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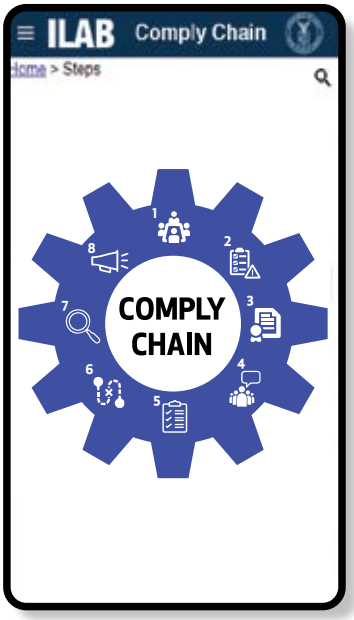

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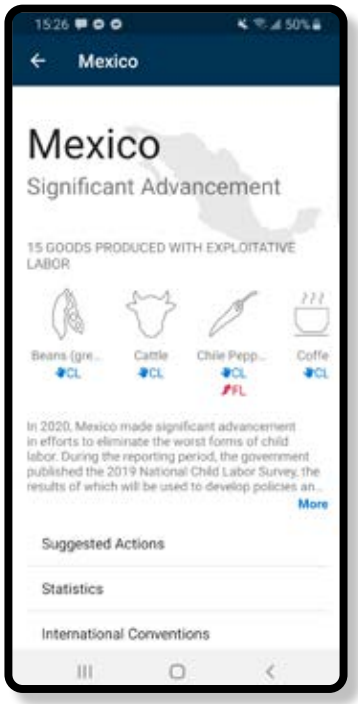

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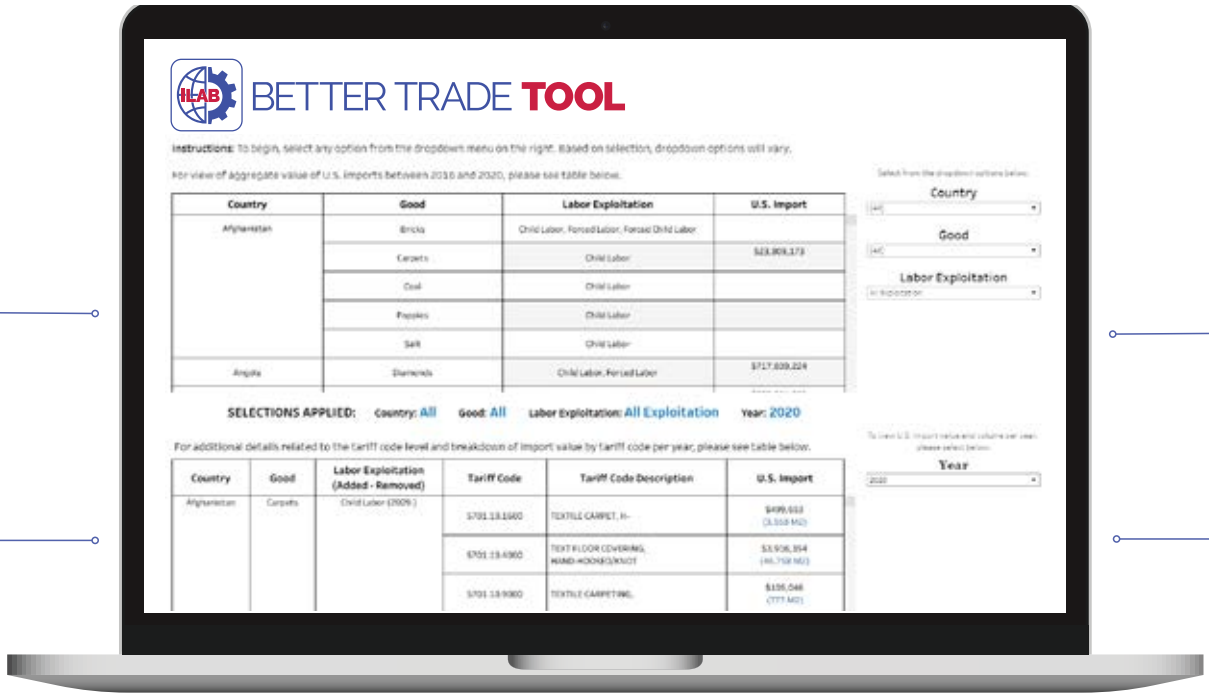

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Mofizul, age 7, sells vegetables in the market to support himself and his mother. Dhaka, Bangladesh. December 23, 2015.

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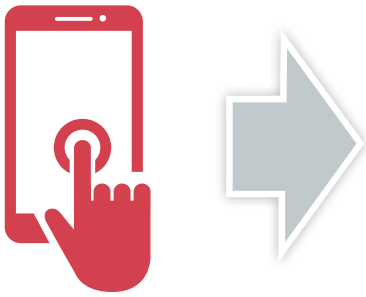
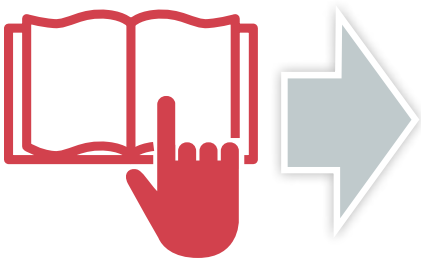
All three of the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) flagship reports on international child labor and forced labor are available on our website in HTML and PDF formats at **dol.gov/ChildLaborReports**. These reports include *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, as required by the Trade and Development Act of 2000; *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005; and *List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor*, as required by Executive Order 13126. On our website, you can navigate to individual country pages where you can find information on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor; specific goods produced by child labor or forced labor; efforts each country has made to implement their commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the areas of laws and regulations, institutional mechanisms for enforcement and coordination, and government policies and social programs; and specific suggestions for government actions to address the issue. You can also access the Department's new *Better Trade Tool* on our website at **dol.gov/BetterTradeTool**. This tool's dynamic dashboards and custom queries allows users to view potential child labor and forced labor risks in global supply chains and conduct U.S. import trade data analysis.



On Your Phone

The Department's *Sweat & Toil* mobile application contains more than 1,000 pages of research from all three reports. *Sweat & Toil* helps you easily sort data by region, country, assessment level, good, and type of exploitation, all without the need for an internet connection. Additionally, the app has been updated to include information from USDOL's technical assistance and cooperation around the world. You can download the free app from Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store and access the data on our website at **dol.gov/AppSweat&Toil**.

The Department's *Comply Chain: Business Tools for Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains* mobile application is a practical, step-by-step guide for companies on ways to develop strong social compliance systems to reduce child labor and forced labor in supply chains. Whether new to social compliance or wanting to improve existing systems, companies can explore modules including stakeholder engagement, code of conduct provisions, auditing, remediation, reporting, and engagement, among others. You can download the free app from Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store, or access it online at **dol.gov/AppComplyChain**.



On Paper

The *Sweat & Toil* magazine is published in hardcopy and includes the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* report. The magazine provides an overall summary of the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* report, regional findings related to meaningful efforts made and gaps for countries to address, and the assessment levels of each of the 131 countries. Send an e-mail to **GlobalKids@dol.gov** to request hard copies or download them from the Department's website at **dol.gov/ChildLaborReports**.

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Children panning for gold at the river. Vohilava, Mananjary, Madagascar. June 15, 2015.

Foreword

Marty Walsh
Secretary of Labor

The United Nations has designated 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor. It could not come at a more pivotal time. This summer, the International Labor Organization and United Nations Children's Fund released the latest global estimates on child labor. Despite years of progress, these new estimates contain a troubling truth. Global estimates of children in child labor rose from 152 million to 160 million, leaving 1 in 10 children trapped in child labor.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of factors may have undermined our progress over the past two decades. A decline in access to education and fragmented social protection systems left millions of children vulnerable to child labor.

The harmful consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are not distributed equally, and these challenges will loom large in the years ahead. COVID-19 made groups that were already vulnerable to workplace exploitation–including migrant and indigenous communities, as well as women and girls–even more vulnerable. And children are the most vulnerable of all.

Eradicating child labor involves not just withdrawing children from child labor but making their families less vulnerable and more resilient. That means strengthening the voice and bargaining power of their parents in the workplace so that they have sustainable alternatives to child labor.

Our Bureau of International Labor Affairs' Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking is at the vanguard of efforts to end child labor and forced labor globally–at a time when this work is more urgent than ever. As the world leader in technical assistance projects to eradicate child labor and forced labor, we have worked with our partners around the world to assist vulnerable workers and communities severely impacted by the pandemic. We also have used our world class research on these issues, including the only comprehensive global report on child labor–our flagship *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*–to raise awareness and provide concrete recommendations for action.

In our role as a knowledge generator, we put critical, actionable information about child labor and forced labor in front of governments, NGOs, workers, academics, and businesses. This includes the information in our two apps: *Sweat & Toil*, which puts more than 1,000 pages of research in the palm of your hand, and *Comply Chain*, which helps businesses root out child labor and forced labor from their supply chains.

A world free of child labor is an ambitious goal–and a worthy one. Children deserve a world where they are free to develop into successful adults.

I have fought for the rights of working people throughout my career, and I feel privileged to join a worldwide movement to eliminate some of the most egregious labor abuses, including child labor and forced labor.

In 2021 and beyond, let us build back better and move toward a brighter future for all our children.

Marty Walsh

Secretary of Labor
September 2021

Statement

Earlier this year, the U.S. Government made a pledge to recognize the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor. For its part, the U.S. Department of Labor committed $57 million in new funding to accelerate action to end child labor and forced labor. Included among the actions are expanding access to social protections for vulnerable children, workers, and families in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; increasing companies' accountability for their supply chains with regard to workers' voice and labor rights; and creating an online platform to share with the public the tools, resources, research, and lessons learned that were developed through decades of U.S. Government-supported technical assistance programming aimed at eliminating child labor and forced labor around the world.

We make this pledge at a time when global child labor and forced labor remain grim realities, when urgent action is required to address the stalling of progress in 2020, and when the pandemic has created new and formidable challenges around the world. The most recent global estimates, released this year by the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, indicate that at least 160 million children are in child labor worldwide–an absolute increase of 8 million since the last estimates in 2017. Overall child labor rates stayed constant at ten percent. Forced labor figures–standing at 25 million globally–are due to be updated at the end of this year.

This is not the world we want, but it is the world we live in. Since 2016, we have seen children's access to education dwindle and social protections continue to fall short. Children and their families also faced other destabilizing factors, such as the pandemic, armed conflict, state fragility, mass displacement and migration, climate change, and gender inequities–factors that left them even more vulnerable. These realities are unacceptable. We must fight for a world where children and their families do not have to make impossible choices and where forced labor is not tolerated.

To get there, the global community must redouble its efforts, and the Bureau of International Labor Affairs is leading the way. The Biden Administration is championing both racial and gender equity and workers' rights as pillars of its domestic and foreign policy. As President Biden has said, "No responsible American president can remain silent when basic human rights are violated."

ILAB takes a holistic approach to addressing child labor and forced labor. We look at addressing child labor on socioeconomic, cultural, and political fronts, including through ensuring that parents can exercise their fundamental rights at work. Children's rights should

Thea Mei Lee
Deputy Undersecretary for
International Affairs

be central to our response, as should the needs of their families and communities.

This year's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* offers concrete actions that governments can take to increase access to education; strengthen rule of law; advance human rights; and improve social programs to combat food insecurity, discrimination, and related challenges.

Our technical assistance and cooperation programming also takes a holistic approach. For example, many of the projects we fund promote children's access to quality schooling. Many also offer age-appropriate opportunities for children's participation in vocational training and apprenticeships. We fund projects to help address the root causes of child labor, including poverty and lack of access to social protections and projects that promote workers' rights and the occupational safety and health of children of legal working age, as well as adult workers.

ILAB, of course, is not in this fight alone. We actively support Alliance 8.7, which seeks to meet Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to end child labor in all its forms by 2025. We come together as a community of nations, international and regional organizations, workers' organizations, employer and business organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other stakeholders and networks wedded by a common purpose–ending child labor and forced labor through collective action.

We ask, particularly in light of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor, where the catalysts are that can accelerate action on child labor and forced labor, so that we meet the ambitious goal of ending these human rights abuses by 2025. We are heartened by the ongoing activities of Alliance 8.7, the ILO, UNICEF, other governments, and countless NGOs that are making their own pledges in honor of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor. We must keep going, together, in 2021 and beyond, for we are only as strong as our partnerships. Together, the global community must make a concerted effort to stand up for the rights of children everywhere. We must take the next five years to ensure children's access to education and strengthen social protections for children and their parents as we continue our work to eliminate these egregious labor abuses. Their futures are in our hands.

Thea Mei Lee

Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs
September 2021

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Malak, age 7, attends English classes at her local Makani center. Jordan. May 21, 2019.

Acknowledgments

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

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Children work alongside adults at the Panique mining area, located about 10 kilometers outside the town of Aroroy on the Island of Masbate. Aroroy, Philippines. 2012.

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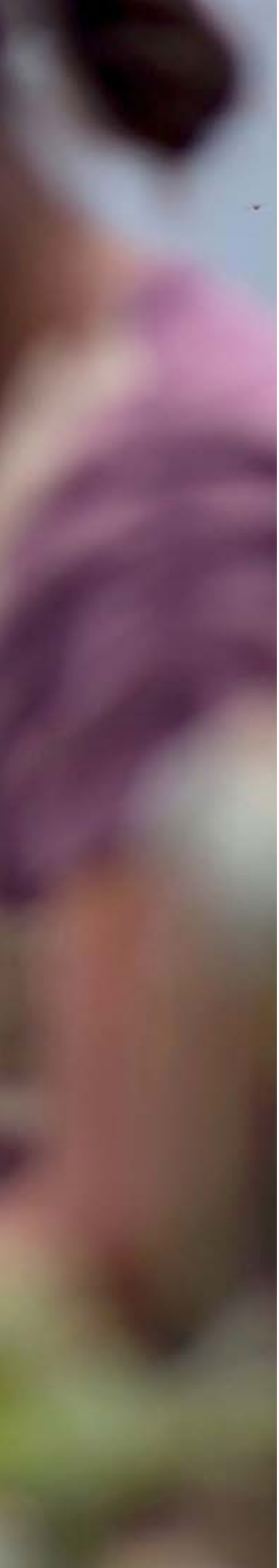
A girl working in a poppy field. Guerrero State, Mexico. April 29, 2016.



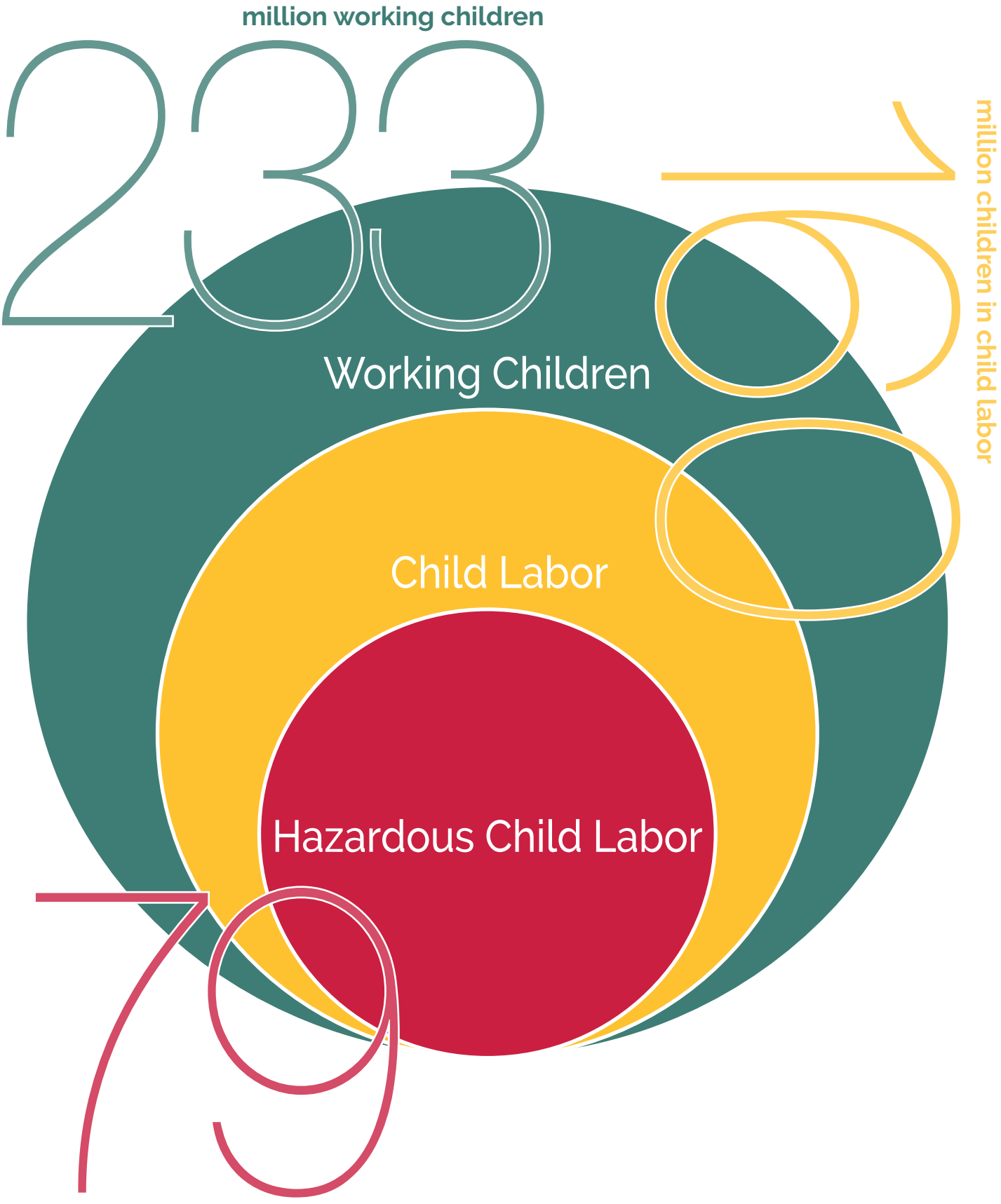
PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Research Focus of the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor has prepared this 20th annual report, the 2020 *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, in accordance with the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA). (1) The TDA set forth the requirement that a country implement its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor for the President of the United States to consider in designating the country a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. (2; 3) The TDA also mandated that the President submit to the United States Congress the Secretary of Labor's findings with respect to each "beneficiary country's implementation of its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor." (1) ILAB carries out this responsibility on behalf of the Secretary.

Country Coverage

This report covers 119 independent countries and 15 non-independent countries and territories designated as GSP beneficiaries. This includes former GSP recipients who have negotiated free trade agreements with the United States. (4) Because the population of children is extremely small (fewer than 50) or non-existent in the British Indian Ocean Territory, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and the Pitcairn Islands, the report does not contain a discussion of these three non-independent countries and territories. This 2020 report presents information on child labor and the worst forms of child labor, and efforts to eliminate this exploitation in the remaining 119 countries and 12 non-independent countries and territories. The use of "countries" in this report includes territories, and because the report focuses on government efforts, non-independent countries and territories are classified by their associated regions.



*Global estimates on the number of children engaged in categorical worst forms of child labor do not exist.
Source: ILO and UNICEF. *Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward.* New York, 2021.

Population Covered

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

Reporting Period

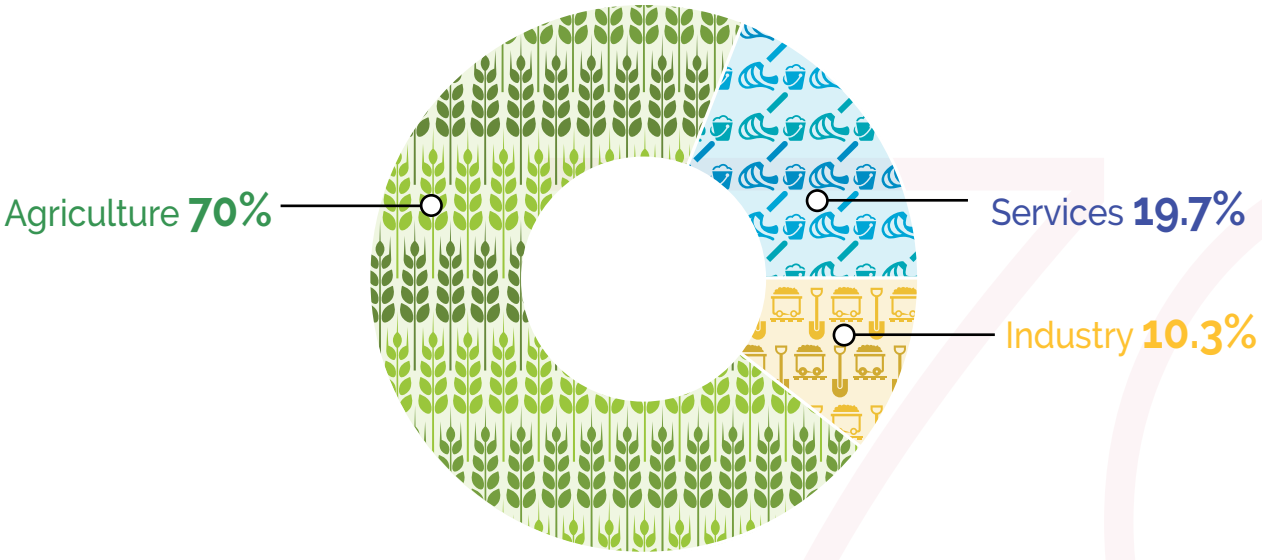
The reporting period for this year's report is January 2020 through December 2020. In certain cases, significant events or government efforts that occurred in early 2021 were included, as appropriate.

Type of Work

This report focuses on child labor and the worst forms of child labor. Definitions related to these types of work are guided by ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age (ILO C. 138) and ILO C. 182. Child labor includes work below the minimum age as established in national legislation (excluding permissible light work), the worst forms of child labor, and hazardous unpaid household services. The definition of the "worst forms of child labor" is found in the TDA and is the same as that included in ILO C. 182. It includes (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic performances; (c) the use, procuring, or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs; and (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances under which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children. (1; 5) Similar to ILO C. 182, the TDA states that the work described in subparagraph (d) should be "determined by the laws, regulations, or competent authority of the country involved."

Where 160 million children work

Child Labor by Sector, 5-17 Years Old



Source: ILO and UNICEF. *Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward.* New York, 2021.

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Miajul, age 12 and from Shyamol Palli in the capital city of Dhaka, sorts through hazardous plastic waste to support his family during the pandemic-related lockdown. Without any protection, he is exposed to infection and disease. Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 12, 2020.

Spotlight on a Vulnerable World

As we take stock of the world's efforts to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact societies and livelihoods worldwide, threatening to reverse global progress against child labor. To tell the story of the world's global efforts to combat child labor in 2020 is to tell the story of COVID-19 and its impact on the world's children; however, the story begins much earlier. It is true that even before COVID-19 spread around the world, our global progress toward the elimination of child labor stalled. According to recent estimates by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the absolute number of children in child labor increased for the first time in two decades–from 152 million in 2016 to 160 million in 2020–while the percentage of children in child labor stayed the same at 9.6 percent. (6) Additionally, the number of children in hazardous work rose from 72.5 million in 2016 to 79 million in 2020. There are now nearly 87 million children in child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa–more than in the rest of the world combined. Meanwhile, absolute numbers and percentages of children in child labor have actually continued to decline in Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, consistent with that finding, each of the six countries that received the highest annual assessment of Significant Advancement in this year's report were in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The latest global estimates also show that the majority of child labor is among boys, is rural and agricultural, takes place within families, and is deeply entwined with a lack of access to education.

As the world responds to the new challenges presented by COVID-19, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) sought to leverage its expertise as a knowledge generator to offer more insights into the reasons for the slowdown in progress to eliminate child labor over the last several years. Our research has found that gaps in access to education and a lack of access to social programs, coupled with key global trends that worsen child labor risks, have left children and their families even more vulnerable to labor and human rights abuses. In short, since 2016 and even before then, the world has responded with insufficient actions to address child labor. As a result, more children are victims of child labor, including its worst forms.

