve government coordination in the provision of services to victims of all forms of child labor, including for children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.	2017 – 2019
Government Policies	Publish information on activities taken under key policies to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.	2018 – 2019
	Allocate a special budget for the Biennial National Plan Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation, and for Protection and Assistance of Victims, to ensure its implementation.	2018 – 2019
Social Programs	Publish information on activities taken under social programs to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.	2019

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Social Programs	Develop specific programs that target child labor in sectors in which child labor is prevalent, including street begging and performing, windshield washing, and guarding of parked cars, and increase funding for shelters and assistance for girl victims of human trafficking.	2018 – 2019
	Extend youth apprenticeship programs to children ages 16 and 17, while ensuring these programs allow children to complete their compulsory schooling.	2015 – 2019

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