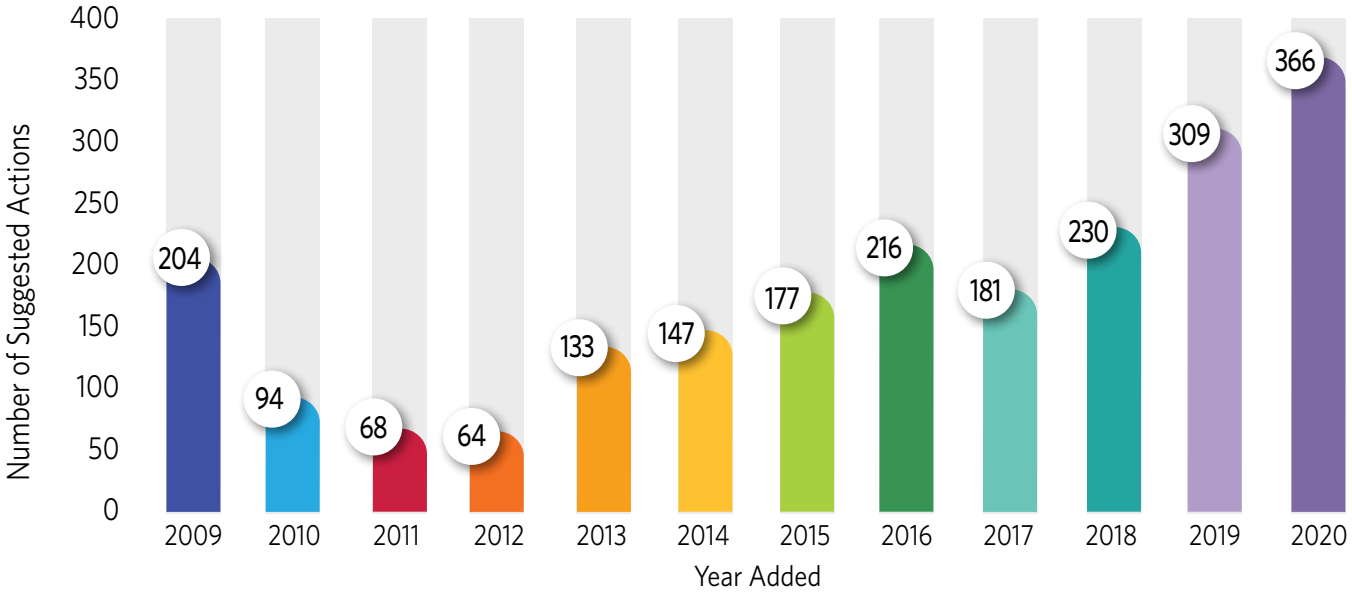
Access to quality education is key in the fight against child labor; nevertheless, within the past few years, there has been no progress in getting and keeping children in school. The latest global figures from 2018 point to the fact that the number of children, youth, and adolescents out of school has barely changed since 2015–nearly 260 million. (7) A large number of those out of school are in child labor. More than a quarter of children ages 5 to 11 and more than a third of children ages 12 to 14 who are in child labor are also out of school. (6) ILAB's own research and analysis of international datasets shows that 49 countries and territories – or 37 percent of all the countries and territories in this year's report – saw declines in primary school completion rates from 2012-2015 to 2016-2019. In addition, twenty-two countries and territories in this year's report have witnessed declines of more than 3 percent in primary school completion rates in that time period.

All this has taken place amid broader declining financial investment in projects designed to combat child labor. Funding for ILO-implemented projects to address child labor has declined over the past decade. (8) Even ILAB's obligated funding directed to address child labor declined by more than one-third in nominal terms from nearly $60 million in 2012 to $40 million in 2020. (9) Beyond funding, ILAB's research has shown that gaps in social protection have increased over time. In the 2016 edition of this report, we noted 23 new gaps in social programs across all reported countries and territories, including barriers to access to education and birth documentation, lack of child labor statistics, limited social program coverage, and poor implementation of those social programs. In 2017, the number of new gaps highlighted in our reporting nearly doubled to 43 from the previous year. By 2018, that number reached 56, and grew again to 65 in 2019. Finally, in 2020, the number of gaps added for the first time related to social programs for all countries reached the astounding number of 90–nearly a 300 percent increase in the number of new gaps added since 2016. In total, of the nearly 2,200 suggested actions in this year's report, almost a quarter are related to social programs, with nearly 40 percent of those social program suggested actions directed to countries and territories in Sub-Saharan Africa. See Figures 1-2 for more information on this year's reported suggested actions.

Yet gaps in social protection and in projects designed to combat child labor are not the only reasons for stalled global progress. Children and their families also faced other destabilizing factors, such as the pandemic, armed conflict, state fragility, mass displacement and migration, climate change, and gender inequities. Additionally, a number of factors have impacted adult workers directly and limited their ability to secure decent work and even employment opportunities. Lacking stability themselves, adults are often left without the means to provide for their children and families. Some examples of these factors include structural inequalities in the labor market–embedded biases and marginalization of certain groups–as well as rising unemployment and lack of worker-centered protections that prioritize the worker's input and voice, including on topics of occupational safety and health measures. The continued presence and outsized impacts of these factors on already vulnerable families may have increased the likelihood of children falling victim to child labor and its worst forms.

Figure 1

Number of New Suggested Actions
Added by Year



Regional Breakdown of Suggested Actions
by Report Area and Number

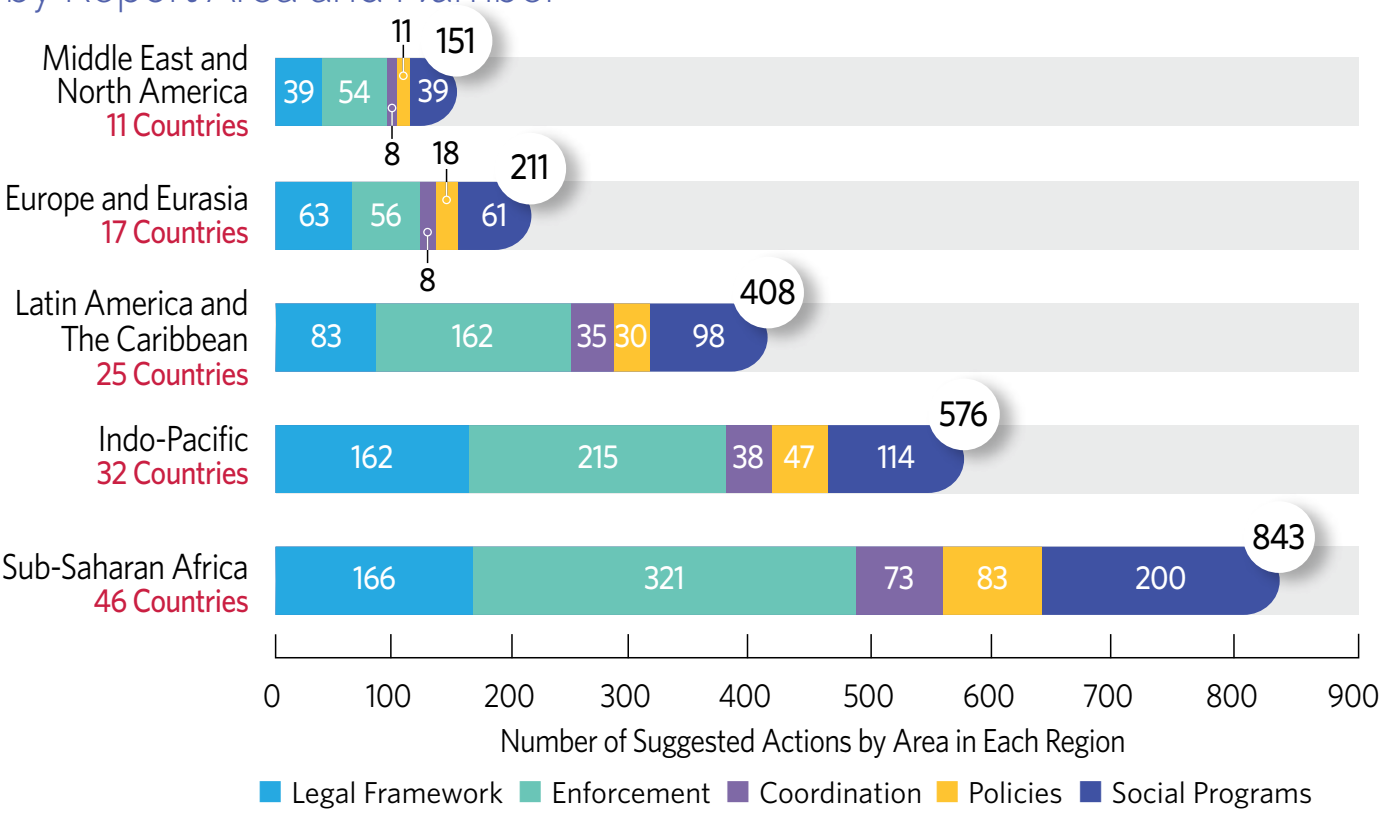
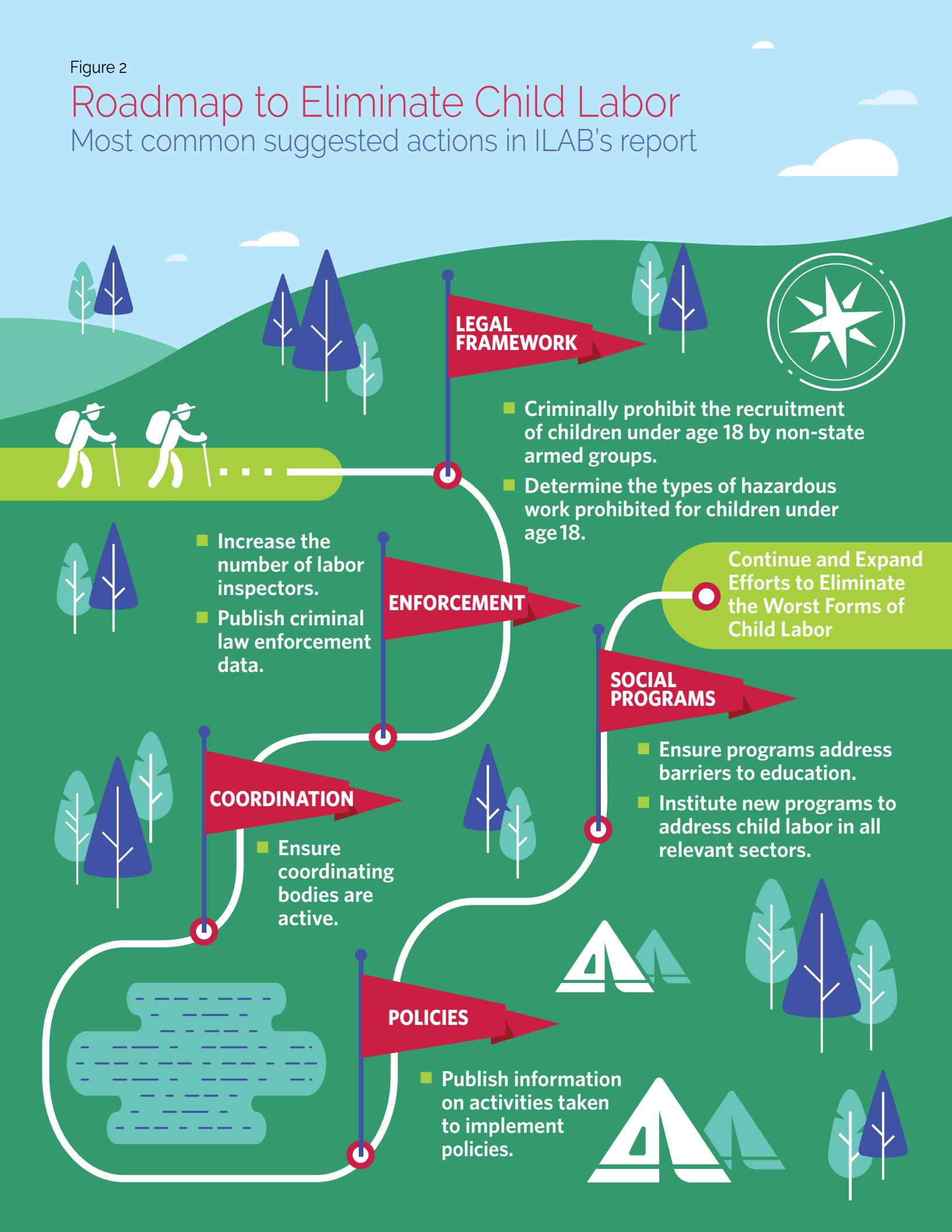


Figure 2

Roadmap to Eliminate Child Labor

Most common suggested actions in ILAB's report



Analysis of broader trends from international reporting shows a lack of progress on matters of corruption, democratic freedoms, and efforts to address trafficking in persons, which can contribute to child labor. Pervasive corruption often limits and diverts the flow of resources and support to the most vulnerable. ILAB's analysis of countries and territories featured in our report and Transparency International's annual *Corruption Perceptions Index*, which ranks countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, revealed that no tangible progress was made since 2012. (10) Similarly, declines in democratic freedoms diminish a government's ability to recognize and respond to human rights abuses that afflict its citizens. An analysis of countries and territories featured in our report and Freedom House's annual *Freedom in the World*, which measures democratic freedom, has allowed us to assess that the average score for countries included in this report actually declined by 4 percent from 2012 to 2020. (11) Finally, by reviewing trends in efforts to combat human trafficking from the U.S. Department of State's *Trafficking in Persons* report from 2012 to 2020, ILAB discovered that global efforts on human trafficking have stagnated as well, as the average rankings have moved little since 2012.

A world that is more corrupt, less democratic, and in which trafficking in persons persists, leads to the tolerance and continuation of child labor. This history and context of the factors that led to the stalled progress against child labor are vital to inform our efforts. The data are a wake-up call. We cannot let our guard down in this fight.

The Pandemic's Global Impact

While these global trends have contributed to the halt in global progress towards the elimination of child labor, the spread of COVID-19 has led to substantial disruptions in daily life. Initially, supply chain disruptions caused many companies to suspend operations as key inputs failed to materialize and consumer demand evaporated amid new social distancing guidelines and lockdowns to slow the spread of the virus. Companies around the world furloughed and laid off millions or even shuttered operations. The resulting rise in unemployment diminished the ability of those without work to provide for their families and lowered standards of living, leading to a rise in poverty and reversals in progress in reducing child labor. Moreover, unscrupulous employers operating in the informal sector likely increased their economic activities to take advantage of this labor surplus, luring children and laid-off adults into unregulated jobs.

Adults, especially older adults and those with underlying conditions, are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than children; nevertheless, children must confront bleak futures in the tragic event of death or incapacitation of a parent or caregiver due to COVID-19. Children in this heartbreaking scenario are often driven to hazardous and exploitative work to help sustain their families' efforts to survive. The risks for children remain even after adults recover from the disease. Health care costs associated with treating ill family members can intensify financial stress on households. Additionally, the lack of appropriate personal protective equipment at worksites endangers workers' health and safety, as well as their families and communities.

The spread of the virus impacted children in ways far beyond direct exposure to the virus itself. In order to hinder the transmission of COVID-19, many governments closed schools. The inability to access schooling for any reason has long been a driver of child labor. With schools closed, families may encourage children to work, even in harmful conditions, to earn money for food and other necessities, especially as many children depend on schools for the meals they offer. School closures and reduced access to education could further increase opportunities to exploit and traffic children, particularly those whose parents or adult guardians struggle to bring in income on a daily basis. (12) Read more about the impact of the virus on children's education in "Box 1: Children and the Digital Divide."

Box 1

Children and the Digital Divide

Much of the world has grown accustomed to virtual work meetings and digital learning. However, for many of the world's children, the closure of schools and the shift to online learning has not been successful. The pandemic, for example, is intensifying preexisting vulnerabilities among rural children broadly and children in more urban environments who face challenges accessing the internet. Prior to the pandemic, many children lacked ready access to digital tools that make online education possible. In some countries, a weak and shallow digital infrastructure took distance learning off the table from the start. In fact, 2.2 billion children–nearly two-thirds of all children–lack an internet connection at home, according to UNICEF. (13) This is most acute on the continent of Africa where less than a quarter of the population has any access to the internet. (14) With in-person access to school and child development services contracting globally, children in these communities may be left behind. Where there is digital access, children in many places face greater limitations on broadband access and/or a sufficient number of computers and mobile devices. Finally, schools are not just places of learning, but places for some children to secure a hot meal. As schools closed due to the pandemic, many children who relied on these meals and other social services provided by schools may have been pushed further into work and exploitation. In the end, despite the rapid proliferation of virtual meetings for many, a large number of children have been left on the other side of the digital divide.

Although forced to remain at home due to global stay-at-home guidance, sadly, for many, home is not a safe space. Since COVID-19, there have been increased reports of domestic abuse against children and partners. Domestic abuse is a key reason children run away from home. Many runaway children end up living in the streets, where they are vulnerable to exploitation, particularly in the commercial sex industry. Abused partners can face financial burdens and social pressures, increasing risks further.

As many government employees shelter at home worldwide, government labor inspectorates are performing fewer in-person worksite inspections. With inspectors unable to visit worksites, innumerable labor violations for both adults and children may go undetected and unaddressed.

Although COVID-19's effects on global child labor are still being analyzed, our reporting indicates a growing risk for the world's vulnerable children. The ILO and UNICEF forecast that by 2022 the increase in poverty associated with COVID-19 is likely to increase child labor by 8.9 million. Experts also have raised concerns that the pandemic and subsequent measures to roll back the public health emergency (e.g., restrictions on public activity and travel, closures of schools and other public spaces, curbs on certain economic activities) will ultimately reverse decades of progress against child labor. Moreover, economic downturns and increased unemployment could place greater pressure on children as potential income earners, especially if their adult family members lose jobs and can no longer rely on safe or legal income flows. In the end, pandemic responses have placed a growing toll on public services, social protections, and international aid and remittance flows, especially among lower income countries, and this will further deteriorate the crucial safety nets upon which already vulnerable families rely. (15; 16; 17; 18; 19) Furthermore, this

vulnerability stemming from a lack of employment, food, and government stability can prompt or intensify conflict, and in the most serious of cases, even lead to or increase the use of children as soldiers in countries suffering from great insecurity.

Child labor is a risk for all children, yet for some children the risk is greater. Certain populations may be especially vulnerable to child labor and at particular risk because of COVID-19. It is likely that the pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences will intersect with long-standing risk factors related to gender, social and legal status, migration, and the rural-urban divide. Precise data and analysis of the potential impacts of COVID-19 on preexisting vulnerabilities, and how those preexisting vulnerabilities influenced COVID-19 infection and treatment, will be crucial to painting a fuller picture of child labor amid the pandemic. Read on to discover how the pandemic exacerbates key vulnerabilities to child labor.

Risk on the Rise for Vulnerable Groups

The painful impact of this global pandemic is not distributed equally and weighs heavily on those countries least prepared to handle the shock, and already disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The pandemic has compounded these already commonplace risks. These vulnerabilities are more severe for individuals of systemically oppressed racial and ethnic minority groups that face institutional and societal discrimination. As Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh noted in the Foreword, children are the most vulnerable group of all. Unfortunately, this year's report highlights more than 100 gaps related to vulnerable groups, ranging from children with disabilities, refugees, girls, and Roma children to LGBTQI+ children and indigenous groups, among others.

Migrants are particularly vulnerable to labor abuses. Millions have left their homes for jobs elsewhere in their own countries or in other parts of the world. Even before the pandemic, migrant populations–adults and children–faced the risk of empty promises from labor brokers with respect to wages and employment, large debts incurred, and even confiscation of identity documents leading to forced labor. COVID-19's socioeconomic ramifications intensify labor abuse risks among migrants and displaced populations who, as a result, will likely face additional socioeconomic, political, and legal hardships. As governments maintain some restrictions on transnational movement and public activities, these restrictions will likely place even greater pressure on refugees, as well as on families and communities that depend on migration for jobs and income. Migrant children and their families have especially precarious access to resources such as schools, decent work, and social services–resources that governments have further restricted due to the pandemic. This will exacerbate their vulnerability to poverty and exploitation, including child labor. Read more about the dangers faced by migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Box 2.

Additionally, there are many risks to indigenous populations. Certain castes and religious minorities have long been vulnerable to labor abuses, facing centuries of historical discrimination. These populations often face discrimination and challenges in accessing educational opportunities to secure a solid foundation for decent work in adulthood. Many of the millions of indigenous peoples and castes and religious minorities have long worked in the informal economy, falling outside the scope of formal social protection schemes and lacking access to reliable financial and medical support in times of crisis. (20) These challenges have only grown more daunting in the age of COVID-19.

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Syrian refugees from Kobane harvest cotton by hand for low wages for a Turkish farmer. Asmali, near Adana, Turkey. October 17, 2014.

Box 2

Most Vulnerable of All: Migrant Workers and Their Children

Vulnerability to child labor has skyrocketed during the pandemic, increasing due to trends like lack of access to education and social protections. Among those most vulnerable are migrant children and the children of migrant workers. (18) Evidence has already shown that the pandemic has disproportionately affected migrant workers and their children, in terms of both risk of infection and economic uncertainty. (21) Even as countries begin to reopen and rebuild, it is essential to focus on the challenges that migrant children and the children of migrant workers continue to face.

As lockdowns resulted in school closures globally, migrant children were least likely to benefit from efforts to ensure access to education, such as online or broadcast learning. Migrant children were more likely to lack the necessary equipment or resources, such as an internet connection or computers. (21) Without access to ongoing education and reversing the declines in pre-primary education and primary completion rates, migrant children may fall further behind than their peers and remain vulnerable to exploitative labor situations. In Thailand, for example, the government closed schools for Burmese migrant children because teachers lacked appropriate work credentials, which pushed children into dangerous and low-paying illegal jobs in the seafood industry. Additionally, even though some Burmese children could enroll in Thai public schools, the language barrier and the onset of COVID-related economic difficulties led them to drop out of school altogether and continue working. (22)

Out of school, and in some cases lacking food and income, children in some countries have taken to the streets to survive. (23) In these situations, they can fall prey to human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and other abuses, with some families reportedly even taking the tragic step of selling their children into commercial sexual exploitation to obtain food and meet basic needs. (24) Furthermore, social distancing measures and travel restrictions intended to stop the spread of the virus also have led to an increase in sexual and domestic violence against girls, who may be unable to escape abusive environments due to these travel restrictions. The situation is even more dire for migrants, who may fear seeking assistance because of their immigration status. (25)

Although efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 have impacted all sectors of society and allowed many workers to work remotely, migrants, in particular, tend to work in informal or low-wage industries where telework and social distancing are not an option, and in jobs that are more likely to have disappeared during the pandemic. In Turkey, hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees and migrants who overwhelmingly work in the informal sector lost their jobs, and a lack of access to personal protective equipment made finding new work even more difficult. Furthermore, the lack of access to health care, particularly for household wage earners, made an already precarious economic situation more desperate, pushing other family members into exploitative work that they otherwise would not consider. (26) As migrant families bear the brunt of the pandemic-related economic downturn, the risk that their children will go to work to support the family increases. (18)

To address these challenges, programs designed to understand and meet the specific needs of migrants are critical. The U.S. Department of Labor's Mexico and Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) technical assistance projects seek to address the root causes of migration in response to the impact of COVID-19 on child labor. As countries begin to ease restrictions and reopen schools and businesses, renewed global efforts to combat child labor will need to place specialized attention on migrant children's needs to ensure that the pandemic-related increase in child labor is not an enduring trend.

A Disproportionate Impact: The Risk to Girls

Growing up is challenging in the best of circumstances; however, the pandemic has put girls at particular risk in many regions and communities. In areas with widespread preexisting issues of commercial sexual exploitation, for instance, the pandemic has placed girls at even greater risk of being exploited, or being trafficked for either labor or sex. See "Box 3: Dangers Downloaded: New Technology and Its Terrible Link to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" to learn more. This is in addition to the risks that arise as a result of domestic violence, school closures, and loss of employment and income.

Even without the added pandemic effects, girls have long faced disadvantages in education. When a family with limited resources is faced with the difficult choice of choosing between an education for their sons or daughters, girls may often be the last enrolled and the first withdrawn from schools. Sadly, in some countries, traditional views hold firm that an investment in a girl's education is an unnecessary cost when weighed against the immediate financial benefit to the family of sending her to work. It is not just finances: girls also face limits in accessing education when schools are far from home and getting there requires a risky journey, often with unsafe and unreliable transportation. Additionally, a number of schools offer inadequate water and sanitation facilities. Girls also face added demands as caretakers for ill family members and are sometimes burdened with increased domestic chores that further diminish their educational opportunities.

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Poor children selling goods in the desert. Souss-Massa-DaraÔ, Djebel Saghro, Anti-Atlas, Morocco. September 19, 2012.

Box 3

Dangers Downloaded: New Technology and Its Terrible Link to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Technology has proven to be a double-edged sword during the pandemic. On the one hand, video calling and conferencing platforms have enabled communication among families, friends, and colleagues who are apart–and have made virtual schooling possible for students at all levels of education. On the other hand, children are more vulnerable than ever to online sexual exploitation due to the effects of national lockdowns, school closures, economic downturns, and heightened screen time.

Commercial sexual exploitation today still means that children or adolescents are being recruited, bought or sold, and used in prostitution, pornography, or pornographic performances, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. However, before the rise of the internet and the use of technology, criminals relied on in-person networks to perpetrate these crimes, restricting them to well-known tactics and methods. Rapidly developing technology and an increase in cheap, high-speed internet access have facilitated an uptick in commercial sexual exploitation of children online. Perpetrators have moved to virtual environments, enabling them to make contact with children, commit crimes, and hide their identities more easily than ever. Perpetrators commonly use social media sites, mobile messaging apps, and private chat rooms to lure children with false promises and "groom" them for sexual purposes. Livestreaming of pornographic performances by children also has become more prevalent in recent years. In the Philippines, for example, children are induced to perform sex acts on live internet broadcasts in windowless dungeon-like buildings commonly known as "cybersex dens."

The situation has become much worse during the pandemic. With more children spending time online, the U.S. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children received 21.7 million reports of child sexual exploitation around the world through its CyberTipline in 2020, which is a 28 percent increase over the previous year. (27) Cambodian authorities also noted that 15 percent of children reported having been contacted by strangers on social media, and 2 percent reported that they have been asked to share intimate pictures or videos, or perform inappropriate acts in front of their webcams. Additionally, authorities in Mexico reported a 73 percent increase in online child pornography distribution during the pandemic, while SaferNet, a Brazilian NGO that combats internet crime through anonymous reporting, reported nearly 100,000 complaints of child pornography in 2020–more than double the amount received in 2019. (28)

In response, governments around the world had to adapt quickly and respond not only to COVID-19, but also to these increased vulnerabilities that resulted from it. For example, Thailand made its dedicated task force, Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children, into a permanent government agency. Mozambique revised its Penal Code to specifically address and prohibit trafficking for the purposes of child prostitution and pornography, recognizing the threat of online recruitment and children's increased vulnerability due to virtual schooling. Likewise, Ukraine passed a law that criminalized viewing and storing child sexual abuse materials. (29) And in Georgia, the Prosecutor's Office strengthened the capacity of its law enforcement by conducting training for prosecutors and investigators, covering online sexual exploitation of children and usage of cryptocurrency within the sphere of child pornography.

As technology continues to advance, this egregious abuse of children will evolve and emerge in new forms. The use of the internet by criminals allows online sexual exploitation to occur across multiple countries with perpetrators and victims scattered around the globe. To meet the pressing need of protecting children from exploitation online, stakeholders must adopt a collaborative approach to keep up with technological advancements, ensure that strong legal frameworks are enforced both nationally and internationally, and continue to adapt to the ever-evolving intersection of technology and crime.

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Shoeshine boy at work. Antigua, Guatemala.
December 19, 2012.

Child Labor in the Gig Economy

Among families in informal work sectors, the pandemic also is worsening vulnerabilities related to labor protections and decent employment. As an alternative to dining in restaurants in 2020, much of the world turned to app-based meal delivery, yet little did diners know that child labor sometimes lay behind the convenience they enjoyed. In Brazil, for example, investigations uncovered children allegedly working for app-based food delivery companies. These children used accounts registered with relatives or friends to sign up as delivery workers as school closures drove them to seek work in gig jobs, which offered less in the way of employment benefits, protections, and oversight. (30) Brazilian labor law permits children to work, in some cases, from the age of 16, yet it does not permit children to work in hazardous conditions such as food delivery by bicycle in urban areas such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Despite the laws, social media sites were stocked with tips to overcome identity checks on the apps.

A Decision to Build Back Better

At ILAB, we believe that a holistic approach that places children's rights at the center has the best chance of success in eliminating child labor. Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we must be mindful of the broader development challenges to ending child labor, such as barriers to education and employment, limited decent work opportunities for adults, weak rule of law, discrimination, human rights violations, cultural norms that support child labor, food insecurity, community violence, and other obstacles.

Our reports, policies, and programs tackle child labor within this broader context. All data and research from our information-packed reports also are available in the mobile app *Sweat & Toil*, which allows users to access more than 1,000 pages of research from this and ILAB's other reports.

ILAB's reports provide critical and actionable information to inform U.S. trade policy, to allow Federal Government agencies to safeguard federal procurement and prevent the importation of goods made with prohibited labor, as well as to help foreign governments build their capacity to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor. With the United Nations declaring 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor, ILAB looks to play a role in building back better and creating a more hopeful future for the world's children.

Global Research in a World at a Standstill

At ILAB, we employ a systematic and rigorous process, supporting the collection of in-country data, traveling to conduct firsthand research in hard-to-reach places, and corroborating reports of labor abuses with credible international and local sources. This approach helps ensure the credibility and validity of our publications. Closed borders and global quarantines have limited some of our research efforts that would otherwise involve direct contact with government officials and civil society groups. The evacuation of staff from U.S. embassies and the rightful focus of foreign governments on addressing the existential threat of COVID-19 made timely data collection and research related to child labor and forced labor more challenging for this year's report. We applaud the efforts of our colleagues and partners, foreign and domestic, to persist in their important work since COVID-19 swept the world, notwithstanding the challenges. Despite these challenges, our work continues as we explore new ways to connect virtually with existing partners and even build new digital connections. We are proud to share this year's report as we work to reverse the setbacks over the past 4 years and continue the global fight against child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery. For more information about our efforts to support the private sector, see Box 4.

Box 4

Comply Chain: Strengthening Systems to Combat Child Labor and Forced Labor

While our reports provide practical knowledge and raise awareness, ILAB has developed tools to help companies play a positive role in the global fight against child labor. ***Comply Chain*** is one of those tools and, given the profound risks during the ongoing pandemic, is even more relevant and useful with new examples and topics to reinforce corporate action. *Comply Chain* is an app designed to provide companies with a step-by-step guide to address child labor and forced labor in their global supply chains. For their part, business enterprises have the responsibility of respecting human rights, including by avoiding causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities; *Comply Chain* helps them achieve that. Corporate actors are responsible for providing victims with access to effective remedies and for seeking to prevent or mitigate such impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products, or services through their business relationships.

Private sector leadership, for example, can ensure that combating labor abuse in supply chains is a necessary and standard way of doing business. Labor is part of the solution to positive business transformation, and *Comply Chain* also is a tool for workers and civil society groups to advocate for positive change and help ensure that business works for workers. ILAB also is leveraging its technical assistance projects to get the app into more hands and improve it as a resource. The **Cooperation On Fair, Free, Equitable Employment (COFFEE)** Project, for example, partly centers on the creation of a global compliance system and toolkit with *Comply Chain* as a resource to enable industry actors to implement robust and sustainable social compliance systems. It also provides guidance materials and trainings for key stakeholders in the global coffee sector to reduce child labor, forced labor, and unacceptable working conditions in business operations and supply chains. The project is piloting a subset of these tools with private sector and industry association partners in three key coffee-producing countries–Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. The pilots themselves will provide opportunities for expansion and replication. Lessons learned from these pilots will be used to refine the global compliance system and toolkit.

Comply Chain is now available for the first time in Malay – to complement the existing English, French, and Spanish versions. Malay is a common language across Southeast Asia, spoken by nearly 300 million people in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, as well as parts of Thailand. ILAB added this Malay translation to help drive government and private sector action to address child labor and forced labor and to allow for wider adoption of *Comply Chain* as we create new opportunities to support ILAB's mission.

Moreover, ILAB's own ***List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*** has focused considerable attention on forced labor in Malay speaking countries in recent years. The list includes palm oil, produced by forced labor and child labor in Malaysia, in addition to electronics, garments, and rubber gloves produced with forced labor in Malaysia. Other goods on the *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor* in Indonesia and Thailand are fish in both countries; rubber, footwear, tin, gold, and tobacco in Indonesia; and sugarcane, garments, pornography, and shrimp in Thailand.

The Technical Approach: ILAB's Projects at Work

ILAB does more than provide resources like our reports or our apps. ILAB also partners with numerous organizations that implement our international technical assistance projects. These implementing organizations (or grantees) are coping on a daily basis with the pandemic's impact on vulnerable workers, children, and families. A number of grantees have already proposed and implemented targeted efforts to raise awareness of the danger posed by the virus and how it may be increasing vulnerability to exploitative labor. The examples below provide a brief snapshot of how ILAB's technical assistance partnerships are directly targeting the resulting issues from the pandemic in the Latin America region.

In Mexico, the World Vision-implemented **Campos de Esperanza** (Fields of Hope) project used leaflets, posters, and radio broadcasts to get the word out about the risks of COVID-19 to children and families working on sugar and coffee farms in remote communities. In many cases, these people lack access to basic news and information. They also are collaborating with local authorities in Oaxaca and Veracruz to disseminate information about the impact of COVID-19 on children, families, and communities, and how to access medical services beyond the areas where the project works. Additionally, the project is working alongside communities to implement appropriate sanitation practices following recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Mexico.

In El Salvador and Honduras, as the pandemic and extreme weather events in 2020 presented unprecedented new challenges, the Youth Pathways Central America (YPCA) project shifted its focus to supporting opportunities for virtual schooling for vulnerable children and virtual training for youth. The YPCA provided digital learning and socio-emotional support to bolster the Ministry of Education's efforts to connect youth, teachers, and parents. The project also provided basic school supplies, such as school kits, that afforded children in poverty the necessary resources to study at home. Additionally, the YPCA distributed in-kind food and hygiene kits through the project's school coordinators in collaboration with school principals.

Through the **Avanza** and **Palma Futuro** projects in Colombia and the **Okakuaa** project in the Paraguayan Chaco region, Partners of the Americas used SMS texts and radio-based public service announcements to disseminate information on self-care, spotting COVID-19 symptoms, and what to do if workers experience these symptoms. Additionally, the **Okakuaa** project educated employers and workers in Paraguay about government assistance programs available to those impacted by the crisis.

Also in Colombia, the **Escuela Nacional Sindical**, through Labor Law Enforcement Centers (LECs), will launch a communications campaign aimed at workers in several sectors–cut flowers, mining, palm oil, ports, and sugar. The campaign will provide tips and responses to workers' frequently asked questions and complaints that stem from COVID-19 issues, such as contracts being suspended or collective bargaining rights being violated. The LECs also are tracking and publicizing the main labor violations reported in these sectors that are the result of employer actions during the pandemic. Additionally, the LECs are offering virtual legal assistance to workers with labor complaints and promoting legal protocols that worker organizations or labor NGOs can use to help better organize effective legal actions for workers.

ILAB also is gathering information from our grantees about the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable workers and their families. For example, researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, are conducting an impact evaluation of awareness-raising campaigns targeting human trafficking and have modified their approach to use safe and socially responsible methods to collect additional information on the impact of COVID-19, in particular on the potential exploitation of migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong.

Finally, ILAB is working directly to address the urgent needs of workers, employers, national governments,

and buying partners in the ready-made garment sector as a funder of the Better Work program, having allocated $23 million to the program since 2009. Through the Better Work program, the ILO and International Finance Corporation are disseminating workplace health and safety guidance in local languages in a simple and actionable form. (31) They also are providing technical advice to factories and brands facing unexpected compliance issues resulting from closures and coordinating information campaigns and training with WHO and national partners. Moreover, they are engaging international buyers, national and international constituents, and other institutions to explore opportunities to support and protect suppliers and their workers during the period of economic shutdown. For more information about how ILAB is working with its grantees and partners across the African continent, see "Box 5: New Solutions to Old Problems in Africa."

Box 5

New Solutions to Old Problems in Africa

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread to the African continent, many of the staff of ILAB-funded technical assistance projects on the continent confronted this new reality of the deadly virus–a reality that was a challenge as many project tools and work rely on in-person training and/or face-to-face engagement. Many of the projects took bold steps to adjust programming and operations in order to combat child labor in the midst of this global pandemic.

In light of the precautions taken to limit the spread of COVID-19, the **Combating Forced Labor and Labor Trafficking of Adults and Children in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire**–or FLIP–project quickly pivoted from in-person larger scale trainings into a hybrid/virtual model and leveraged an interactive platform and curriculum to continue to carry out effective programming.

Like the FLIP project, the **Reducing Incidence of Child Labor and Harmful Conditions of Work in Economic Strengthening Initiatives**–or RICHES–project sought the safe implementation of activities. To address this challenge, the project digitized the RICHES curriculum and the Entrepreneur Assessment of Business Risks checklist. This helped to mitigate the risks of conducting fieldwork, address in-person training and tool distribution limitations, and increase the use and sustainability of these solutions. This was especially important given the additional pressures on women entrepreneurs to make ends meet during the pandemic, the increased risk of child labor, and the limits on in-person instruction due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

As part of the COVID-19 response plan for the **Adwuma Pa project**–Empowering Women and Girls in Supply Chains–personal protective equipment, such as hand sanitizer, face masks, and hygiene kits were distributed to all 80 project communities via the municipalities and districts to promote pandemic-free communities and increase prevention and safety protocols. The project also conducted a virtual training, jointly organized by the project and the Cocoa Sustainability Initiative, for 30 representatives of select state agencies in all project districts in July 2020 to emphasize the importance of including a gender and inclusion lens in risk communication and community engagement, and addressing stigma, discrimination, and gender-based violence.

At the end of 2020, ILAB had 49 active projects in 45 countries, many in Sub-Saharan Africa. ILAB is proud to fund all of its projects, each working to overcome the challenges of this global pandemic to deliver real results to the millions of children and adults who continue to suffer labor abuse. Like many of our partners, we look forward to the return to in-person and face-to-face interactions, and a more hopeful future free of child labor and forced labor.

Toward a More Hopeful Future

Although this pandemic has highlighted many harmful labor abuses, it also has demonstrated the need to focus our attention and efforts on realizing the promise of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor. This pandemic also has confirmed that our challenge to eliminate child labor depends on addressing the fundamental drivers of vulnerability. To remedy the standstill in global progress on child labor, we must address the persistent lack of access to education and the additional lack of adequate social protections, as well as other destabilizing factors such as armed conflict, state fragility, mass displacement and migration, climate change, and gender inequities. As Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh remarked at the release of the latest global estimates on child labor, "We achieved progress thanks to decades of collective international action. But that progress could be reversed if we are not vigilant. We must be willing to make the investments and changes needed to put children and workers at the center of our efforts." We at ILAB believe that we must view child labor through a holistic lens in order to end it and improve the well-being of all, especially those who are most vulnerable. Addressing labor exploitation in a community results in broader development gains, such as heightened economic growth, increased food security, and strengthened public health outcomes, as well as improvements in equity and decreased discrimination. Only by working together can we achieve this holistic mission. In partnership, each of us–government, civil society, workers, and businesses–can make an invaluable contribution and help turn the page on this devastating pandemic and build back better for all our children in the years to come.

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Child jockeys race past spectators who are perched on a wall and even in trees during a preliminary round of the Regional Police Chief's Cup 2019. Bima, Sumbawa, Indonesia. 2019.

ILAB's Projects
Addressing COVID-19

ILAB funded **52** active projects & initiatives within **45** countries in 2020.

Campos de Esperanza, Mexico

Provided COVID-19 information to over 5,300 sugarcane cutters and trained more than 545 sugar mill employees on COVID-19 prevention strategies in the fields and mills.

Paraguay Okakuaa, Paraguay

Launched a communications campaign to disseminate information on self-care, identifying COVID-19 symptoms, and what to do if symptoms are identified among workers.

MAP 16, Morocco

Supported distance learning efforts to prevent the exploitation of children, especially girls in domestic labor, due to the challenging economic situation caused by COVID-19.

Adwuma Pa, Ghana

Distributed hand sanitizer, facemasks, and hygiene kits to 80 communities to increase COVID-19 prevention and safety protocols, and trained police and health officials to assess risks females may face due to COVID-19, including discrimination and violence.

Sakriya, Nepal

Provided over 3,000 vulnerable families with critical supplies during COVID-19, which included masks, soap, and food.

FAIR Fish, Thailand

Distributed personal protective equipment and occupational safety and health information to 2,400 migrant workers in the seafood processing supply chain.

Making an Impact

Demonstrating commitment and leadership in the worldwide movement to end child labor, which has contributed to a global reduction of 86 million child laborers since 2000

Providing education and vocational training opportunities to nearly 2 million children

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

Improving livelihoods for nearly 200,000 vulnerable families

Training more than 65,000 labor inspectors and law enforcement officials

Providing more than 69,000 teachers with training to work with children affected by child labor

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

Visit **www.dol.gov/EndChildLabor** to learn more

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After several months of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mauritanian students in their final year of elementary school were finally able to take their exams by adhering to preventive measures, such as limiting the number of children per table and wearing masks. Mauritania. September 16, 2020.

The Year in Review

More Than One Hundred Years of Engagement – From Children's Year to the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor

Introduction

More than 100 years ago, the Children's Bureau–which was part of the U.S. Department of Labor at the time–proclaimed the start of "Children's Year" on April 6, 1918, during the final year of the First World War. At the time of this proclamation, the world faced another deadly pandemic that was spreading around the world–the Spanish Flu. Children's Year was conceived as a wartime campaign to remind the country of the importance of protecting children "as a patriotic duty." As part of the campaign, the Children's Bureau and its partners mobilized 11 million volunteers across the nation to help reduce infant deaths. The campaign focused on weighing and measuring children, educating parents on child health, encouraging play, and keeping children in school and out of work.

Since Children's Year in 1918, the United States and the world have made enormous strides in the protection of children's rights and well-being. Yet over the past several years, those advances have stalled. Today, as part of the 20th anniversary edition of ILAB's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* report, we review the world's stalled progress toward the eventual elimination of the worst forms of child labor amid another deadly pandemic in the form of COVID-19. The timely declaration by the UN of 2021 as the "International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor" is a moment to think once again about those who are most vulnerable. This is especially vital as the latest *Global Estimates of Child Labor* from the ILO and UNICEF show that the number of child laborers has risen from 152 million in 2016 to 160 million in 2020, with nearly half of them–79 million–in hazardous work.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Despite these new and troubling numbers, ILAB will continue to build on our earlier work in close coordination with the global community. The eventual eradication of child labor depends on global commitment to these joint efforts. In September 2015, all 193 UN member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a roadmap for ending poverty; protecting the environment; and promoting peaceful, inclusive, and just societies by 2030. (32) Under SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, Target 8.7 calls on governments to "take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms." (33) Alliance 8.7 is a global partnership that provides strategic coordination of diverse stakeholders to achieve Target 8.7. (34) ILAB has actively contributed to the work of Alliance 8.7 since 2017. Even with the ambitious goal of Target 8.7 in our sights, this report's cover story "Spotlight on a Vulnerable World" has highlighted that children and their families are more vulnerable to labor and human rights abuses due, in part, to gaps in access to education and a lack of access to social programs. The world has responded with insufficient actions to address these challenges since 2016 and even before as global trends worsened child labor risks. As a result, more children are victims of child labor, including its worst forms. (35) As we confront the current reality of stalled global progress toward the eventual elimination of the worst forms of child labor, it is vital that the international community redouble its efforts to ensure that every child is free from labor exploitation and has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. In reviewing the world's efforts against child labor in 2020, we take stock of the progress made and of the gaps that remain to help focus our global efforts and inform the joint, global work that we must undertake. See Figure 3 hallmarking 20 years of the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

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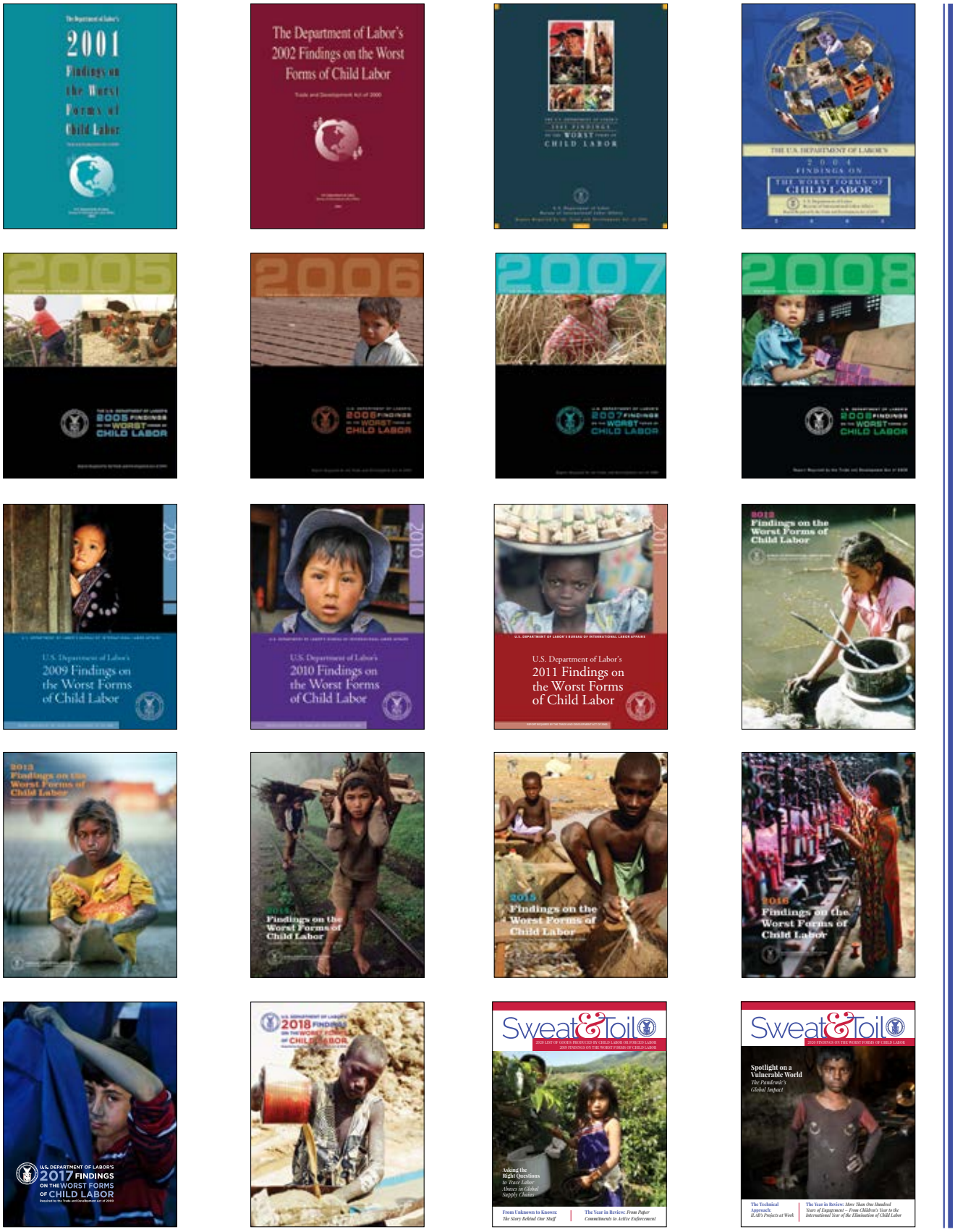
Ahianor raises her hand in class at one of Compassion International's church-based child development centers. Togo. 2020.

Figure 3

Celebrating 20 Years of the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor



Overview of 2020 Assessments

This year, of the 131 countries and territories assessed, six countries–**Argentina**, **Colombia**, **Costa Rica**, **Ecuador**, **Mexico**, and **Peru**–received the highest assessment of Significant Advancement (see Figure 4 for a global breakdown of country assessments). These countries made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in all relevant areas, covering legal frameworks, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which in some cases included taking suggested actions recommended in 2019. Each of the six countries met the baseline of minimally acceptable protections needed to receive ILAB's highest assessment of Significant Advancement. In fact, this year warrants special praise for the Government of **Mexico**, as the nation achieved the highest rating of Significant Advancement in the first year in which it was assessed a rating. Despite assessments of Significant Advancement, it is important to note that child labor challenges remain in these countries. A Significant Advancement serves as a laudable indicator of a country's efforts against child labor during the reporting period; it is not a sign that work is over.

It is noteworthy that 14 additional countries and territories would have received an assessment of Significant Advancement had they met the baseline level of protection. These include **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Cook Islands**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Georgia**, **Madagascar**, **Malawi**, **Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda**, **Sri Lanka**, **Thailand**, and **Uzbekistan**. For more information about this baseline, see Figure 5.

In total, 73 countries received a Moderate Advancement assessment in 2020. These countries made meaningful efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period in some relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs. Meanwhile, 19 countries received an assessment of Minimal Advancement for making efforts in only a few relevant areas.

Other countries also made efforts to address their child labor situation during the year. Yet, because they simultaneously continued or established a detrimental law, policy, or practice that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor, the highest assessment level these countries could receive was a Minimal Advancement. Nineteen countries–**Afghanistan**, **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan**, **Cambodia**, **Gabon**, **Iraq**, **Kyrgyz Republic**, **Mali**, **Mauritania**, **Moldova**, **Mongolia**, **Somalia**, **Tanzania**, **The Gambia**, **Timor-Leste**, **Tonga**, **Uganda**, **Ukraine**, and **Yemen**–implemented or maintained a law, policy, or practice related to access to education, minimum age for work, labor inspection, impunity, criminal treatment of victims, or the recruitment and use of child soldiers that undermined advancement. This year, two new countries were added to this list: **Afghanistan** and **The Gambia**. Eight countries received an assessment of No Advancement because they made no effort to prevent the worst forms of child labor: **Anguilla**; **British Virgin Islands**; **Dominica**; **Grenada**; **Montserrat**; **Niue**; **Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha**; and **Tokelau**. Despite the lack of evidence of child labor, these countries lack legal frameworks that meet international standards, leaving children without an adequate preventative mechanism.

Additionally, some countries could not receive an assessment level beyond No Advancement because they had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents. Unfortunately, three countries–**Burma**, **Eritrea**, and **South Sudan**–were found to be complicit in the use of forced child labor

during the reporting period, whether for commercial sexual exploitation, public works projects, or forced recruitment in armed conflict.

Dropping off the list of countries complicit in the use of forced child labor for this year are **Afghanistan** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Afghanistan achieved its first indictment of a government employee–a school headmaster from Logar Province–for *bacha bazi* crimes allegedly committed in September 2019. *Bacha bazi* is a form of commercial sexual exploitation of boys. This indictment, along with numerous other prosecutions, convictions, and stringent prison sentences achieved during the year by the Government of **Afghanistan**, are indicative of a shift away from a culture of impunity to one of accountability. The **Democratic Republic of the Congo**'s Ministry of Defense issued a zero-tolerance policy for child recruitment, and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo identified and began prosecuting an army officer responsible for operating a child trafficking ring.

Currently, only **Christmas Island**, **Cocos (Keeling) Islands**, and **Wallis and Futuna** fall into the category of No Assessment. This assessment is reserved for countries or territories in which the population of children is either non-existent or extremely small, there is no evidence of the worst forms of child labor and the country appears to have an adequate preventive legal and enforcement framework on child labor, or a country is included in the report for the first time or receives a suggested action for the first time.

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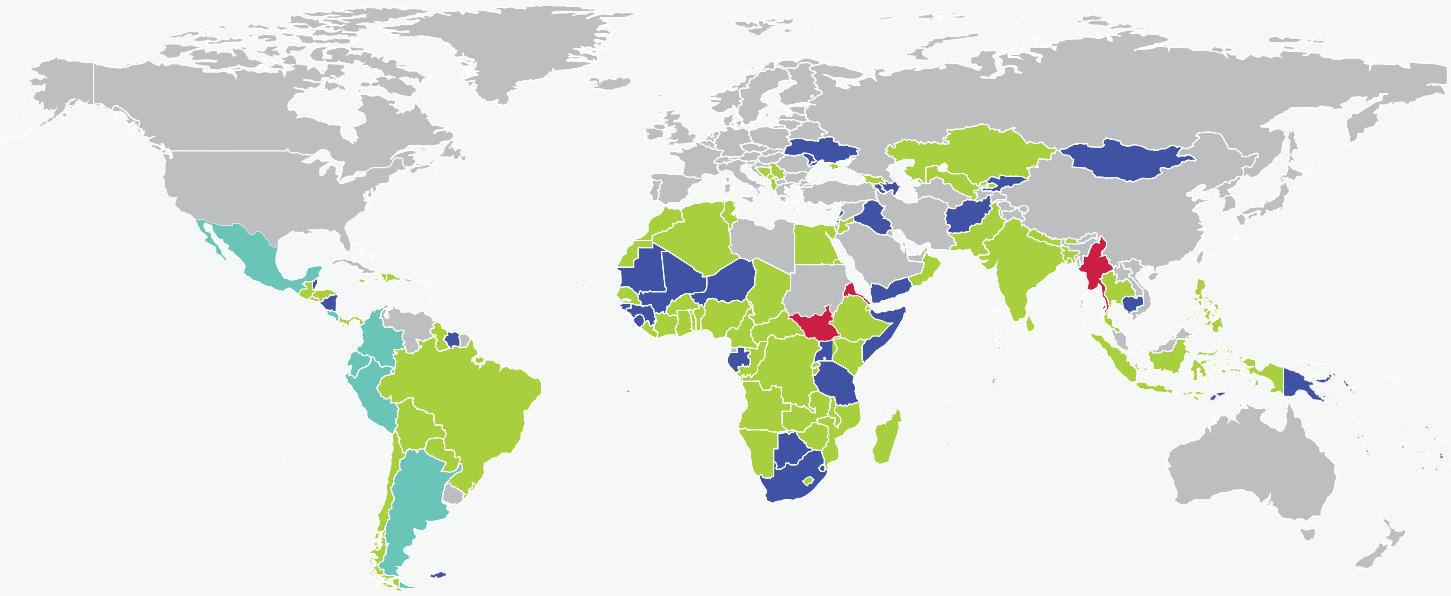
Sharmin, age 13 and from Bangladesh, looks into the camera as she works at a plastic recycling factory, while a boy plays on a heap of bottles nearby. Dhaka, Bangladesh. June 12, 2014.

Figure 4

Global Breakdown of Country Assessments



6 Significant Advancement

Argentina | Colombia | Costa Rica | Ecuador | Mexico | Peru

73 Moderate Advancement

Albania | Algeria | Angola | Bangladesh | Benin | Bhutan | Bolivia | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Brazil | Burkina Faso ↑ | Burundi | Cabo Verde | Cameroon | Central African Republic | Chad | Chile | Comoros | Congo, Democratic Republic of the ↑ | Congo, Republic of the | Cook Islands | Côte d'Ivoire | Djibouti | Dominican Republic | Egypt | El Salvador | Ethiopia | Fiji | Georgia | Ghana ↑ | Guatemala ↓ | Guyana | Haiti ↑ | Honduras | India | Indonesia | Jamaica | Jordan | Kazakhstan | Kenya | Kiribati ↑ | Kosovo | Lesotho | Liberia ↑ | Madagascar | Malawi | Maldives ↑ | Mauritius ↑ | Montenegro | Morocco ↑ | Mozambique | Namibia ↓ | Nepal | Nigeria ↑ | Norfolk Island | North Macedonia | Oman | Pakistan | Panama | Paraguay ↓ | Philippines | Rwanda | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ↑ | Senegal | Serbia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Togo ↑ | Tunisia | Tuvalu | Uzbekistan | Western Sahara ↑ | Zambia | Zimbabwe

38 Minimal Advancement

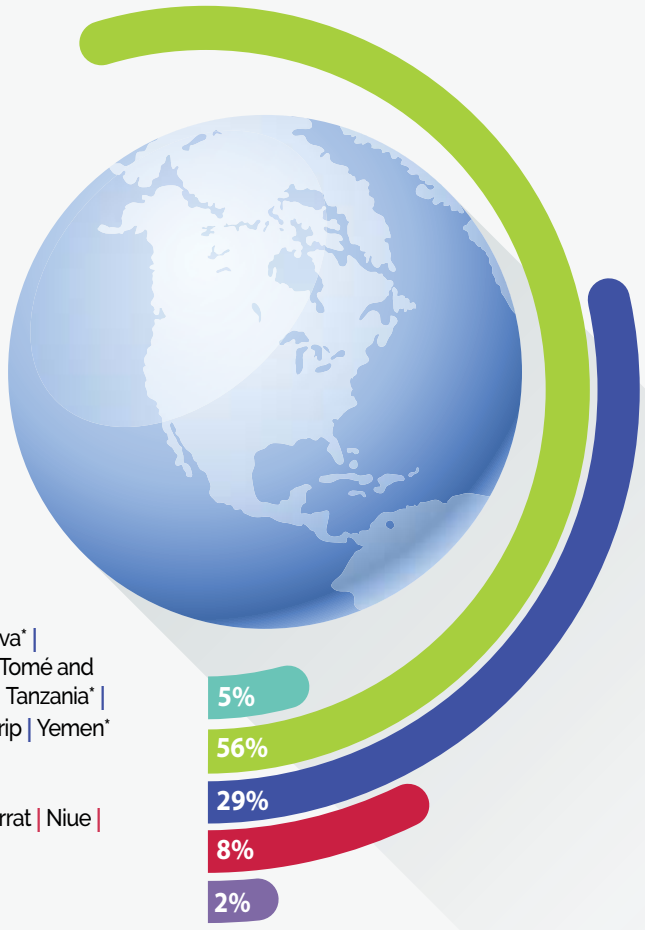
Afghanistan* ↑ | Armenia* | Azerbaijan* | Belize ↓ | Botswana | Cambodia* | Eswatini ↓ | Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) | Gabon* | Gambia, The* ↓ | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | Iraq* | Kyrgyz Republic* | Lebanon ↓ | Mali* ↓ | Mauritania* | Moldova* | Mongolia* | Nicaragua | Niger ↓ | Papua New Guinea | Saint Lucia ↓ | Samoa | São Tomé and Príncipe | Sierra Leone ↓ | Solomon Islands | Somalia* | South Africa | Suriname ↓ | Tanzania* | Timor-Leste* | Tonga* | Uganda* | Ukraine* | Vanuatu | West Bank and the Gaza Strip | Yemen*

11 No Advancement

Anguilla | British Virgin Islands | Burma‡ | Dominica ↓ | Eritrea‡ | Grenada | Montserrat | Niue | Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha ↓ | South Sudan‡ | Tokelau

3 No Assessment

Christmas Island | Cocos (Keeling) Island | Wallis and Futuna



** Efforts made but regression or continued law, policy, or practice that delayed advancement*
‡ Efforts made but complicit in forced child labor
↑ Increase in assessment level
↓ Decrease in assessment level

Figure 5

Baseline of Minimally Acceptable Protections

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Safeguarding Progress

- Directly funded a significant social program that includes the goal of eliminating child labor or addresses the root causes of the problem (e.g., lack of education opportunities, poverty, discrimination)

ENFORCEMENT

Putting Legislation to Action

- Made a good faith effort to collect and publish labor and criminal law enforcement data
- Took active measures to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence public officials who participate in or facilitate the worst forms of child labor
- Took active measures to ensure that children are not inappropriately incarcerated, penalized, or physically harmed solely for unlawful acts as a direct result of being a victim of the worst forms of child labor
- Imposed penalties for violations related to the worst forms of child labor
- Designated a competent authority or institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor

LEGISLATION

Establishing a Framework to Prohibit Child Labor

- Established legal prohibitions against the use of children for illicit activities that meet international standards
- Established legal prohibitions against the commercial sexual exploitation of children that meet international standards
- Established legal prohibitions against child trafficking that meet international standards
- Established legal prohibitions against forced labor that meet international standards
- Established a minimum age for hazardous work that meets international standards
- Established a minimum age for work that meets international standards

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Girl, age 12, sowing the field. Puncupata, Quispillaccta, Ayacucho, Peru. October 27, 2013.

Overview of Meaningful Efforts

Legal

For the first time in history, an ILO Convention has been ratified by all 187 member states. The ratification of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor by the Pacific island nation of **Tonga** represents the culmination of global consensus since the Convention's unanimous adoption by the member countries of the ILO in 1999, along with its corresponding Recommendation No. 190. (36) As another example of global efforts toward the prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, a number of other countries brought into force or ratified the Protocol of 2014 to the 1930 Forced Labor Convention No. 29, including **Chile**, **Costa Rica**, **Kyrgyz Republic**, and **Malawi**. To learn more about global efforts in this area, see Box 6: The "50 for Freedom" Campaign.

Other countries took similar steps related to ILO instruments as they sought to strengthen their legal frameworks. The Government of **Nepal** ratified the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons and both **Mexico** and **Namibia** ratified ILO Domestic Workers Convention No. 189. Although the country has not ratified this particular Convention, **Ukraine** introduced draft legislation to protect domestic workers at the national level. As part of a similar effort to protect domestic workers, **Peru** passed Law 31047, which sets the minimum age for domestic work at 18. Finally, **Burma** ratified ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138.

Several countries also made efforts to strengthen the legal framework to protect children from hazardous work. **Thailand** enacted a new law, which sets the minimum age for workers employed as deep-sea divers, a notoriously hazardous occupation, at 18 years old. In October 2020, **Chile** amended its Labor Code by establishing that the government must publish a new list of hazardous activities and occupations for children and adolescents. In neighboring **Argentina**, the Buenos Aires Ministry of Labor issued a regulation to close a loophole that enabled companies to exploit underage workers through sub-contracting arrangements. **North Macedonia** also made an amendment to its Labor Relations Act, increasing fines issued to employers who fail to provide proper protections to workers under age 18, in addition to those who employ minors under age 15 who are considered to be in ill health. To codify legal definitions around hazardous work in **Georgia**, the Health Care Minister passed a decree that defines hazardous work, lists occupations prohibited for children under age 18. Finally, in **Burundi**, the government passed a new labor code that made important progress in bringing Burundi's legal framework in line with international standards, such as raising the minimum age for work to 16 and the minimum age for light work to 15. To learn more about hazardous work, see Figure 6. For a global snapshot on the minimum age for work and hazardous work, see Figure 7.

The inability of children to attend school remains a challenge in the fight against child labor; however, increasing access to education through legislation helps. **Sri Lanka** raised the minimum age for employment from 14 to 16 years old, matching the compulsory education age. **Rwanda**'s Ministry of Education and Parliament also passed a new education law in early 2021 which stipulates that primary education is free and compulsory up to the first 6 years of schooling. In November 2020, the **Maldives** enacted a new Education Act that provides for free public education. Additionally, **Comoros** revised its education law to change the compulsory age of education to 16 years of age, compared to 12 years of age previously. **Bolivia** approved a resolution enabling Venezuelan minors to attend school without identification documents or expired documents to regularize their immigration status.

Box 6

The "50 for Freedom" Campaign

The global fight against forced labor reached a major milestone on March 17, 2021, after Sudan became the 50th country to adopt the ILO's Forced Labor Protocol. The Protocol is a legally binding pact that supplements Forced Labor Convention No. 29 of 1930. By ratifying the Forced Labor Protocol, governments pledge to do more than just criminalize and prosecute cases of forced labor. Governments commit to providing specific guidance on preventing forced labor, strengthening labor inspections, protecting victims, and ensuring that victims have access to justice and compensation.

There are an estimated 25 million men, women, and children trapped in forced labor–trafficked, held in bondage, or working under slavery-like conditions. Considered modern slavery, forced labor is defined as work performed involuntarily and under the menace of any penalty. One in four victims are children, and women and girls are disproportionately affected.

Matters have only gotten worse due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, governments closed schools and enforced lockdowns while global unemployment reached 33 million. (37) During the same time, reports from human rights organizations showed that forced labor rose in some locations where companies struggled to cope with the demand for medical supplies and equipment. (38) The pandemic not only exacerbated some of the main drivers of forced labor, it also created additional demand and opportunities for this form of modern slavery.

With Sudan's adoption, the ILO achieved the goal it set out in the "50 for Freedom" campaign launched in 2014. The ILO developed the campaign, in collaboration with the International Organization of Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation, to encourage governments to ratify the Forced Labor Protocol and to raise awareness about modern slavery.

The "50 for Freedom" campaign is a significant step in strengthening the global fight against all forms of forced labor, but it is also just one step. With fewer than 10 years remaining to achieve SDG 8.7 to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, countries must collectively increase efforts to end these abusive practices.

Figure 6

What is Hazardous Child Labor?

ILO Recommendation 190[1] calls on governments to consider the following when determining work that is prohibited for children.

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

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

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

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

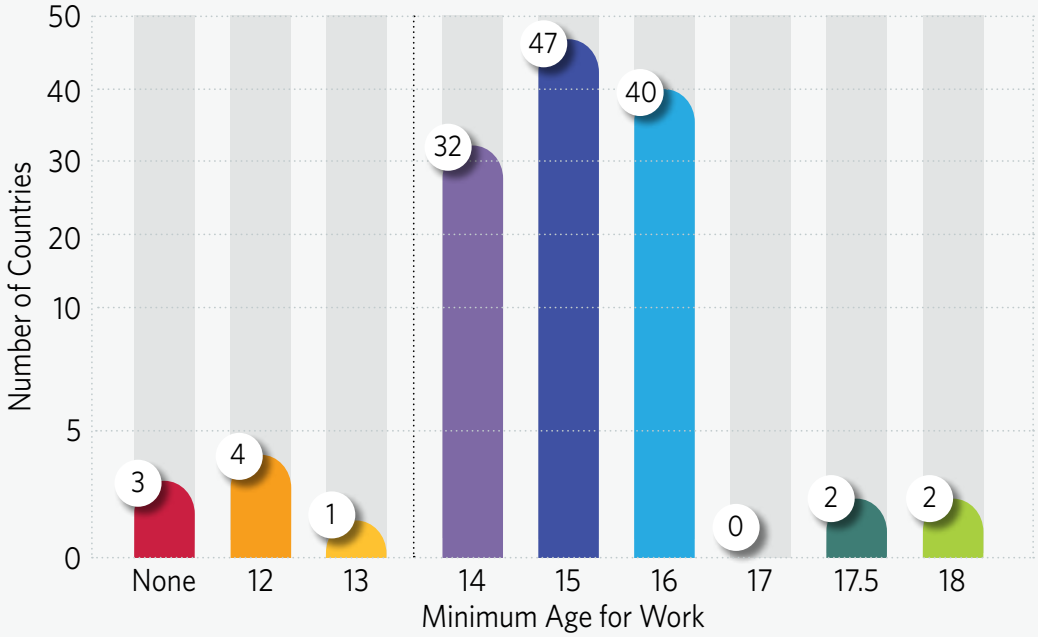
Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer

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

Figure 7

Minimum Age for **Work**

15 years



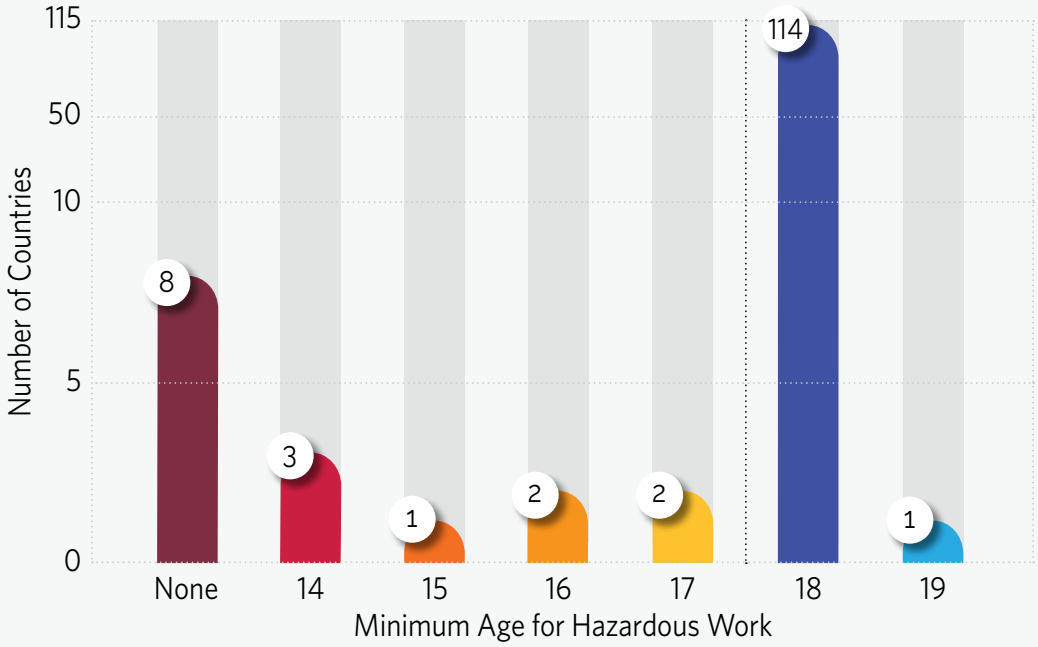
* Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum legal working age of 14 when ratifying the convention.

Countries that do not have a minimum age at 14 years*

Anguilla ■ Belize ■ Bhutan ■ Nigeria ■ Niue ■ Solomon Islands ■ Tokelau ■ Tonga

Minimum Age for **Hazardous Work**

18 years



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

Anguilla ■ Belize ■ Dominica ■ Eritrea ■ Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) ■ Grenada ■ Nepal ■ Niue ■ Pakistan ■ Papua New Guinea ■ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ■ Solomon Islands ■ Timor-Leste ■ Tokelau ■ Tonga ■ Vanuatu

Enforcement

As the global pandemic moved many in-person activities online, **Colombia** used virtual capabilities during the pandemic to carry out 7,624 virtual labor inspections and conduct trainings for new and veteran inspectors, including training 107 new inspectors on "Fundamental Rights at Work." In **Honduras**, the government began implementing the new Child Labor Inspection Protocol, which established guidelines and procedures for inspectors to follow to ensure that inspections appropriately identify and address child labor violations. It also assisted non-governmental partners in the creation of a virtual training platform designed to train inspectors on the Child Labor Inspection Protocol. **Paraguay**'s Ministry of Labor also launched virtual training curricula for inspectors and created a labor complaint hotline. See Figure 8 for an overview of global enforcement efforts.

Also during the pandemic, as online crimes against children rose, **Thailand** made its Internet Crimes Against Children task force into a permanent agency to solidify efforts to combat these crimes. Read more about the troubling link between technology and commercial sexual exploitation of children in "Dangers Downloaded" on page 15.

Many countries also increased the funding available for labor law enforcement and raised awareness about labor rights abuses. The **Montenegro** labor inspectorate's budget increased from $584,447 to $887,498. Likewise, **Georgia** doubled the budget of its labor inspectorate. Beyond mere funding, in **Mongolia**, the government distributed 50,000 informational passport inserts at its borders with Russia and China to raise awareness on human trafficking issues and provide information regarding resources for potential victims, including 1,000 children traveling abroad. In **Kazakhstan**, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection added forced labor indicators to labor inspection checklists, and updated labor inspectors' job descriptions to include detection and referral of potential forced labor cases to law enforcement. Focusing on its essential cotton harvest, **Uzbekistan** provided special badges to civil society monitors that allowed them to monitor labor conditions in the cotton harvest despite COVID-19 restrictions.

Figure 8

Global Enforcement Efforts*

36 Have an adequate number of labor inspectors

78 Authorize their labor inspectorates to assess penalties

91 Conducted routine labor inspections

89 Conducted unannounced inspections

108 Have a complaint mechanism for labor violations

*Out of 131 countries

Also in an effort to prioritize vital work in 2020, **Jordan**'s Ministry of Labor conducted 850 targeted child labor inspections in the agricultural sector for the first time throughout the country. The Ministry of Labor also developed a new website and mobile phone application that, once operational, will allow the public to report cases of child labor and the Ministry of Labor to log those cases into the National Child Labor Database.

Very importantly, **Somalia**'s Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs established a labor inspectorate after operating for several years without such an agency. Further south, **Zambia** doubled labor inspectorate funding to $281,520 from $140,000 the previous year. **Uganda** and the **Central African Republic** both doubled their number of labor inspectors. **Nigeria** also hired more than 400 new labor inspectors during the reporting period. And as a sign of concentrated efforts to increase enforcement efforts, **Benin** nearly tripled its number of labor inspections. Aware that more inspectors alone are not enough, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**'s government task force on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, in conjunction with its Ministry of Employment, Labor, and Social Welfare, published a manual to address child labor in the country's agricultural sector. In the Horn of Africa region, **Djibouti**'s Ministry of Labor unveiled a national labor inspection strategy, and for the first time, the labor inspectorate targeted sectors and geographical areas where children are at risk of child labor, including its worst forms. Providing its inspectors with the tools for the job, **Ethiopia** also collaborated with the ILO to develop a digital inspection system, which was completed in 2020.

Coordination

With a great number of enforcement efforts, vibrant and robust coordination at the government level, in tandem with civil society, is essential. As just one example of intra-governmental cooperation, **Chile** established the Tacna-Arica Bi-Regional Roundtable to coordinate efforts between the governments of Chile and Peru to prevent and eradicate child labor in the border area. **Peru**'s National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor coordinated virtually, in part through messaging platforms, due to in-person meeting restrictions amid the COVID-19 pandemic. There also were online training sessions covering 22 of the 25 regional taskforces–representing each of Peru's 25 regions–to combat child labor. Further north in the Caribbean, the Government of **Jamaica** developed and released a National Referral Mechanism for child trafficking victims as an objective under the Child Protection Compact, in partnership with the United States.

As we look to the Indo-Pacific region, the **Philippines** established the Task Force Against the Trafficking of Overseas Filipino Workers to coordinate investigative and protective follow-up on trafficking cases referred by the Department of Foreign Affairs' overseas missions. **Pakistan**, for its part, formally constituted and appointed members to the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, which includes two representatives who are children.

In **Jordan**, the Ministry of Labor, with input from UNICEF, developed standard operating procedures defining the roles of the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Juvenile Police Department in combating child labor. In nearby **Egypt**, the National Coordination Committee on Preventing Illegal Migration and Combating Trafficking in Persons launched the second phase of its "Together Against Human Trafficking" awareness campaign in partnership with the International Organization for Migration. The campaign included a public service announcement featuring prominent Egyptian celebrities.

In **Albania**, the Ministry of Justice launched the Integrated System of Data on Justice for Children, which will allow law enforcement professionals to more easily cooperate with colleagues throughout the justice system, including courts. In **Uzbekistan**, the National Sub-Commission on Combating Forced

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A teen at work in a machine shop. Marka, Jordan.
January 20, 2013.

Labor drafted an Action Plan based on international recommendations to combat child labor and strengthen worker protections.

In East Africa, **Uganda**'s National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labor was reconstituted during the reporting period. **Zambia** likewise reconstituted its National Steering Committee on Child Labor. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the Ministry of Women, Family, and Children created a "street team" of social workers to identify victims of child labor. Next door, **Ghana**'s Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations' Child Labor Unit developed the Inter-Sectoral Standard Operating Procedure for child protection and family welfare, with support from UNICEF. The Child Labor Unit also conducted field visits in the Oti Region, Volta Region, Central Region, and Eastern Region, helping to expand enforcement of labor laws across the country.

Policy

A number of countries established or implemented policies to help focus attention and resources to combat child labor. **Argentina** launched a new initiative as part of its Third National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work to train agricultural extension agents in identifying and responding to cases of child labor. Further, the ILO implemented its Model of Child Labor Risk Identification (MIRTI) tool in several countries, which identified high-risk areas for child labor. For example, **Guatemala**'s Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Thematic Working Group for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor developed its model in anticipation of the effective end of the Roadmap to make Guatemala a Country Free of Child Labor and Its Worst Forms in 2020. With the help of the MIRTI tool, vulnerability maps for the 8 regions and 22 departments of the country were developed, as well as a map at the national level. Each of these maps includes a respective analysis on risk and protection factors associated with the probability of child labor in the 340 municipalities of the country in 2020. **Costa Rica** published its first findings from its Child Labor Risk Identification Model, a statistical tool designed to identify localities with the greatest risk of child labor in order to develop targeted policies and strategies. **Jamaica** implemented the Child Labor Risk Identification Model as well. Other countries in the region also sought to move policies forward. For example, **Haiti** established the National Social Protection and Promotion Policy, and **Honduras** established the Inter-Institutional Strategy for Homeless Families and Children.

In **India**, the Government of Karnataka in southwest India released a comprehensive standard operating procedure (SOP) on human trafficking in collaboration with civil society organizations. The SOP covers sex trafficking, child beggary, child labor, and bonded labor. In **Sri Lanka**, the government launched the National Alternative Care Policy, which includes a section addressing child labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, **Morocco** became a "pathfinder country," joining 21 other countries around the world as part of Alliance 8.7. In nearby **Tunisia**, the government established the Second Chance program to support dropouts in completing their education or receiving vocational training. And in September 2020, Tunisia's Ministry of Education inaugurated the country's first Second Chance School in the capital Tunis, and a team has been trained to evaluate, support, and supervise students wishing to return to school. The pilot program is scheduled to expand during 2021–2022 to additional regions across the country.

Serbia's Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Education worked with local police forces to educate fourth, fifth, and sixth grade children about safety and security issues, including child labor. To reach an even wider audience and respond to barriers to in-person training due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was turned into an online video as well. Nearby, **Kosovo** developed a Strategy on the Rights of the Child, which calls for a comprehensive framework for the protection of children's rights, including the

prevention, protection, and reintegration of children involved in hazardous child labor, such as street work and underground ore extraction.

The Government of the Kingdom of **Eswatini** published its first-ever uniform guidelines for providing shelter and caring for victims of trafficking and gender-based violence. Additionally, **South Sudan**'s Comprehensive Action Plan to End & Prevent All Grave Violations Against Children, which applies to all state and non-state groups, came into force under the February 2020 transitional government.

Programs

In the Indo-Pacific region, **Tonga** published the results of its Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the first-ever nationwide survey on children and women in the country. The survey, conducted in 2019 with technical support from UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Pacific Community, showed that 26 percent of children ages 5 to 17 were involved in economic activities and 28 percent of children were exposed to hazardous working conditions. Likewise, **Nepal** published its *Report on Employment Relationship Survey in the Brick Industry in Nepal*, providing information on the prevalence of child labor, forced labor, and bonded labor in the brick production sector. Sadly, there are an estimated 17,738 child laborers in the brick kilns of Nepal, with 15,400 of these children engaged in hazardous work. This information allows policymakers and programs to better target resources and efforts.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, **Egypt** declared $50 million in additional funding to support the Takaful and Karama programs. These programs are funded by the Ministry of Social Solidarity to promote school attendance and health monitoring for children by providing income supplements to poor families. Between March and October 2020, 309,748 new families were added to the Takaful and Karama programs. Financial support to vulnerable families is a lifeline that helps minimize child labor risks.

In the Europe and Eurasia region, **Georgia**'s Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport created platforms for distance learning and the Public Broadcaster launched the "TV School" educational project to broadcast the national curriculum's standard lessons in Georgian, minority languages, and sign language. As an analysis of the most recent global estimates on child labor revealed, child labor is deeply entwined with a lack of access to education. Programs like Georgia's "TV School" allow children to continue schooling when they would otherwise not do so.

Similarly, recognizing the need to expand into alternative avenues for education during the COVID-19 pandemic, **Rwanda** launched audio lessons via national radio in response to the pandemic, and monitoring data showed that more than half of school-age children were listening to the broadcasts. Following pandemic-related school closures in March 2020, UNICEF and **South Sudan**'s Ministry of General Education and Instructions developed and implemented distance-learning programs. As of December 2020, UNICEF's radio learning programs and television broadcasts allowed 1.5 million preschool, primary, and secondary students to continue their education. Yet not all interventions were digital. In **Ethiopia**'s capital city of Addis Ababa, meals, books, and writing equipment were provided to more than 300,000 students. The provision of meals is important because, for many children, school is not just a place that nourishes the mind, but also a place that provides daily meals that allow children to learn without hunger.

In conclusion, these examples are just a snapshot of the more than 600 meaningful efforts undertaken by countries cataloged in this year's report.

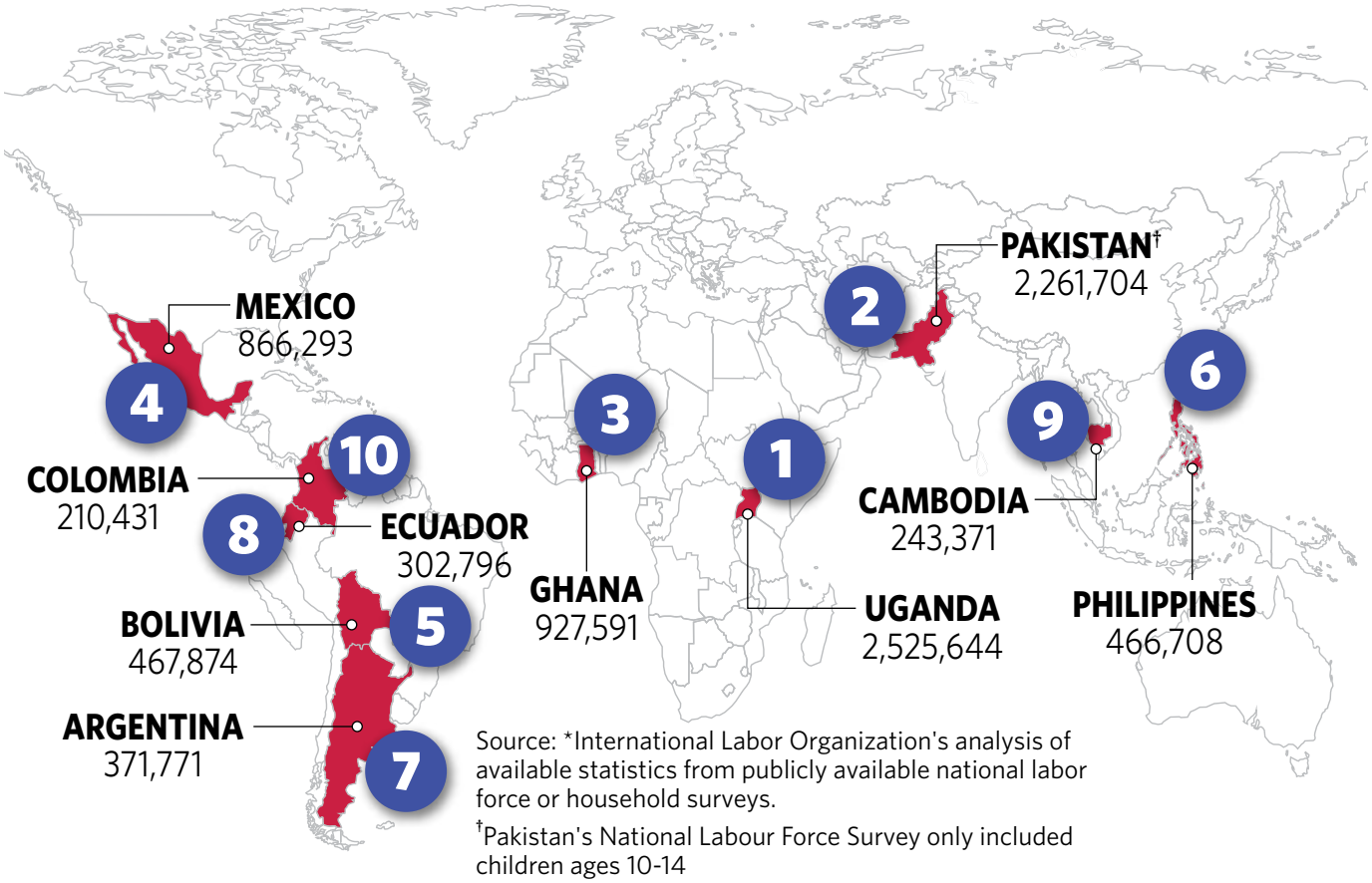
Overview of Major Gaps

This year's report highlights a number of gaps that continue to blunt progress toward the eventual elimination of child labor. The vast majority–nearly 60 percent–of the suggested actions assigned to each country and territory in the report fall into the areas of legal framework and enforcement. Noteworthy

gaps related to social programs remain as well–comprising the third largest share of suggested actions, followed by government policies, and then coordination. The suggested actions included for each of the 131 countries and territories provide a roadmap for policymakers to ensure that they uphold their commitments to prevent and eliminate child labor. Converting these commitments into action is the first step to reverse the stalled progress against child labor. To see which countries have the highest percentage of working children, reference Figure 9.

Figure 9

Top 10 Countries with the Highest Number of Working Children, Ages 5-14*



Source: *International Labor Organization's analysis of available statistics from publicly available national labor force or household surveys.

†Pakistan's National Labour Force Survey only included children ages 10-14

ILAB commends countries that collect and publish data on child labor. Gathering data through surveys, and providing them to the public demonstrates the commitment of governments to transparency in addressing child labor and acknowledgment that data collection is vital to the design and implementation of sound policies and programs.

Legal

A robust legal framework that protects children is a necessary foundation to ensure progress against child labor, including its worst forms. Unfortunately, this year's report notes many remaining gaps in this area remaining gaps in this area (see Figure 10).

Twenty countries and territories in every region, including **Bangladesh**, **Georgia**, **Guinea**, **Haiti**, **Lebanon**, and **Niger**, among others, have labor laws that do not fully cover children working in the informal sector. An even greater number of countries have gaps related to hazardous work–a category representing 12 percent of all legal gaps. As one example, laws in **Bangladesh** that prohibit some types of hazardous work for children are not comprehensive and do not include key sectors in which child labor is present, such as garments.

Gaps in criminal laws persist for many countries as well. For example, laws prohibiting child trafficking in **Bhutan**, **Brazil**, **Comoros**, **Nepal**, **Niue**, **Pakistan**, and **Uganda** do not fully meet international standards because they require that the use of force, threats, violence, coercion, fraud, or abuse be documented for an incident of trafficking to be established as a crime. Countries from **Afghanistan** to **Yemen** also have gaps in forced labor prohibitions. For example, **Armenia** has not codified a definition of forced labor, and **Mali** does not criminally prohibit hereditary slavery, in addition to other forms of forced labor.

Many countries in all regions fail to fully criminalize the use, procuring, and offering of children for prostitution, the production of pornography, and pornographic performances. In **Nigeria**, not all state laws criminalize both domestic and international trafficking or trafficking for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Many countries, including **Grenada** and **Western Sahara**, also do not criminally prohibit the use, procuring, and offering of a child for prostitution.

Encompassing more than 13 percent of all legal gaps, gaps in prohibitions against non-state armed groups are the most common and persistent issue for many countries in the report. Read more about child soldiers and the need for additional actions to address the use of children in armed conflict in "Box 7: Stolen Childhoods: The Story of Child Soldiers."

Beyond labor and criminal laws, 19 countries lack laws that ensure free, basic public education. The lack of these safeguards effectively limit children's access to education and a better future.

Figure 10

Global Gaps in Laws and Regulations*

24 Countries' prohibitions of child trafficking do not meet international standards

44 Countries' prohibitions of commercial sexual exploitation of children do not meet international standards

46 Countries' prohibitions of the use of children in illicit activities do not meet international standards

22 Countries' prohibitions of forced labor do not meet international standards: Afghanistan | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Burundi | Chile | Dominica | Dominican Republic | Guyana | Haiti | Jordan | Lebanon | Mali | Mauritius | Mongolia | Morocco | Niue | Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha | Saint Lucia | Tokelau | Tonga | West Bank and the Gaza Strip | Western Sahara | Yemen

*Out of 131 countries

Box 7

Stolen Childhoods: The Story of Child Soldiers

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13-year-old Jackson (name changed) stands during a ceremony to release children from the ranks of armed groups and start the process of reintegration. Yambio, South Sudan. April 17, 2018.

In a pre-dawn raid, a militia abducts a 14-year-old shepherd from a scrub-covered plain. Within months, he will learn to clean, strip, reassemble, and fire a Kalashnikov. Within the year, he will brandish this weapon on the battlefield in a war he does not understand.

Half a world away, a flamboyant cartel lieutenant known for flaunting diamond-encrusted bracelets on social media invites a group of out-of-school teenagers to a private party. He presents them with a choice: silver or lead? Join or die.

The use of children in armed combat does not belong to a single region or era. During the American Civil War, boys as young as 9 years old signaled battle formations using distinctive drumbeat patterns. Hundreds of thousands of children fought in both World Wars' European theaters.

Today, some 357 million girls and boys–or 1 in 6 children–live under the shadow of war or armed conflict. Children are direct participants in at least 18 current conflicts around the world. Additionally, our research shows that in 12 countries, children are victimized twice–first, by the armed groups who recruit them, and again by government forces who imprison children for their ties to these groups.

Over the past three decades, the number of children affected by armed conflict has grown considerably. More than 426 million children lived in an active conflict zone in 2019, compared to 200 million in 1990–an increase of more than 50 percent. (39) The incidence of child labor in countries affected by armed conflict is also 77 percent higher than the global average, while the incidence of hazardous work is 50 percent higher in countries affected by armed conflict than in the world as a whole. (40-42) Additionally, attacks against schools, students, and teachers continued, which ranged from the destruction of facilities to armed occupation of schools, and from physical and sexual violence to the recruitment of students. (42)

ILAB is working to end these practices. Our work takes on special significance this year as we observe the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor amid a once-in-a-century pandemic. As COVID-19 upended the global economy, more than 150 million children fell into poverty. Hundreds of millions did not attend school in 2020, and at least 24 million children may drop out permanently. (43) These shocks can push children into child labor, including armed combat.

The withdrawal of state and humanitarian actors is both obscuring and compounding the scale of the crisis. Border closures and distancing measures interrupted United Nations-led verification processes, including monitoring and reporting mechanisms that track the recruitment of children in armed conflict. These delays mean that the full impact of the pandemic on recruitment patterns may not be known for months or even years. Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs also were curtailed or suspended while governments and NGOs dramatically scaled back age screening missions, child-friendly spaces, and family reunification services.

The pandemic underscored the vital role of legal, law enforcement, and social programs in protecting children from recruitment. Our data suggest that 65 countries currently fail to meet international standards for the prohibition of military recruitment by non-state armed groups. Similarly, our reports identified 77 countries and territories that need to take additional actions to address child soldiering–from amending laws to protecting survivors. School closures and economic shocks have compounded these vulnerabilities, with some children seeing few alternatives to joining armed groups.

The overwhelming evidence shows that so much more needs to be done for these children. Inaction is not an option.

Enforcement

Gaps related to enforcement make up the single largest area, comprising more than 36 percent of all suggested actions in this year's report.

A particularly tragic example is that of the Government of the **Philippines**, which did not adequately protect children allegedly engaged in drug trafficking from inappropriate incarceration or physical harm during detention, nor did it ensure that children released from custody were placed in accredited rehabilitation centers. Additionally, the government did not investigate or prosecute police officers accused of extrajudicial killings of children during anti-drug operations in 2020. As an additional example of the global nature of these gaps, in the Middle East and North Africa region, **Iraqi** and Kurdistan Regional Government authorities continued to inappropriately detain and prosecute, without legal representation, children allegedly affiliated with ISIS–some of whom were victims of forcible recruitment and use–and used abusive interrogation techniques and torture to gain children's confessions. Moreover, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Somali National Army continued to recruit and use children in armed conflict, in violation of **Somalia**'s national law.

This year, **Cambodia** is assessed as having made only Minimal Advancement because the government failed to take active measures to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence public officials who participate in or facilitate the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation of children and debt-based forced labor in brick kilns. Additionally, during the reporting period, judges were allegedly reported to have accepted bribes in return for the dismissal of charges, acquittal, and reduced sentencing for individuals committing such crimes, especially for those with alleged ties to the government, making children more vulnerable to child labor. The lack of prosecution of government officials was noted in several other countries, including **Afghanistan**, **Burma**, **India**, **Mali**, and **Uganda**. In fact, more than 25 percent of all the proposed enforcement actions relate to gaps in criminal law enforcement prosecution.

Even with dedicated public servants, who comprise the overwhelming majority of officials, many labor inspectorates lack proper funding and training to address child labor. Nearly 35 percent of all the suggested actions related to enforcement are linked to gaps in enforcement resources and training.

Even labor inspectorates that have resources sometimes lack mandates. Forty-three countries, from **Afghanistan** to **Zimbabwe**, lack the authority to assess penalties, which limits the labor inspectorate's ability to ensure that labor laws are enforced. Even with the authority to assess penalties, a referral mechanism to ensure that complaints are routed to enforcement agents is often missing. Fourteen countries, including **Pakistan** and **Vanuatu** lack such a mechanism.

Shockingly, a number of countries have additional restrictions on their labor inspectorates. In **Tonga**, there are no labor inspectors and no legal authority to conduct labor inspections. Labor inspections are a key tool for identifying child labor violations, and their absence makes children more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. In **Armenia**, while a new labor inspectorate was established in 2017 that replaced the former state health inspectorate, the law still does not permit unannounced inspections. Similarly, **Mongolia** is not permitted to conduct unannounced labor inspections. And in the case of **Moldova**, in August 2018, the government amended its laws such that unannounced inspections, even those based on a complaint or at the request of law enforcement or other state bodies, are permitted only on the basis of a risk assessment that indicates an immediate threat to the environment, life, health, or property.

The **Kyrgyz Republic** extended a 2019 moratorium on labor inspections until 2022. Although the government amended this moratorium in 2020 to permit labor inspections based on formal complaints, the Ministry of Economy must approve worksite visits associated with such inspections and, in practice, announces these visits in advance. As a result, unannounced inspections remain severely restricted. **Azerbaijan**

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Young boy making garments. India. October 29, 2014.

extended a similar moratorium on labor inspections until January 1, 2022. While inspectors can conduct desk reviews in response to complaints, the lack of proactive or onsite inspection mechanisms may leave potential violations of child labor laws undetected in workplaces.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, **Gabon** failed to provide evidence that it conducted worksite inspections during the reporting period. Like counterparts elsewhere, the labor inspectorate in **The Gambia** suspended inspections in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the government has not indicated when labor inspections will resume.

To help identify how labor inspectorates, trade policymakers, corporate compliance officers, procurement officials, and others can better target the enforcement of child labor in the production of keygoods and products, ILAB has developed the Better Trade Tool, which matches ILAB's essential reporting with trade data.

Coordination

Even with an appropriate mix of laws and enforcement, a lack of coordination can derail efforts to combat child labor effectively. Although comprising only 8 percent of all gaps noted in this year's report, gaps in coordination can prove to be fundamental as they cause a ripple effect of breakdowns in other areas. The vast majority–almost one-third–of these coordination gaps relate to the inability of existing coordinating mechanisms to carry out mandates. In **Eswatini** and

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Child labor in the gold mining regions of Burkina Faso, West Africa. Burkina Faso. 2013.

Ethiopia, for example, the individual mandates of various coordinating mechanisms in both counties lack clear definition.

A number of other coordination gaps relate to the lack of funding for coordinating mechanisms, effectively leaving these committees unable to take action and conduct work. This problem is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan African countries. In **Burkina Faso**, for example, there is poor coordination among ministries and a lack of resources, such as computers and electricity, which continues to hamper the government's ability to coordinate efforts to fully address child trafficking. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, many committees had similar mandates, duplicated efforts, and lacked resources and trained personnel. In **Gabon**, all coordination committees were inactive in 2020, and as a result, some committee members resorted to using their personal funds to support human trafficking victims. Similarly, coordinating bodies in **Guinea** and **Kenya** faced constraints on activities due to a lack of sufficient funding.

Other coordination gaps relate to the lack of any functioning coordination mechanism dedicated to combating the worst forms of child labor. Eleven countries, including **Central African Republic**, **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, and **Vanuatu**, among others, lack a coordinating body that is active and addresses all forms of child labor.

Policy

This year's report noted a number of countries that lacked policies to address child labor. Almost half of all policy gaps are with regard to the lack of any information related to policies and the lack of information related specifically to policy implementation. The archipelagic Indo-Pacific country of the **Maldives** lacks a policy that addresses all relevant forms of child labor, including forced labor in domestic work and drug trafficking. **Mexico** also lacks a policy that addresses all of the worst forms of child labor, such as child trafficking and the use of children in commercial sexual exploitation and in illicit activities. Likewise, **Ukraine**'s policies do not address hazardous child labor in mining. **Algeria**'s policies do not address all relevant worst forms of child labor, such as commercial sexual exploitation, forced begging, and street work. On a similar note, **Sierra Leone** lacks policies to address child labor in sectors in which child labor is present, such as mining and quarrying, as well as in commercial sexual exploitation. **Gabon** also lacks policies that address domestic work and work in transportation. Additionally, a smaller set of countries have relevant policies that fail to integrate child labor issues. For example, countries such as **Bangladesh**, **Jamaica**, **Solomon Islands**, and **Zambia** have not integrated child labor elimination and prevention strategies into various education and development policies. Persistent gaps in various interconnected policies limit the ability of governments to tackle child labor in a holistic manner.

Programs

Throughout the world, children remain vulnerable to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking for a variety of social, political, and economic reasons. Families facing poverty may encourage young children to work, sometimes unknowingly exposing them to dangerous conditions; schools may close due to political instability or pandemic-related shutdowns; or societal norms may prioritize a culture of child labor over education. This report noted insufficient social programs in various countries in all regions. Most notable, approximately one-quarter of gaps in the social program area are related to access to education. Read more in "Box 8: Discrimination: Its Ugly Impact on Decreasing Access to Education and Increasing Child Labor Vulnerabilities."

Box 8

Discrimination: Its Ugly Impact on Decreasing Access to Education and Increasing Child Labor Vulnerabilities

It is consistently clear that when children cannot access education, they become more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. It is also clear that a common barrier to education is discrimination.

Discrimination based on race or ethnicity, gender, language, migration status, sexual orientation, or disability status can limit children's access to education. Our research has shown that discrimination knows no geographic limits, and in each region covered in our reporting, discrimination has played a role in the exploitation of children.

This year's report highlights that migration and refugee status, or simply being an ethnic minority, left many children vulnerable. In **Bangladesh**, over 400,000 Rohingya children are living in refugee camps following the Burmese military's ethnic cleansing operations in 2017. Historically, the government has permitted international organizations, such as UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNHCR, to provide some basic education services to primary school-aged Rohingya children, however, the government has further reduced access to humanitarian assistance. In **Moldova**, widespread discrimination against Roma has caused high dropout rates, leaving this population subject to child labor and forced begging more often than ethnically Moldovan children. In **Yemen**, the government failed to make efforts to address discrimination in schools against children from the Muhamasheen community, leading to their increased vulnerability to child labor. The situation in **Mauritania** is particularly troubling as the government has required proof of marriage and biological parents' citizenship for children to obtain a birth certificate since 2011. As a result, children born out of wedlock and many Haratine and Sub-Saharan ethnic minority children, including those of slave descent, have been prevented from being registered at birth. Because birth certificates are required for enrollment in secondary school in Mauritania, children as young as age 12 cannot access education, making them more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.

Gender discrimination also contributes to barriers to education that increase girls' vulnerability to exploitation in the worst forms of child labor. The ILO's previous global estimates on child labor had noted that gender dynamics play into distinct child risks and outcomes for boys and girls. Boys have made up a higher percentage of child labor, particularly hazardous child labor, worldwide in the past decade. At the same time, girls have made up a greater presence in household and domestic labor. In **Timor-Leste**, some school principals force girls to leave school when they become pregnant. Likewise, the Mainland Government of **Tanzania** explicitly supports the routine expulsion of pregnant students from public schools, making them more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. In **Nepal**, more than 32 percent of schools lack separate toilet facilities for girls, resulting in increased dropout rates around the time of puberty. The absence of sanitation facilities is not uncommon and also was found in **Cambodia**. In other countries, such as **Papua New Guinea** and **Sierra Leone**, girls face gender-based violence from teachers and other students, which may discourage their attendance or cause them to drop out. Finally, in countries such as **Burma** and **South Sudan**, young girls are forced into marriage, which not only subjects them to sexual violence but also denies them the right to education, continuing the cycle of exploitation and poverty.

Language remains a significant barrier to education. In **Paraguay**, a 2019 study estimated that half of all children in indigenous communities do not attend school. Children in these communities often speak the indigenous language Guaraní exclusively, whereas schools provide Spanish language education. The San ethnic community in **Botswana** also faces linguistic barriers in school settings, as do children in **Cambodia, Belize, Mexico**, and **Thailand**. All of these communities experienced higher rates of child labor.

An additional basis for discrimination may be a child's sexual orientation. In **Thailand**, for example, children identifying as LGBTQI+ experienced higher rates of harassment and bullying in school settings, which may lead to greater dropout rates and incidences of child labor. Children with disabilities also face structural barriers around the globe. In **Azerbaijan**, in particular, a general social stigma against individuals with disabilities discourages their inclusion in education, despite government efforts to expand inclusive services. In **Mongolia**, children with disabilities also face issues with accessing education.

The continued discrimination against children in school settings remains a key factor in the pervasiveness of child labor. When children are denied a safe, nurturing educational atmosphere, they are much more likely to be exploited for labor, sexual practices, or violent acts. That is why it is increasingly important for governments to ensure that discrimination is not tolerated, and the cyclical nature of child labor and poverty are addressed by ensuring equal access to education.

©Sean Sprague/Alamy

Child chopping dried cassava. Cambodia. 2012.

A number of countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, lack programs that reach children working in agriculture and domestic work, or those vulnerable to human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, forced begging, and hazardous street work. This is the case in **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Guinea-Bissau**, **Lesotho**, and **The Gambia**, among others. As most children in child labor are not in an employment relationship with a third-party employer but instead work on family farms and in family enterprises, it is critical to understand and address family reliance on children's labor in the absence of strong social protections and income support. There are not enough programs that address the most vulnerable groups, for example, indigenous and migrant populations, as well as those facing gender-specific child labor risks. Gender-specific child labor risks and outcomes are likely to persist with regard to migration, armed conflict, and climate change. Read more about gender-based discrimination in "Box 9: Vulnerability and LGBTQI+." The development of robust social programs that reach all children to provide support against the worst forms of child labor is key to making broader progress toward ending child labor. (45)

An additional challenge is the lack of reliable data on child labor. In a large number of countries, including, **Oman**, **South Africa, and Uzbekistan**, among others, statistics on child labor are simply neither collected nor published. For a more in-depth regional analysis of government efforts and challenges in 2020, see Figures 11-12.

Box 9

Vulnerability and LGBTQI+

Children thrive in safe and supportive environments, yet LGBTQI+ children are often excluded from these environments and at greater risk to child labor. Many LGBTQI+ children experience bullying and discrimination at school and may refuse to return. Deprived of access to vital learning, children may find themselves cut off from decent work as adults and unable to secure their futures. LGBTQI+ children also face challenges at home. If parental figures and guardians reject or abuse a child based on the child's sexual orientation or gender identity, that child may be forced into homelessness or risk exposure to further violence. Without education and social support, they are at risk of abuse, neglect, poor health, and violence. These risks contribute to a greater likelihood that a child may end up in child labor and may experience life-long challenges.

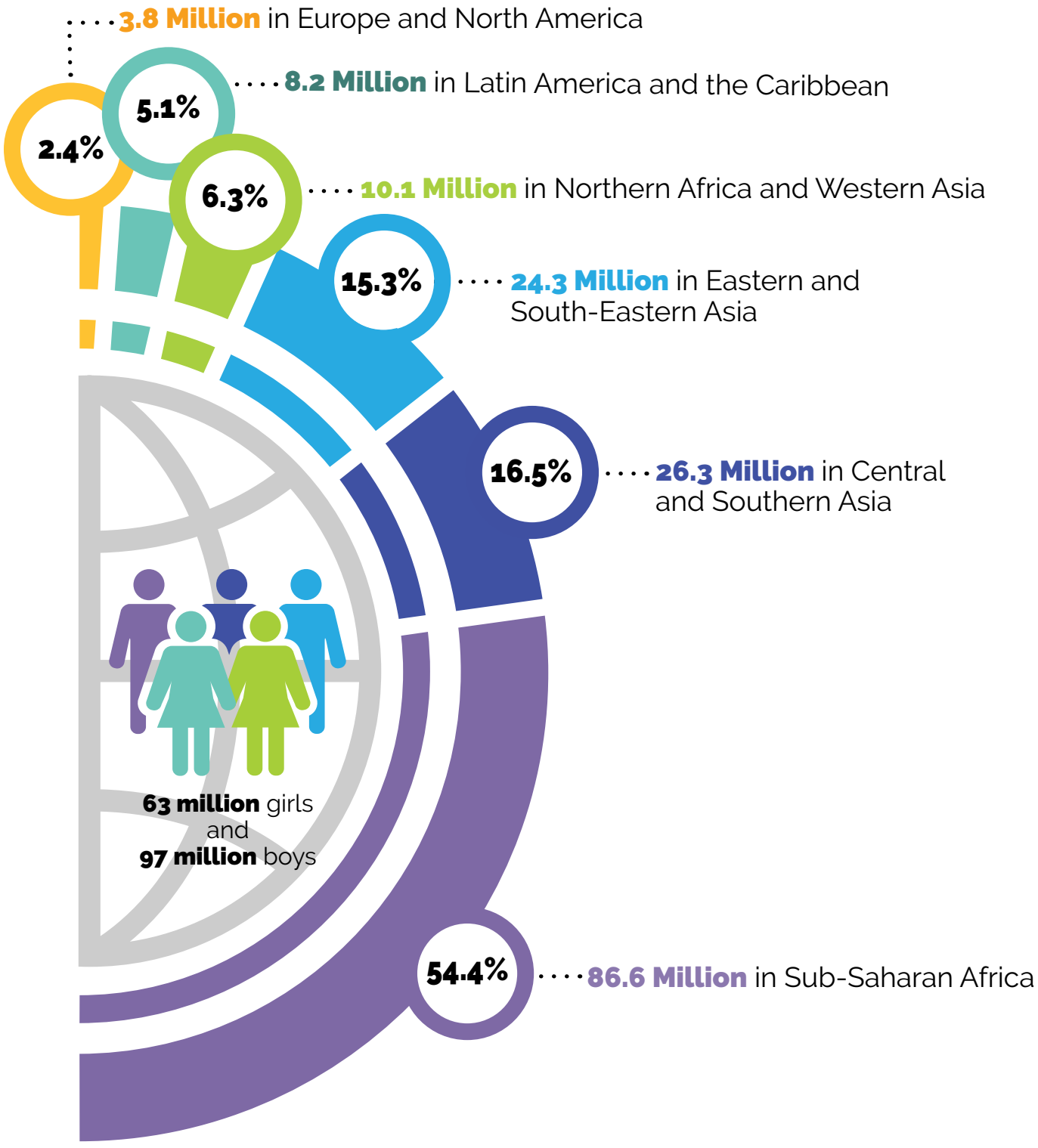
On February 4, 2021, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh reaffirmed the presidential action to promote and protect the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons around the world, including by pursuing an end to violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics. (46) The world must prioritize addressing vulnerabilities that LGBTQI+ children face to ensure that all persons can enjoy decent work and fulfill their full potential. This year's report highlights positive steps various countries have taken to address child labor issues in the LGBTQI+ population. For example, the Government of **Thailand** piloted a program designating its first shelter out of 85 to specifically provide services to LGBTQI+ human trafficking victims, including children. Rather than being met with the threat of violence, these children can connect with services specifically targeted to their needs.

Yet, many countries can do more. The protection of the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals requires not just awareness and support, but also collaborative efforts to actively address vulnerabilities. Governments alongside other stakeholders must pinpoint the risks that LGBTQI+ children face to ensure that the labor rights of people of all orientations and identities are safeguarded.

Figure 11

Child Labor Numbers

Percentage and Number of Child Laborers, 5-17 Years Old, By Region



*Due to low data coverage in some regions, the region-specific numbers do not add up to the global estimate.

Source: ILO and UNICEF. *Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward.* New York, 2021.

Figure 12

Regional Analysis of Government Efforts and Challenges

REGION	EFFORTS	CHALLENGES
Indo-Pacific	■ Collected and published updated data on child labor prevalence to inform national laws, policies, and social programs. ■ Launched and strengthened coordination mechanisms to improve responses to child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. ■ Directed funds to expand social protection programs for populations especially vulnerable to child labor and at particular risk as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.	■ Lack of legal prohibitions related to hazardous occupations and activities for children. ■ Decreased financial and human resources for labor inspectorates diminished enforcement of minimum age laws. ■ Migration to cities in pursuit of better educational opportunities increased vulnerabilities to domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation.
Europe & Eurasia	■ Collected and published data to improve understanding of the prevalence and nature of child labor, including hazardous work. ■ Provided labor inspectors with training and updated guidance to improve the enforcement of child labor laws. ■ Enacted new national action plans to strengthen governments' responses to child trafficking while expanding social services for victims.	■ Gaps in laws related to the use, procuring, and offering of children in all forms of commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities. ■ Limited authorization for labor inspectorates to conduct unannounced inspections or impose penalties. ■ Maintained or imposed moratoriums on labor inspections.
Latin America & the Caribbean	■ Mapped areas with vulnerable populations at high risk for child labor using data and evidence-based research. ■ Enhanced legal and social protections for refugees and migrant populations, enabling children from these groups to access health, education, and other social services. ■ Used virtual platforms to train labor inspectorates during the COVID-19 pandemic.	■ Legal framework gaps limit protections for children from commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and use in illicit activities. ■ Limited financial and human resources hindered labor law enforcement outside of the formal sector, leaving many children vulnerable to child labor exploitation. ■ Linguistic barriers and other forms of social discrimination within schools inhibited educational access for indigenous children and Afro-descendant children who are at high risk for child labor.
Middle East & North Africa	■ Trained judges on the harms of child labor and child soldier recruitment. ■ Increased labor inspections in agriculture and other high-risk sectors for child labor. ■ Enhanced support for social services, education, and vocational programs to mitigate children's vulnerability to the worst forms of child labor.	■ Lack of information on child labor prevalence and law enforcement efforts. ■ Educational barriers limit opportunities for migrant, IDP, and refugee children, former child soldiers, children with disabilities, and girls. ■ Continued involvement of government officials in child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and recruitment and use of child soldiers.
Sub-Saharan Africa	■ Adopted legislation to increase protections for children from hazardous work, commercial sexual exploitation, and child trafficking. ■ Drafted new national policies to prevent and eliminate child labor and child trafficking. ■ Increased funding for social support programs and cash transfers that benefit low-income families, vulnerable to child labor.	■ Gaps in data collection inhibit knowledge on the prevalence and nature of child labor. ■ Increased recruitment and use of children by non-state armed groups. ■ Limitations in authority for labor inspectors to conduct inspections or assess penalties inhibited enforcement efforts.

Call to Action

Eradicating child labor requires a holistic, accelerated approach. It is time to recognize that concerted and consistent action is necessary to achieve demonstrable change. ILAB remains committed to protecting the dignity of workers everywhere. This report demonstrates that, in many countries, dignity remains under threat as global progress against child labor has stalled. While the path to a world free of child labor is fraught with challenges, we must continue toward this ambitious goal. We must all work in tandem to create meaningful change to eradicate child labor on a global scale. Our greatest hope for a better tomorrow depends upon our ability to build a world where children are free to learn and play and not toil and labor.

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Journalist Awards depicting child labor in Pakistan. Pakistan. March 21, 2012.

© Armando Arorizo

Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh tours Rainbow Rising childcare center in Irvine, California. July 9, 2021.

The U.S. Experience

"As workers return to the workplace, the U.S. Department of Labor is committed to ensuring their well-being and safety. This includes combating labor abuses such as child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, both in the U.S. and abroad."

— Marty Walsh, Secretary of Labor

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting social distancing measures and partial economic shutdown of businesses, schools, and activities, have had a profound impact on the U.S. labor market as a whole and on individuals' jobs and livelihoods. As of summer 2021, nearly 10 million Americans remained unemployed, 14 million renters had fallen behind on rent payments, and 29 million adults–as well as at least 8 million children–were struggling with food insecurity. Women, communities of color, and underserved families have suffered disproportionately from the economic fallout of the pandemic.

While the U.S. labor market continues to improve, significant labor and employment challenges remain. These include restoring employment numbers to pre-pandemic levels, strengthening occupational safety and health at work, and eliminating labor force participation barriers for disadvantaged populations, including women, people with disabilities, people of color, youth, and veterans.

The pandemic has underscored the need for greater protections for children and vulnerable workers in times of crisis. The U.S. Department of Labor is ready to tackle these challenges and is committed to building back better, especially for our young workers.

Our domestic initiatives have helped to yield safe and dynamic job opportunities for America's workers. The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces regulations on the legal working age, permissible hours of work, earned wages, and hazardous occupations prohibited for minor employees. Keeping work environments safe for all employees, regardless of age, is the mission of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Office of Disability Employment Policy helps youth and young adults with disabilities find success in employment and adulthood, while the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) helps them enter the workforce and be productive. Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics gathers data on a variety of subjects, including child labor.

Together, these agencies work to expand employment opportunities, protect workers' paths to meaningful and rewarding work, and pave the way to a fairer and stronger economy for everyone.

The Federal Minimum Ages for Work

Since 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) has set crucial standards for the safety, well-being, and development of children engaged in work. Child labor provisions under the FLSA are designed to protect children's involvement in educational opportunities and prohibit children's employment in jobs that are detrimental to their health and safety. The FLSA includes restrictions on maximum working hours and types of permissible occupational fields for children under age 16.

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

- A minimum age of 14 for most employment in non-hazardous, non-agricultural industries, and limits on the times of day, number of hours, and tasks that can be performed by 14- and 15-year-olds.
- A minimum age of 18 for employment in hazardous occupations as deemed by the Department's issuance of 17 non-agricultural Hazardous Occupations Orders.
- Exceptions for agricultural and non-agricultural employment. For example, the FLSA does not restrict the work that 16- and 17-year-olds may perform in agricultural employment, and it permits youth under the age of 14 to work in non-hazardous agricultural employment outside school hours with parental approval.

States also play a critical role alongside the Federal Government in ensuring that children are protected from labor exploitation, both in enforcing child labor standards and in providing care and preventative services (see Box 10 to read about an effort in California). All states have child labor standards and mandatory school attendance laws. When state and federal child labor standards differ, the rule that provides the most protection is the one that must be followed. For example, Washington state and Wisconsin have stricter regulations on child labor in agriculture than the FLSA. In these states, the minimum age for employment in agriculture is 18 during school hours. California, Hawaii, and New Hampshire also set their minimum age for employment in agriculture at 18 during school hours and 16 for individuals who are not in school.

Box 10

California Bill Aims to Protect Foster Children from Child Labor Trafficking

As the saying goes, "Knowledge is power." When caring for child labor trafficking victims, knowledge also is key to preventing re-victimization and trauma. That is why, in May 2021, the California State Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 584, which requires foster parents who receive child labor and trafficking victims to complete family resource training on how to provide care and supervision to this vulnerable population. California Senator Brian Jones (R-Santee) noted that "foster kids, in particular, are vulnerable to being targeted by criminals for child labor trafficking" and the bill would provide "critical information to protect children who have been victims" or could become targets. The bill aims to close a gap in California's foster parent legislation, which already included a requirement that foster parents complete training on providing care to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The bill is now awaiting review and approval in Assembly committees. (47)

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Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh arrives for Q and A with members of Luina Local 652 in Santa Ana, California. July 8, 2021.

Wage and Hour Division

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the U.S. workforce included 4.7 million teens between the ages of 16 and 19 in 2020. And this is why the WHD looks for employer compliance with the FLSA's child labor provisions in every investigation it conducts. In fiscal year 2020, the WHD recorded child labor violations in more than 850 investigations.

In those cases where child labor was identified, the WHD found that 3,395 minors were working in violation of the FLSA. Additionally, in 266 of these cases, violations of Hazardous Occupations Orders (HOs) were found with a total of 633 minors employed in violation of HOs. In fiscal year 2020, the WHD assessed $3,579,570.80 in child labor civil money penalties. The most common violations often involve the failure to comply with the hour standards for 14- and 15-year-olds in non-agricultural industries, and the failure to comply with HOs in non-agricultural industries for 16- and 17-year-olds (see Figure 13 for an overview of WHD's 2020 enforcement data).

For example, in 2020, the WHD investigations against Sunscape LLC in Florida (48), Greenfield Market in Michigan (49), and Trinidad Resort & Club LLC, also in Michigan, all resulted in penalties applied under the FLSA's child labor provisions. The WHD found that these companies were employing underage children to work either excessive or unlawful hours, including working more than 8 hours a day and before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. As a result of these investigations, the WHD collected more than $33,000 in fines. In another case, the WHD filed a lawsuit against Pennsylvania Youth Club Inc. and assessed a $103,051 civil penalty after uncovering that children 12 to 13 years of age worked as late as 10 p.m. for the organization as door-to-door salespersons, in violation of FLSA regulations. (50)

In May 2021, the WHD announced the findings of its investigation against Stover & Sons Contractors, Inc. involving the fatal fall of a 16-year-old boy from on top of a hotel worksite. The WHD found that a construction contractor from Madison, Wisconsin, violated two Hazardous Occupations Orders of the FLSA child labor

provisions. The orders ban minors from carrying out roofing activities or operating and riding on a power-driven hoisting apparatus. Further investigation determined that the employer also violated child labor laws when it allowed the boy to work more than 8 hours per day and more than 40 hours per week when he was 15 years of age. The WHD assessed Stover & Sons a $122,364 civil penalty under the Child Labor Enhanced Penalty Program. The program permits the WHD to assess penalties of up to $59,413 for each child labor violation related to the death or serious injury of a worker under age 18 for violations that occurred on or before January 15, 2021. An investigation by the Tennessee Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which has jurisdiction over the case's workplace safety portion, also led the agency to issue citations to the employer. Stover & Sons is currently contesting the penalties. (51)

The WHD has long maintained that enforcement alone will never be sufficient to achieve its mission of protecting our nation's workers. Through its long-standing YouthRules! initiative and accompanying resource website, the WHD continues to conduct educational outreach events to reach working youth, their parents, their educators, and their employers. These efforts aim to raise awareness of child labor protections and promote voluntary compliance.

The WHD also is making a concerted effort to protect some of the most vulnerable essential workers during this pandemic. In March 2021, the WHD launched a nationwide education, outreach, and enforcement initiative targeting farmworkers, who have had to remain working on the frontlines for low wages despite the COVID risks. The campaign aims to inform farmworkers and advocates of their labor rights while also reiterating to agricultural employers their responsibilities. (52)

Figure 13

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

Fiscal Year 2020 Enforcement Data

Number of Minors Employed in Violation of the FLSA's Child Labor Requirements: **3,395**

Number of Minors Employed in Violation of Hazardous Occupations Orders: **633**

Total Penalties Imposed for Child Labor Violations: **$3,579,570.80** in civil money penalties

More specific information about each of these cases can be found in the WHD's enforcement database at ***dol.gov/DataEnforcement*** *and WHD' website at* ***dol.gov/WHDFiscalYearData***

In April 2021, the WHD co-hosted a national online dialogue with teens, parents, educators, employers, and other interested stakeholders to gather ideas on how USDOL can connect better with teens. The WHD will use these valuable insights to enhance efforts to inform teens about avoiding workplace hazards; the types of work they are allowed to do; age restrictions for work hours; employer wage requirements; employment training, including apprenticeships; and workplace discrimination. This event was co-hosted by the Department's **Office of Disability Employment Policy**, **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**, **Wage and Hour Division**, **Office of Compliance Initiatives**, and **Employment and Training Administration**. The dialogue is part of the Office of Disability Employment Policy's **ePolicyWorks** initiative.

In May 2021, the WHD also hosted a webinar for teens, parents, employers, and educators to review how federal and state laws protect teen workers. WHD also launched the "Essential Workers – Essential Protections" initiative to offer training to workers and employers on critical workplace protections. As the nation's recovery continues, we are committed to educating workers of all ages about labor standards, particularly for those employed in essential, public-facing occupations

"Employing young people provides valuable work experience, but that experience must never come at the expense of their safety or education. Businesses that employ minors must comply with federal laws that protect youth in the workforce."

Timolin Mitchell
Wage and Hour Division District Director
Detroit, Michigan
February 8, 2021
(Release Number 21-131-CHI)

Employment and Training Administration

Through its various workforce training and development programs, The ETA works to remove barriers to meaningful work and open economic mobility to more Americans. The ETA offers such programs as the Registered Apprenticeship Program, YouthBuild, Job Corps, and Reentry Employment Opportunities. These programs especially equip and empower populations that face unique employment barriers, including youth who are out of school or involved in the justice system, by providing them with work-readiness skills and industry accreditation pathways.

"Child labor laws exist to strike a balance between providing meaningful work experience for young people and keeping them safe on the job. We urge employers to review their practices to ensure that minors are not exposed to hazardous occupations and that they are in compliance with child labor laws." (53)

Wildali de Jesus
Wage and Hour Division District Director
Orlando, Florida
January 4, 2021
(Release Number 20-2290-ATL)

The ETA will play a key role in America's economic recovery as it continues the expansion of registered apprenticeship programs to generate skilled, well-paying jobs for American workers and includes measures to create more job opportunities through youth apprenticeships. For example, ETA awarded over $42 million in Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grants in June 2020 and in 2021 is awarding approximately $87 million in Sate Apprenticeship

Expansion, Equity, and Innovation (SAEEI) Grants to increase registered apprenticeship program participation by youth and other under-represented populations. (54; 55) In addition, through $89 million in YouthBuild grants, the ETA will support state efforts to employ non-studying and unemployed youth between the ages of 16 and 24 in construction, health care, information technology, and other in-demand industries. The ETA has, to date, awarded 68 grants that fund organizations providing workplace skills training, classroom instruction, and job placement. (56)

"Protecting our youngest workers continues to be a top priority for the Wage and Hour Division. Child labor laws ensure that when young people work, the work does not jeopardize their health, well-being or educational opportunities. Employers of minors have a responsibility to understand their obligations under the law, and to comply with those requirements."

James Cain
Wage and Hour Division District Director
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 20, 2021
(Release Number 21-556-PHI)

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Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh arrives for a tour and conversation on workforce and childcare at the Rosa Estrada Day Care in San Diego, California. August 23, 2021.

©Muntaka Chasant

Ibrahim, age 11, uses rocks and his bare hands to break apart cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs to recover shadow masks and aperture grilles at Agbogbloshie, Ghana's largest e-waste processing area. Accra, Ghana. May 11, 2020.

About the Iqbal Masih Award

for the Elimination of Child Labor

The United States Congress established the Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor in 2008 to recognize exceptional efforts by an individual, company, organization, or national government to end the worst forms of child labor. The award reflects the spirit of Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani child sold into bonded labor as a carpet weaver at age 4. He escaped his servitude at age 10 and became an outspoken advocate of children's rights, drawing international attention to his fight against child labor. Iqbal was killed in Pakistan at age 12 in 1995.

In 2021, the U.S. Secretary of Labor selected Norma Flores López, advocate for farmworker children, and the International Labor Organization, a United Nations tripartite agency, to receive the Iqbal Masih Award. The recipients received the award in recognition of their extraordinary efforts to combat child labor.

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

Norma Flores López receiving the 2021 Iqbal Masih Award.

Norma Flores López

Ms. Flores López grew up in a family of farmworkers and began working in fields around the United States when she was 12 years old. At the age of 17, she became a spokesperson for the "Children in the Fields" campaign–a campaign dedicated to ensuring that farmworker children are protected and given an opportunity to succeed in life. For the past 10 years, Ms. López has led the **Child Labor Coalition**'s (CLC) Domestic Issues Committee, working to improve protections for child farmworkers and other vulnerable children. Through her leadership on the Domestic Issues Committee, Ms. Flores López has leveraged the resources of more than a dozen organizations and helped them engage in the fight against child labor. She also has led the CLC to participate in the successful fight to improve pesticide protections for child farmworkers under the Worker Protection Standard and has fought to preserve protective buffers around child and adult workers in the fields to help prevent pesticide exposure. Since 2017, she has served on the board of the Global March Against Child Labor–the premier anti-child labor advocacy group founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder (middle), receiving the 2021 Iqbal Masih Award with A/PDAS Scott Busby (left) and Charge d'Affaires Benjamin W. Moeling (right).

International Labor Organization

Since its formation more than a century ago, the **International Labor Organization** (ILO) has been a leader in the fight to end all forms of child labor, including the worst forms of child labor, bringing international attention to the issue and inspiring action by individuals and organizations around the world. As the United Nations' only tripartite agency, the ILO brings together governments, employers, and workers' representatives from 187 member states to establish international labor standards, develop policies and devise programs promoting fundamental principles and rights at work, and combat abusive labor practices such as child labor. In 2020, ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor achieved universal ratification for the first time in the ILO's history. The ILO has played a central role in the development of a worldwide movement against child labor, including through the organization and implementation of landmark global child labor conferences, including the upcoming Fifth Global Conference, which will take place in South Africa in 2022. Additionally, the ILO has produced global estimates on child labor since the beginning in 2000, which have raised awareness of the scope and nature of the problem, tracked progress over time, and identified key challenges still to be overcome. As the Secretariat of Alliance 8.7, an SDG multi-stakeholder partnership to put an end to child labor and forced labor, the ILO has played a key role in mobilizing a coordinated response through a network of more than 250 organizations to address the emerging challenges of COVID-19 in affected communities and to mitigate the risks of a resurgence of child labor and forced labor.

Appendix 1

Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

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

Appendix 2

Definitions Related to Child Labor and Forced Labor

Definitions related to child labor are guided by ILO C. 138 on Minimum Age and ILO C. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor. The ILO's Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labor, developed during the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), and amendments made during the 20th ICLS, provide the international framework for measuring children's work. See Appendix 3 for additional definitions.

Working Children

Per the Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labor developed during the 18th ICLS, working children are those engaged in any productive activity for at least 1 hour during the reference period. Productive activity includes market production and certain types of non-market production, principally the production of goods and services for their families' use. The 20th ICLS introduced changes to the definition of working children to align that definition with internationally accepted definitions of work for adults. The new definition classifies working children as those engaged in any activity to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use. In summary, the new definition includes the production of additional types of services for family use, unpaid trainee work by children, volunteer work by children, and other work activities by children. Since most countries are in the process of adapting survey instruments to reflect this new definition, the definition of working children from the 18th ICLS Resolution has been used in this report. The work that children perform may be within the formal or informal economy, inside or outside of family settings, whether paid or unpaid. This includes children working in domestic service outside the child's own household for an employer, paid or unpaid. (45; 57)

Child Labor

Child labor is a subset of working children and is work below the minimum age for work, as established in national legislation that conforms to international standards. The definition includes the worst forms of child labor. Child labor is a subset of working children because child labor excludes children who work only a few hours a week in permitted light work and those who are above the minimum age who engage in work not classified as a worst form of child labor. (45; 58)

Worst Forms of Child Labor

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

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

Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor

For this report, the term categorical worst forms of child labor refers to child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182. This category does not include the worst forms of child labor identified under Article 3(d) as "hazardous work." (5)

Hazardous Work

The term hazardous work refers to the worst form of child labor identified in ILO C. 182, Article 3(d), "work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children." ILO C. 182, Article 4, directs countries to consult with employers and workers to identify the types of hazardous work that should be prohibited by law or regulation. Hazardous work lists may describe specific activities, occupations, industries, or conditions. (5)

Forced Labor

Forced labor, under international standards, is defined as all work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the worker does not offer him or herself voluntarily. (59) Forced labor is work obtained by force, fraud, or coercion, including (1) by threat of serious harm to, or physical restraint against, any person; (2) by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that if the person did not perform such labor or services, the person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or (3) by means of the abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process. (60) Circumstances that may give rise to involuntary work, when undertaken under deception or uninformed, include, *inter alia*, unfree recruitment at birth or through transaction such as slavery or bonded labor; situations in which the worker must perform a job of a different nature from that specified during recruitment without his or her consent; abusive requirements for overtime or on-call work that were not previously agreed to with the employer; work in hazardous conditions to which the worker has not consented, with or without compensation or protective equipment; work with very low or no wages; degrading living conditions imposed by the employer; work for other employers than agreed to; work for a longer period of time than agreed to; and work with no or limited freedom to terminate the work contract. (61)

Forced Child Labor

Forced child labor is a categorical worst form of child labor under ILO C. 182. (5) Children are in forced child labor if subjected to work under the threat or menace of penalty. Children older than the minimum age for work are in forced child labor if work is involuntary and they are under the menace of penalty. For children younger than the minimum age, involuntariness does not need to be established because children under the minimum age cannot legally consent to work. Forced child labor also includes work performed with or for the child's parents for a third party under the threat or menace of any penalty directly applied to the child or parents. All children who are made to work as a result of parental forced labor are engaged in forced child labor. (62)

Appendix 3

ILO Conventions Related to Child Labor and Forced Labor

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

ILO Convention No. 138: Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973

ILO C. 138 establishes that the minimum age for admission to employment or work in any occupation "shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, and, in any case, shall not be less than fifteen" (Article 2(3)). Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum legal working age of 14 when ratifying the convention. Additionally, Article 7(1) says that national laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of children ages 13 to 15 in light work. Countries that have specified a minimum legal working age of 14 may permit light work for children ages 12 to 14. (63)

ILO Convention No. 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999

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

Among other actions, ILO C. 182 requires ratifying countries to take effective and timebound measures to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor; help remove children from the worst forms of child labor and provide for their rehabilitation and social integration; ensure that children removed from the worst forms of child labor have access to free basic education and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training; identify and reach out to children at special risk; take into account the special situation of girls; consult with employer and worker organizations to create appropriate mechanisms to monitor implementation of the convention; and assist one another in implementing the convention. (5)

Worst Forms of Child Labor Recommendation No. 190, 1999

Recommendation No. 190 supplements ILO C. 182 and provides non-binding practical guidance in applying the Convention. Among other provisions, it includes a list of working conditions and types of work that should be considered when determining what comprises hazardous work.

ILO Convention No. 29: Forced Labor, 1930

ILO C. 29 prohibits all forms of forced or compulsory labor, which is defined as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself voluntarily." (59)

ILO Convention No. 105: Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957

ILO C. 105 prohibits forced or compulsory labor as a means of political coercion or education, or as a punishment for holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social, or economic system; as a method of mobilizing and using labor for economic development; as a means of labor discipline; as a punishment for having participated in strikes; and as a means of racial, social, national, or religious discrimination. (64)

Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labor Convention, 1930

The Forced Labor Protocol reaffirms the forced labor definition in ILO C. 29. It requires ratifying countries to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate forced and compulsory labor, sanction perpetrators, and provide victims with protection and access to appropriate remedies, such as compensation. It also requires ratifying countries to develop a national policy and plan of action to address forced or compulsory labor in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations. (65) The Protocol supplements ILO C. 29 and, as such, only ILO member states that have ratified the convention can ratify the Protocol.

Forced Labor (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation No. 203, 2014

Recommendation No. 203 provides non-binding practical guidance in the areas of prevention, protection of victims and ensuring their access to justice and remedies, enforcement, and international cooperation. It supplements both the Protocol and the Convention. (66)

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Hazem, age 11 and a Syrian refugee, wants to be a mechanic in the future. He is a currently a Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) student at the Lebanese Organization of Studies and Training (LOST). Lebanon. March 20, 2019.

Appendix 4

How to Read a TDA Country Profile

Country Overview: Each country profile begins with an overview for 2020 in a single paragraph, starting with a statement identifying the assessment level assigned to the country for 2020. Following the statement of assessment, the paragraph offers a summary of key findings in the country profile. The narrative includes any meaningful efforts taken by a government, defined as efforts in key areas where the government advanced its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The narrative also notes the most common or egregious forms of child labor found in the country and highlights areas in which key gaps in government efforts remain.

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

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

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

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

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

Mexico

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

In 2020, Mexico made significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. During the reporting period, the government published the 2019 National Child Labor Survey, the results of which will be used to develop policies and programs to combat child labor. In addition, it ratified International Labor Organization Convention 189 on Domestic Workers, and revised the Migration Law and Refugee Assistance and Asylum Law to prioritize the rights of migrant and refugee children, including prohibiting the detention of children in migrant centers and ensuring migrant and refugee children have educational access. Moreover, state governments investigated and prosecuted at least 199 child trafficking cases. The government also approved the creation of a national network of Local Committees to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labor and Protect Adolescent Workers of the Permitted Age to improve coordination efforts to address the worst forms of child labor at the municipal and local levels. Further, it published the National Program on Human Rights 2020–2024 and the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare's National Program for 2020–2024. However, children in Mexico are subjected to 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 production and trafficking of drugs. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture, including in the production of chile peppers, coffee, sugarcane, and tomatoes. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the Mexican economy, resulting in a significant increase in the number of children engaging in child labor. Although

I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

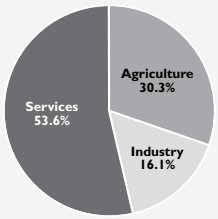
Children in Mexico are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and in illicit activities, such as the production and trafficking of drugs. (1-5) Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture, including in the production of chile peppers, coffee, sugarcane, and tomatoes. (6-10) Data from the National Child Labor Survey (ENTI 2019), which was funded by USDOL, show that 3.1 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 engage in child labor, including hazardous household chores. It also shows that 52 percent of child laborers engage in hazardous work and

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	4.0 (866,293)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	97.5
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	4.4
Primary Completion Rate (%)		102.3

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2018, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021. (13)
Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Encuesta Nacional de Trabajo Infantil (ENTI), 2019.(14)

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	Working in agriculture,† including in the production of avocados, chile peppers, coffee, cucumbers, eggplants, beans (green), melons, onions, sugarcane, tobacco,† and tomatoes (6-10,15-18)
	Cattle raising (19)

† 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.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the Mexican economy, resulting in a significant increase in the number of children engaging in child labor. Experts estimate that as a result of the pandemic, the number of people living in poverty in Mexico will increase by 7.9 percent and the number of children engaging in child labor will increase by 5.5 percent. (5,24,42) Despite a government program to transmit public education classes via Internet, television, and radio during the pandemic, reports suggest that at least 2.5 million children did not continue their basic education. This includes 800,000 students who did not transition from lower

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Mexico 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	✓

The government's laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 123 of the Constitution; Article 22 *bis* of the Labor Code; Article 47 of the Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents; Article 6 of the General Law on Education (18,86-88)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 175 of the Labor Code (18)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 175–176 of the Labor Code (18)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 1 and 5 of the Constitution; Articles 11, 12, and 22 of the Trafficking in Persons Law; Article 47 of the Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents (86,87,89)

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) entered into force on July 1, 2020. The agreement contains a labor chapter with fully enforceable labor obligations, including on internationally recognized labor

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

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

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS)	Leads efforts to enforce child labor laws, conduct labor inspections, and refer cases for investigation. The Federal Prosecutor for the Defense of Work, an independent entity under STPS, prosecutes cases in which workers' rights are violated, including cases with workers under age 18. (18,99-104) The STPS inspectorate is responsible for labor law enforcement in 22 industrial sectors under federal jurisdiction, including the sugar and tobacco industries, three types of enterprises, and labor matters affecting two or more states. The state-level labor inspectorates are responsible for labor law enforcement in all other situations. (18,86,105) During the reporting period, STPS collaborated with USDOL on two projects to strengthen its capacity to enforce labor laws and train Mexican workers and unions on labor standards and identifying labor violations. (106-110)
Attorney General of the Republic (FGR)	Prosecutes crimes involving human trafficking, including criminal violations related to child trafficking and other worst forms of child labor. The Attorney General of the Republic's Specialized Unit for Crimes against Women and Trafficking in Persons (FEVIMTRA) and the Specialized Unit on Trafficking in Minors, People, and Organs (UEITMPO) are responsible for investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases at the federal level. (4,104,111-114) In addition, all 32 states have specialized Trafficking in Persons (TIP) prosecutors or units, which are responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking at the state level. Some state TIP units or prosecutors also prosecute cases of gender-based violence. (50,59,115,116) In addition, federal and state TIP units receive some cases of child trafficking from the National Institute of Migration and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance. (76,78,117-120)
National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH)	Independent ombudsman body. Receives complaints and conducts investigations on human rights violations, including cases involving the worst forms of child labor. (121)
Conciliation and Arbitration Boards and Labor Tribunals and Conciliation Centers	Tripartite boards which mediate and adjudicate labor disputes according to federal and state labor laws, including processing cases in which children between the ages of 15 and 18 request permission to work. Beginning in 2020, these boards are being replaced by federal- and state-level Conciliation Centers and Labor Tribunals, which will oversee conciliation and adjudication of labor disputes, respectively. (18,41,86,122-125) In 2020, STPS and state governments also began establishing systems and institutions to address 2019 labor reform obligations to strengthen freedom of association and collective bargaining rights. This included dedicating $69 million to establish Conciliation Centers and independent Labor Tribunals in eight states, begin file digitization, and carry out trainings on labor reform implementation. (108,126-131)
Secretariat of Health's National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF)	Provides social assistance to child victims, including shelter and legal services. Employs representatives at the national, state, and municipal levels. (87,104,132) At the federal and state levels, also employs special prosecutors to carry out legal action against crimes related to children and adolescent rights, including violations related to the worst forms of child labor. (87,104,132) During school holidays, some state-level SNDIF ministries conduct operations to monitor for child labor in the informal sector. (133-145)

Table 6 and Table 7 provide data on labor law and criminal law enforcement efforts, respectively, in 2019 and 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2020, labor law enforcement agencies in Mexico took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including human and financial resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Labor Inspectorate Funding	$1,449,826 (155)	$1,420,784 (156)
Number of Labor Inspectors	421 (104)	447 (41)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (106)	Yes (41,152)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	N/A	Yes (156)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	N/A (156)
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown (157)	No (41)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	35,981† (104)	29,177‡ (41)
Number Conducted at Worksite	35,981† (104)	29,177‡ (41)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	3 (158)	1 (158)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (104)	Unknown (156)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (104)	Unknown (156)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (159)	Yes (41)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (160)	Yes (41)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (104,159,160)	Yes (41,152)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Unknown (159,160)	Yes (41)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (160)	Yes (41)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (160)	Yes (156)

† Data are for federal inspectorate only. (104)
‡ Data are for federal inspectorate only. (41)

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Training for Investigators	Yes (153)	Yes (49)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	No (41)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (153)	Yes (49)
Number of Investigations	31 (49,153)	601 (49)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown (153)	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	31 (153)	Unknown (49)
Number of Convictions	4 (153)	43 (49)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (153)	Yes (49)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (153,179)	Yes (49)

In 2020, state-level prosecutors reported investigating and prosecuting at least 199 cases involving child trafficking victims. (180) In addition, the National Trafficking in Persons Hotline, managed by the Citizens' Council for Safety and Justice of Mexico City, received 2,117 reports of human trafficking and referred cases to the Attorney General of the Republic's Specialized Unit for Crimes against Women and Trafficking in Persons (FEVIMTRA), the Specialized Unit on Trafficking in Minors, People, and Organs (UEITMPO), and state-level

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 funding.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Inter-Institutional Commission for Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Protection of Adolescent Workers of the Permitted Age in Mexico (CITI)	Coordinates Mexico's activities to develop policies, approve programs, and coordinate, monitor, and evaluate efforts to combat child labor, especially its worst forms. Chaired by STPS and includes representatives from the secretariats of the Interior, Economy, Foreign Affairs, Wellbeing, Agriculture, Transportation, Education, Health, Tourism, Social Security, SNDIF, and FGR. (156) Meets on a quarterly basis and includes NGO networks, international technical and financial partners, such as UNODC and IOM, and bilateral partners, including the United States. (156,160) Met regularly during the reporting period and approved the creation of a national network of Local Committees to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labor and Protect Adolescent Workers of the Permitted Age* to improve coordination efforts to address the worst forms of child labor at the municipal and local levels. In addition, implemented a temporary working group to develop policies to prevent child labor during the pandemic. (156)

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 policy implementation and coverage of all worst forms of child labor.

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

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

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

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

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

Section VII: Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor The last section of each country profile (Table 11) is a set of suggested actions for the country to consider taking in order to advance the elimination of child labor.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Program for the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (2020–2024)†	Aims to strengthen the fundamental rights of work and to increase labor force participation in the formal sector. The plan prioritizes combating child labor as part of STPS' social inclusion strategy. (197)
National Human Rights Program (2020–2024)†	Aims to increase the national well-being of the general population and to ensure equality and equity. Includes actions to ensure children's rights and combat child labor. (156,198)
National Strategy for Inclusive Education (2019–2024)	Supports inclusive education for vulnerable children, including migrant and indigenous children. (199,200) During the reporting period, supported the implementation of the *Aprende en Casa* program to provide educational services for 25 million students, from pre-school through upper secondary school, including a radio component to reach indigenous children, during the pandemic. (43)
Integral Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y México	Aims to support strategic economic development in Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries to address the root causes of migration and increase employment in the region. In 2020, supported the implementation of the *Jovenes Construyendo el Futuro* program in Honduras and El Salvador, and continued to fund and operate the *Centros Integradores para el Migrante* shelters in the states of Baja California and one in Chihuahua. These shelters operate as "integration centers," assisting foreign migrants in obtaining employment and providing social services, including educational access, for migrants and their children. (201-207)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.
‡ The government has other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (208)

Mexico became a Pathfinder country under Alliance 8.7 in 2019. This involves accelerating commitments toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, which calls for the eradication of forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking by 2030, and the eradication of child labor by 2025. (209,210) As a Pathfinder country, the government developed and implemented the Alliance 8.7 Roadmap to Eradicate Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Trafficking in Persons, which includes the goals of improving information generation on child and forced labor, strengthening coordination between the CITI and the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Prevention and Punishment of Human Trafficking Crimes, and establishing preventative actions to combat child and forced labor in supply chains. In 2020, the government also developed and published a diagnostic document on gaps and priority actions to eradicate child labor and reported on initiatives to combat child labor and forced labor. (209,211)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

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 the adequacy of efforts to address the problem in all sectors and in all states.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Secretariat of Public Education Programs for Indigenous and Migrant Children*	Nationwide Secretariat of Public Education- funded programs to support public education for children in indigenous and migrant communities. These programs include the Indigenous People's Education Diversity Program, a $3.5 million program created to support the diverse education of indigenous people using a multi-language and multi-cultural approach, and the Educational Program for Migrant School Population, a $3.5 million program created to support centers of migrant education and improve migrant teaching practices using multi-language and multi-cultural techniques. (41)
Benito Juárez Wellbeing National Scholarship Program†	Secretariat of Public Education cash transfer program that offers two types of scholarships for families living in poverty and students at risk of school desertion. The Wellbeing Basic Education Family Scholarship provides bi-monthly payments of $80 per household for all children under age 15 enrolled in school, while the Benito Juárez Scholarship provides bi-monthly payments of $80 to each child enrolled in high school. (213-215) Although the program reaches a high number of students, it has been criticized for providing insufficient cash transfers, lacking monitoring and evaluation, and having implementation issues. (216-221) In 2020, the program assisted scholarship participants age 15 years and older to establish personal bank accounts to facilitate the scholarship cash transfer. The program also carried out surveys at 50,000 schools in marginalized and rural areas to increase outreach and enroll more students of indigenous descent. (222,223)
Support for Indigenous Education Program†	Implemented by the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples to support educational access of children from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities through scholarships, boarding houses, and nutritional support. (224) In 2020, the program assisted 73,912 children through the program's *Casas y Comedores de la Niñez Indígena* and *Casas y Comedores Comunitarios del Estudiante Indígena*. (225)
Assistance for At-Risk Minors and Adolescents Program†	Implemented by SNDIF at the state and municipal levels to assist youth at risk for child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and in illicit activities, by providing shelters, psychosocial assistance, and training. Research found the program was active during the reporting period in a few states and municipalities, but it is not implemented across all states and municipalities where the program is needed. (41,156)

* Program was launched during the reporting period.
† Program is funded by the Government of Mexico.
‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (41,156,232-238)

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 Mexico (Table 11).

Appendix 5

TDA Country Assessment Criteria

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

Significant Advancement

For a country to be assessed as having significantly advanced efforts in 2020, the country must have (1) instituted the minimum requirements related to laws and regulations, mechanisms, and programs to address and prevent the worst forms of child labor (see Exhibit 1); and (2) during the reporting period, made meaningful efforts in all relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking the suggested actions recommended in the 2019 report.

Exhibit 1

Minimum Requirements Needed To Be Considered for a Significant Advancement Assessment

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

Moderate Advancement

A country moderately advanced its efforts in eliminating the worst forms of child labor in 2020 if it made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in some relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking the suggested actions recommended in 2019.

Minimal Advancement

Three types of countries made minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2020. The first is a country that made meaningful efforts during the reporting period in a few relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs, which may have included taking the suggested actions recommended in 2019.

The other two types of countries are those that, regardless of meaningful efforts made in relevant areas, minimally advanced as a result of establishing or failing to remedy regressive or significantly detrimental laws, policies, or practices that delayed advancement in the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Examples of regressive or significantly detrimental laws, policies, or practices include prohibiting unannounced labor inspections; abolishing the country's labor inspectorate; placing a moratorium on labor inspections; recruiting or using children in armed conflict; prohibiting girls who are pregnant from attending regular public schools or taking secondary and postsecondary school entrance exams; and a pattern of detaining, arresting, charging, or prosecuting worst forms of child labor victims for any offense that is the direct result of their victimization. The following points make distinctions between regression and continued law, policy, or practice:

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

No Advancement

Three types of countries made no advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in 2020. The first is a country that made no meaningful efforts to advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period.

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

- **No Efforts and Complicit in Forced Child Labor.** This type of country made no meaningful efforts, took no suggested actions reported in 2019, and had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents in 2020.
- **Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor.** This type of country made meaningful efforts, which may have included taking the suggested actions reported in 2019, but had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents in 2020.

No Assessment

This assessment is reserved for countries in which the population of children is either non-existent or extremely small (fewer than 50), there is no evidence of the worst forms of child labor and the country appears to have an adequate preventive legal and enforcement framework on child labor, or when a country is included in the report for the first time or receives a suggested action for the first time. This year, no assessment has been made regarding Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and Wallis and Futuna.

TDA Country Assessments

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT		
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement
Colombia	LAC	Significant Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement
Ecuador	LAC	Significant Advancement
Mexico	LAC	Significant Advancement
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement
MODERATE ADVANCEMENT		
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Algeria	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bangladesh	IP	Moderate Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement
Bhutan	IP	Moderate Advancement
Bolivia	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Moderate Advancement
Burundi	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement
Chile	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement
Cook Islands	IP	Moderate Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Moderate Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Moderate Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
MODERATE ADVANCEMENT (CONTINUED)		
Dominican Republic	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Fiji	IP	Moderate Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Guyana	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement
India	IP	Moderate Advancement
Indonesia	IP	Moderate Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Kazakhstan	IP	Moderate Advancement
Kenya	AF	Moderate Advancement
Kiribati	IP	Moderate Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement
Liberia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement
Maldives	IP	Moderate Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	IP	Moderate Advancement
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
MODERATE ADVANCEMENT (CONTINUED)		
Norfolk Island	IP	Moderate Advancement
North Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	IP	Moderate Advancement
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Philippines	IP	Moderate Advancement
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Moderate Advancement
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Moderate Advancement
Sri Lanka	IP	Moderate Advancement
Thailand	IP	Moderate Advancement
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Tuvalu	IP	Moderate Advancement
Uzbekistan	IP	Moderate Advancement
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Moderate Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT		
Belize	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement
Eswatini	AF	Minimal Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Minimal Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Niger	AF	Minimal Advancement
Papua New Guinea	IP	Minimal Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT (CONTINUED)		
Saint Lucia	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Samoa	IP	Minimal Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement
Solomon Islands	IP	Minimal Advancement
South Africa	AF	Minimal Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement
Vanuatu	IP	Minimal Advancement
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – Efforts Made but Regression in Law/Policy/Practice that Delayed Advancement		
Gambia, The	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – Efforts Made but Continued Law/Policy/Practice that Delayed Advancement		
Afghanistan	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Cambodia	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Gabon	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mali	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mauritania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Moldova	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mongolia	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT – Efforts Made but Continued Law/Policy/Practice that Delayed Advancement (CONTINUED)		
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Timor-Leste	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Tonga	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Uganda	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Yemen	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
NO ADVANCEMENT		
Anguilla	EUR	No Advancement
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement
Dominica	LAC	No Advancement
Grenada	LAC	No Advancement
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement
Niue	IP	No Advancement
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement
Tokelau	IP	No Advancement
NO ADVANCEMENT – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor		
Burma	IP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
NO ASSESSMENT		
Christmas Island	IP	No Assessment
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	IP	No Assessment
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment

Comparisons in TDA Assessments from 2019 to 2020, by Country

COUNTRY	REGION	2019 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Afghanistan	IP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Algeria	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Anguilla	EUR	No Advancement	No Advancement
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Bangladesh	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Belize	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Bhutan	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Bolivia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Brazil	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement	No Advancement
Burkina Faso	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Burma	IP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Burundi	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cambodia	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2019 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Chile	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Christmas Island	IP	Moderate Advancement	No Assessment
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	IP	Moderate Advancement	No Assessment
Colombia	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Moderate Advancement
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Cook Islands	IP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Djibouti	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Dominica	LAC	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement
Dominican Republic	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Ecuador	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Eswatini	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Fiji	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Gabon	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Gambia, The	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement
Georgia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Ghana	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Grenada	LAC	No Advancement	No Advancement
Guatemala	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2019 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Guyana	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Haiti	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
India	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Indonesia	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kazakhstan	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kenya	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kiribati	IP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Kyrgyz Republic	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Lebanon	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Liberia	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Maldives	IP	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mali	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mauritania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mauritius	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mexico	LAC	No Assessment	Significant Advancement
Moldova	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement
Mongolia	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2019 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement	No Advancement
Morocco	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Namibia	AF	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nepal	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Nicaragua	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Niger	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Nigeria	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Niue	IP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Norfolk Island	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
North Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Pakistan	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Papua New Guinea	IP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Paraguay	LAC	Significant Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement	Significant Advancement
Philippines	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	Minimal Advancement	No Advancement
Saint Lucia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Samoa	IP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Serbia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Sierra Leone	AF	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Solomon Islands	IP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement

COUNTRY	REGION	2019 ASSESSMENT LEVEL	2020 ASSESSMENT LEVEL
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practices that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
South Africa	AF	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor
Sri Lanka	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Suriname	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Thailand	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Timor-Leste	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Togo	AF	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tokelau	IP	No Advancement	No Advancement
Tonga	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Tuvalu	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Uganda	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Law that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement
Uzbekistan	IP	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Vanuatu	IP	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment	No Assessment
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Minimal Advancement
Western Sahara	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Yemen	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement
Zimbabwe	AF	Moderate Advancement	Moderate Advancement

Appendix 6

TDA Laws and Ratifications, by Country

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Afghanistan	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Albania	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Algeria	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Angola	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	14	Yes
Anguilla	EUR	No Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	12	17	Yes
Argentina	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	18	Yes
Armenia	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	19	Yes
Azerbaijan	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Bangladesh	IP	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	10	Yes
Belize	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	14	Yes

COUNTRY	RE-GION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALER-MO PRO-TOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPUL-SORY EDUCA-TION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCA-TION
Benin	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Bhutan	IP	Moderate Advancement	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	13	N/A	Yes
Bolivia	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Botswana	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	N/A	Yes
Brazil	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
British Virgin Islands	EUR	No Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	16	17	Yes
Burkina Faso	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Burma	IP	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	10	Yes
Burundi	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	15	Yes
Cabo Verde	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Cambodia	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	N/A	Yes
Cameroon	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	14	12	No
Central African Republic	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Chad	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Chile	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	18	Yes
Christmas Island	IP	No Assessment	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	17.5	17.5	Yes
Cocos (Keeling) Island	IP	No Assessment	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	17.5	17.5	Yes
Colombia	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	18	Yes
Comoros	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	No
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	12	Yes
Congo, Republic of the	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	16	16	Yes
Cook Islands	IP	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	16	16	Yes
Costa Rica	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	17	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Djibouti	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Dominica	LAC	No Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Dominican Republic	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	14	Yes
Ecuador	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Egypt	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
El Salvador	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	18	Yes

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Eritrea	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	14	No
Eswatini	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	12/13	No
Ethiopia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	N/A	No
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	EUR	Minimal Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	14	16	Yes
Fiji	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	15	Yes
Gabon	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Gambia, The	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Regression in Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Georgia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	15	Yes
Ghana	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Grenada	LAC	No Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Guatemala	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Guinea	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	No

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Guinea-Bissau	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	No
Guyana	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Haiti	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	15	Yes
Honduras	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
India	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Indonesia	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	No
Iraq	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	12	Yes
Jamaica	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Jordan	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Kazakhstan	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	17	Yes
Kenya	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	16	18	No
Kiribati	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes
Kosovo	EUR	Moderate Advancement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	15	Yes
Kyrgyz Republic	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes

COUNTRY	RE-GION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALER-MO PRO-TOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPUL-SORY EDUCA-TION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCA-TION
Lebanon	MENA	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	14	15	Yes
Lesotho	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	13	Yes
Liberia	AF	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	14	Yes
Madagascar	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Malawi	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	18	Yes
Maldives	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Mali	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Mauritania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Policy and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	16	14	Yes
Mauritius	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Mexico	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	18	Yes
Moldova	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law and Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	18	Yes

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Mongolia	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Montenegro	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Montserrat	EUR	No Advancement	No	No	No	No	No	No	16	16	Yes
Morocco	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Mozambique	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Namibia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	14	Yes
Nepal	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	14	Yes
Nicaragua	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	12	Yes
Niger	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	N/A	Yes
Nigeria	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	15	Yes
Niue	IP	No Advancement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	16	Yes
Norfolk Island	IP	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	17	Yes
North Macedonia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Oman	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Pakistan	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	16	Yes
Panama	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	15	Yes

COUNTRY	RE-GION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALER-MO PRO-TOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPUL-SORY EDUCA-TION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCA-TION
Papua New Guinea	IP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	16	N/A	No
Paraguay	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
Peru	LAC	Significant Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	17	Yes
Philippines	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	18	Yes
Rwanda	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	12	No
Saint Helena, Ascensión, and Tristán da Cunha	EUR	No Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	16	16	Yes
Saint Lucia	LAC	Minimal Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	LAC	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	16	Yes
Samoa	IP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15	16	No
São Tomé and Príncipe	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	15	Yes
Senegal	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Serbia	EUR	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Sierra Leone	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Solomon Islands	IP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	12	N/A	No

COUNTRY	REGION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALERMO PROTOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION
Somalia	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	15	14	Yes
South Africa	AF	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	No
South Sudan	AF	No Advancement – Efforts Made but Complicit in Forced Child Labor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	13	Yes
Sri Lanka	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Suriname	LAC	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	16	12	Yes
Tanzania	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14	13	No
Thailand	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Timor-Leste	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Togo	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	15	Yes
Tokelau	IP	No Advancement	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	16	Yes

COUNTRY	RE-GION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALER-MO PRO-TOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPUL-SORY EDUCA-TION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCA-TION
Tonga	IP	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	18	No
Tunisia	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
Tuvalu	IP	Moderate Advancement	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	15	15	No
Uganda	AF	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	16	13	No
Ukraine	EUR	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Law that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	17	Yes
Uzbekistan	IP	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	18	Yes
Vanuatu	IP	Minimal Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	N/A	No
Wallis and Futuna	EUR	No Assessment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	Yes
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	MENA	Minimal Advancement	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes
Western Sahara	MENA	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15	16	Yes

COUNTRY	RE-GION	2020 ASSESSMENT	ILO C. 138	ILO C. 182	CRC	CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS		PALER-MO PRO-TOCOL	MIN. AGE FOR WORK	EDUCATION	
						CRC-CSEC	CRC-AC			COMPUL-SORY EDUCA-TION AGE	FREE PUBLIC EDUCA-TION
Yemen	MENA	Minimal Advancement – Efforts Made but Continued Practice that Delayed Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14	15	Yes
Zambia	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	15	N/A	Yes
Zimbabwe	AF	Moderate Advancement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16	16	No

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Franklin and Kelly develop their computer skills at Compassion International's church-based child development center. Honduras. 2019.

Appendix 7

Reference Materials – Key Concepts and Definitions

Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions

In this report, 99 country profiles include a statistical table (Table 1, Statistics on Children's Work and Education) with data on the percentage of working children, school attendance rate, percentage of children who combine school and work, and/or primary completion rate. For a smaller set of profiles, a chart lists the percentages of children who work by sector.

This appendix provides definitions and descriptions of the sources for these data and some of the strengths and weakness inherent within them. In a few cases, more current sources of data may be available than the ones used in this report; however, the most reliable, standardized sources available to date are used to allow for cross-country comparisons. Because reliable child labor surveys are not available for many countries, in some cases, USDOL uses statistics from child labor surveys that are more than 10 years old (data from 2010). If data did not exist from the sources described below, if no other reliable and publicly available source of data exists for a country, or if data exist but have not been analyzed to allow for cross-country comparisons, this report concludes that the statistics are "unavailable."

Working Children

Many of the statistical tables in the country profiles in this report present data on the percentage and number of working children. Data presented in the current report may differ from data that were presented in previous reports because updated data have become available.

Definition

The term working children describes children engaged in any productive activity for at least 1 hour during the reference period. Productive activity includes market production and certain types of non-market production, principally the production of goods and services for own use. The work that children perform may be in the formal or informal economy, inside or outside family settings, or for pay or profit. This includes children working in domestic service outside the child's own household for an employer, paid or unpaid. This definition is in accordance with the Resolution to Amend the 18th ICLS Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labour, adopted by the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2018, and the report *ILO and UNICEF Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward* (45; 58) The 20th ICLS definition classifies working children as those engaged in any activity to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use. The definition also includes the production of additional types of services for family use, unpaid trainee work by children, volunteer work by children, and other work activities by children. Since most countries are in the process of adapting survey instruments to reflect this new definition, the definition of working children from the 18th ICLS Resolution has been used in this report.

Working Children Versus Children Engaged in Child Labor

This report presents statistics on "working children" rather than on "children involved in child labor." These terms are defined precisely in the section "Definitions Related to Child Labor." The definition of working

children does not vary among countries and, therefore, statistics on working children are comparable across the country profiles. In contrast, the definition of children involved in child labor is based on national legislation, including, for example, the minimum age for work, which varies from country to country. As a result, child labor data are not comparable across countries. Furthermore, these country-level statistics may not disaggregate child labor from the broader category of child work, thereby including children who work only a few hours a week in permitted light work. For the purposes of this report, ILAB is unable to clearly articulate the proportion of working children who are involved in child labor.

Data Sources and Limitations

Data are from the ILO's analysis of primarily four survey types: (1) the ILO's Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor (SIMPOC) surveys; (2) national Labor Force Surveys (LFS); (3) UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS); and (4) other national and regional household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). (67)

According to the ILO researchers, typical surveys on children's work do not collect sufficiently detailed information on children's activities to accurately measure economic activity. (68) This observation was repeated in December 2008 at the 18th ICLS. A resolution adopted at the conference provides guidelines for governments on collecting child labor data. Specifically, the guidance indicates that countries can choose to use a broad framework to measure children's work and child labor that encompasses unpaid household services or countries can use a narrower definition of children's work that excludes such services, as long as the definition used is clearly specified. (69) This resolution is contributing to the collection of more comparable data on children's involvement in non-market activities.

In analyzing the data from the above-mentioned surveys, the ILO attempted to apply a standard definition of children's work, although UNICEF's MICS and ILO's SIMPOC reports, for example, each use a different definition of work. As of the writing of this report, MICS reports include household chores in their definition of work, while some SIMPOC reports do not, depending on each country's basis for reporting. To the extent possible, the ILO applied a common definition of work to the micro-data described. To date, this has resulted in the individual analysis of more than 229 datasets. While every attempt was made to present a standardized child work statistic, differences across the surveys have the potential to affect the comparability of statistics across countries and across years. Some of these differences are explained in greater detail here; however, in general, they include differing age groups, questionnaire content and wording, purpose of the survey, sample design, non-sampling errors, and the year of data collection.

In general, data are presented for children ages 5 to 14; however, some of the profiles present a work statistic for children ages 6 to 14, 7 to 14, or 10 to 14, depending on the age categories used in the original survey. The wording of work-related questions also may affect the results. For example, the question on work in these surveys usually refers to work during the past 7 days; however, some surveys may refer to work activities during the past 12 months, and thus they are likely to capture a higher proportion of working children than surveys with 7-day timeframes. The purpose of the survey–whether specifically to measure children's work and child labor (SIMPOC surveys) or measure the labor force participation of adults–may affect estimates of children's work. (70) Additionally, sample design may affect the survey results. For example, children's work is often clustered geographically; SIMPOC surveys are designed to capture children's work in such geographic areas. As a result, estimates of working children vary across surveys that do not use the same sample design. (71) The ILO and UNICEF continue to investigate the effects of these survey differences on estimates of children's work.

As noted, some country profiles also include the sector in which children reportedly work. For some surveys, the sector of work was not reported by the entire sample of working children. Therefore, the distribution of children working by sector–agriculture, industry, and services–represents children with non-missing data for the sector of work. Additional information on the sectors of work reported in the chart appear in Table 1.

Percentage of Children Attending School

The percentage of children attending school is the share of all children within a specified age group that reported attending school. The ILO data described above in the section "Working Children" are used to develop country-specific school attendance statistics.

To be consistent with estimates of working children, the age group for which attendance statistics are calculated for children is generally ages 5 to 14. In some cases, however, different age categories are used, usually ages 6 to 14, 7 to 14, or 10 to 14.

Percentage of Children Combining Work and School

The percentage of children who combine work and school is the share of all children within a specified age group reporting both working and attending school. The ILO data described earlier under "Working Children" are used to develop country-specific statistics on children combining work and school. The age group for which these statistics are calculated is usually for children ages 7 to 14 or 10 to 14.

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A boy collects wheat that has been thrashed after the government relaxed the weeks-long lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19. Peshwar, Pakistan. May 18, 2020.

Primary Completion Rate

This report uses the "gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education" as a proxy measure for primary completion. This ratio is the total number of new entrants in the last grade of primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population at the theoretical entrance age to the last grade of primary education. A high ratio indicates a high degree of current primary education completion. The calculation includes all new entrants to the last grade, regardless of age. Therefore, the ratio can exceed 100 percent, due to over- and underage children who enter primary school late or early, or repeat grades.

Data Sources and Limitations

Unlike the other statistics presented in the country profile data tables, which are all based on the ILO analysis described earlier, primary completion rate data are from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. The data were downloaded on March 3, 2021, and are available at **http://data.uis.unesco.org/**. Further information on this statistic is available from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics Glossary at **http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary**.

UNESCO uses population estimates from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to calculate some of the rates it publishes, including the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education. These population estimates change over time. The last revision that affected the statistics used in this report was in February 2021. All population-based indicators, including the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education, are re-calculated every year using these latest estimates. For some countries and years, when the new UNDP population estimates are found to be inconsistent with education data, related indicators are removed. All updates made to UNESCO data on the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education are reflected in the primary completion rate statistic included in this report.

Labor Law Enforcement: Sources and Definitions

Labor Force Calculation

This report uses data from the CIA World Factbook, which lists the most recent estimates for countries' total labor force. This number is used to calculate a "sufficient number" of labor inspectors based on the country's level of development, as determined by the UN. (72)

Country Classification

For analyses, the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN DESA) classifies all countries of the world into one of four broad categories: (1) developed economies, (2) economies in transition, (3) developing economies, and (4) least developed countries. The composition of these groupings is intended to reflect basic economic country conditions. Several countries, in particular the economies in transition, have characteristics that could place them in more than one category; however, for analyses, the groupings have been made mutually exclusive. This is decided upon by the UN Economic and Social Council and, ultimately, by the General Assembly deciding on the list of least developed countries based on recommendations made by the Committee for Development Policy. The basic criteria for inclusion require that certain thresholds be met for per capita gross national income, a human assets index, and an economic vulnerability index. For the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* report, "developed economies" equate to the ILO's classification of "industrial market economies," "economies in transition" to "transition economies," "developing economies" to "industrializing economies," and "the least developed countries" equate to "less developed countries." Countries that appear on both "developing countries" and "least developed countries" lists are considered "least developed countries" for calculating a "sufficient number" of labor inspectors. (73)

Number of Labor Inspectors

Article 10 of ILO C. 81 calls for a "sufficient number" of inspectors to do the work required. Because each country assigns different priorities of enforcement to its inspectors, there is no official definition for a sufficient number of inspectors. The factors that need to be considered include the number and size of establishments, and the total size of the workforce. No single measure is sufficient; however, in many countries, the available data sources are weak. The ratio of inspectors per workforce is currently the only internationally comparable indicator available. In its policy and technical advisory services, the ILO has taken as reasonable benchmarks that the number of labor inspectors in relation to workers should approach 1:10,000 in industrial market economies, 1:15,000 in industrializing economies, 1:20,000 in transition economies, and 1:40,000 in less developed countries. (74)

ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations

The ILO CEACR examines and makes two types of comments on the application of international labor standards by states that are party to the relevant conventions. Direct requests contain the Committee's technical comments or questions about the state's application of a particular convention, and these requests are sent directly to governments. Observations, which are published in the Committee's annual report, contain comments on fundamental questions raised by a state's application of a particular convention and recommendations for the state. (75)

Glossary of Other Terms

Basic Education

Article 7(c) of ILO C. 182 requires countries to "ensure access to free basic education." According to the International Standard Classification of Education, "basic education" corresponds to the first 9 years of formal schooling and comprises primary and lower secondary education. Primary education is considered to be the first stage of basic education and covers 6 years of full-time schooling, with the legal age of entrance normally being no younger than 5 years or older than 7 years. Primary education is designed to give pupils a sound basis in reading, writing, and mathematics, along with an elementary understanding of other subjects, such as history, geography, natural science, social science, religion, art, and music. Lower secondary education is more subject-focused and requires specialized teachers. It corresponds to about 3 years of schooling. Basic education also can include various non-formal and informal public and private educational activities offered to meet the defined basic learning needs of groups of people of all ages.

Article 13 of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights indicates that primary education should be compulsory and free to all. Secondary education, including technical and vocational education, should be available and accessible to all, and free education should be progressively introduced. Article 28 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms the right of the child to an education and the state's duty to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory. (5; 76–79)

Bonded Labor, Debt Bondage

Bonded labor or debt bondage is "the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or those of a person under his control as security for a debt if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined," as defined in the UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956). (80)

Bonded labor typically occurs when a person who needs a loan and has no security to offer pledges his or her labor, or that of someone under his or her control, as security for a loan. In some cases, the interest on

the loan may be so high that it cannot be paid. In others, it may be deemed that the bonded individual's work repays the interest on the loan but not the principal. Thus, the loan is inherited and perpetuated, and becomes an inter-generational debt. (4; 81)

Bonded labor is prohibited as one of the worst forms of child labor in ILO C. 182. (5)

Child Domestic Worker

A "child domestic worker" works in third-party private households under an employment relationship and engages in various tasks that include cleaning, cooking, gardening, collecting water, and caring for children and the elderly. Child domestic workers sometimes have live-in arrangements, whereby they live in their employer's household and work in exchange for room, board, and sometimes education. Child domestic workers are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, including sexual, physical, and verbal abuse, in large part because they often depend on their employers for basic needs and work in locations hidden from public view. (82; 83)

Child Labor Elimination Projects

Since 1995, USDOL has funded 345 projects in 99 countries. USDOL currently oversees more than $256 million in active programming to combat exploitative child labor. To date, USDOL-funded projects have provided nearly 2 million children with education and vocational training opportunities as a strategy for preventing and reducing child labor and increasing access to education in disadvantaged communities. (84)

Child Trafficking

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) provides a definition of human trafficking for children that states "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered 'trafficking in persons' even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this Article." As such, there does not need to be abuse of power, control, coercion, or fraud present to constitute child trafficking, as the definition for adults requires. The Palermo Protocol provides a commonly accepted definition of human trafficking in Article 3(a) that trafficking in persons means "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs." (85)

The trafficking of children is prohibited as a worst form of child labor in ILO C. 182, Article 3(a). (5)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Based on the 1996 Declaration and Agenda for Action of the First World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is defined as "sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or third person or persons." (86; 87; 88) The remuneration dynamic distinguishes CSEC from the sexual abuse of a child, which does not include commercial gain; however, sexual exploitation also includes abuse. The definition of CSEC includes these activities:

- Prostitution in the streets or indoors, and in such places as brothels, discotheques, massage parlors, bars, hotels, and restaurants;
  - Child sex tourism;
  - The production of pornography involving children; and
  - The use of children in sex shows (public or private).

ILO C. 182, Article 3(b), prohibits using, procuring, or offering a child for prostitution or for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances. (5)

Compulsory Education Age

The age up to which children and youth are legally required to attend school. (76)

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child spells out the basic rights of children, such as the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to be protected from harmful influences, abuse, and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural, and social life. The Convention protects children's rights by setting standards in health care; education; and legal, civil, and social services. According to Article 32 of the Convention, children have the right "to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development." (89)

Hazardous Work

Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182 sets forth the following as a worst form of child labor: "work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children." This is colloquially referred to as "hazardous work." Countries must determine which types of work are considered to be hazardous work by law or regulation. ILO R. 190 includes options for consideration in determining which types of work are hazardous.

ILO Recommendation No. 190: Worst Forms of Child Labor

ILO R. 190 supplements the provisions of ILO C. 182 and provides guidance to ratifying countries regarding its implementation. It provides guidelines to assist countries in determining what types of work should be considered hazardous and thus what type of work countries should prohibit for all children as a worst form of child labor, in accordance with Article 4 of ILO C. 182. ILO R. 190 describes populations in need of specific attention regarding the worst forms of child labor, such as girls and children involved in hidden forms of work. It also provides guidance regarding specific steps that countries which have ratified ILO C. 182 should take to combat the worst forms of child labor, such as the collection and exchange of data on both the problem and best practices to address it; passage and enforcement of laws that penalize violations with criminal penalties; awareness raising about the problem; establishment of policies against the worst forms of child labor; and international cooperation through technical, legal, and other forms of assistance. (90)

Illicit Activities

ILO C. 182, Article 3(c), prohibits "the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs." Illicit activities in this context can include crimes; however, the activity need not be illegal to be considered illicit. (16) According to ILO R. 190 and the General Survey on the Fundamental Conventions Concerning Rights at Work, illicit activities can include "activities which involve the unlawful carrying or use of firearms or other weapons," and "the use of children by criminal organizations for transporting weapons and carrying out arson attacks or destroying public or private property, illicit activities such as housebreaking and petty theft, and ... children being engaged by adults in car breaking, housebreaking, selling drugs and selling stolen goods, use of children for forced or organized begging, gambling, the unlawful carrying or use of firearms or other weapons, or for the commission of an offence or a crime using violence or the threat of violence." (90; 91)

Informal Sector

While the concept of the informal sector was introduced into international usage in the 1970s, it was only in 1993 at the 15th ICLS that an internationally recognized definition was established for data

collection to delineate the "informal sector" as unincorporated, small, or unregistered enterprises, and the employees of those enterprises. An enterprise is unincorporated if no complete set of accounts are available that would permit a financial separation of the activities of the enterprise from that of its owners, and it produces marketable goods or services. The registration and size criteria are determined according to national circumstances and legislation, which provide a degree of flexibility in identifying the informal sector from country to country. However, all interpretations of this sector share the notion of enterprises whose activities are not covered or are insufficiently covered by law, or whose activities are not covered by law in practice, meaning that the relevant law is not applied or enforced. Workers in such enterprises often lack the benefits of regular, stable, and protected employment. Because employers in the informal sector are generally either not covered by labor laws or are not held accountable for complying with labor protections, including occupational safety measures, children who work in "hazardous" informal settings likely face increased risk of exploitation, including injury. Additionally, because businesses in the informal sector are not usually included in official statistics, children working in informal sector enterprises may not be counted in labor force activity rates. (92; 93)

Light Work

This report uses the definition of light work as established in ILO C. 138, Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. Under Article 7(1) of the Convention, "National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is–(a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and (b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received." Countries that have specified a minimum legal working age of 14 may permit the employment or work of persons ages 12 to 14 in light work as defined in Article 7(1). Countries may also permit the employment of children who are at least 15 but have not yet completed compulsory schooling in light work under Article 7(2). Countries permitting light work under Article 7 must specify limitations on their hours of work, as well as activities and conditions in which light work may be undertaken. (63)

Minimum Age for Work

The minimum age for work is the age at which a child can enter into work. ILO C. 138 states that the minimum age for admission to employment should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and should not be less than age 15, or age 14 for developing countries that specified a minimum legal age of 14 upon ratification of ILO C. 138. (81)

Non-Formal Education

Non-formal education is any organized educational activity outside of the established formal school system–whether operating separately or as an important feature of some broader activity–that is intended to serve identifiable learning objectives. Non-formal or transitional education programs can enable former child workers to catch up or be mainstreamed with their peers who began their schooling at the appropriate age. (81)

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

This optional UN protocol, adopted in 2000, addresses and commits ratifying countries to take action against the involvement of children in armed conflict, which is a worst form of child labor per ILO C. 182, Article 3(a). (94)

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

This optional UN protocol, adopted in 2000, addresses and commits ratifying countries to take action against

the commercial sexual exploitation of children, which is a worst form of child labor as defined in ILO C. 182, Article 3(b). (95)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

This document is written by the government of a developing country with the participation of civil society to serve as the basis for concessional lending from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as debt relief under the World Bank's Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. A poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) should be used to measure poverty in the country, identify goals for reducing poverty, and create a spending and policy program for reaching those goals. A PRSP also should ensure that a country's macroeconomic, structural, and social policies are consistent with the objectives of poverty reduction and social development. A new PRSP must be written every 3 years to continue receiving assistance from international financial institutions such as the World Bank. (96)

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)

The Palermo Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and covers the trafficking of children, also delineated as a worst form of child labor under ILO C. 182, Article 3(a). (85) See "Child Trafficking" above.

Ratification

Ratification is a serious undertaking whereby a state formally accepts the terms of an international agreement, thus becoming legally bound to apply it. Other ways of becoming bound to an international agreement include acceptance, approval, accession, signature, or through an exchange of notes.

To ratify an agreement, a country must formally deposit the instruments of ratification with the appropriate depositary. In the case of ILO conventions, ratifications must be registered with the Director-General of the ILO. (97)

For certain international agreements that require ratification, signing an agreement or enacting an agreement into domestic law by congress, or a similar state organ, does not mean that the international agreement has been ratified. Signing an international agreement serves as a preliminary endorsement, albeit a formality, because signatories are not bound by the terms of the international agreement or in any way committed to proceed to the final step of ratification. However, a signatory is obliged to refrain from acts that would defeat the objective and purpose of the international agreement, unless it makes clear its intention not to become a party to the international agreement. Appropriate state entities may signal approval of an international agreement; however, that is only one of the requisite steps on the path toward official ratification. The final step requires that the instruments of ratification be submitted to the ILO's depositary. (98)

In the case of ILO conventions, ILO procedures provide the option of ratifying or not ratifying a convention, but they do not include the option of signing a convention as a preliminary endorsement. Generally, an ILO convention comes into force in a ratifying country 12 months after the government has deposited the requisite instrument of ratification. This grace period provides ILO members time to enact or modify legislation to comply with the convention before it comes into force. (5; 63; 97)

Unpaid Household Services

For this report, the term unpaid household services by children refers to the domestic and personal services a child performs within the child's own household, under the following conditions: (1) for long hours; (2) in an unhealthy environment, including equipment or heavy loads; or (3) in dangerous locations. (58)

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Children write "father, mother" on the blackboard at a school in the village of Staromykhailovka in the Donetsk Region, which is on the frontline between the cities of Donetsk and Mariyanovka. Staromykhailovka, Ukraine. November 5, 2015.

Appendix 8

Research Framework and Organization of TDA Country Profiles

Research Methods

This section describes the research methods used for data collection, as well as the sources, analysis of information, and the limitations of these methods in this report.

Data Collection and Sources

Information was gathered for this report through desk research, U.S. embassy reporting, and limited fieldwork. Information also was received from some foreign governments. Desk research consisted of an extensive review of mostly online materials, which included both primary and secondary sources. The sources included academic and independent researchers, media outlets, NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and U.S. Government agencies. Information also was collected from U.S. Government-funded technical assistance and field research projects. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, labor force surveys varied significantly, often reflecting the changing employment numbers in a country. Therefore, labor force data from the 2019 reporting year were used for the 2020 report.

Examples of the sources used in this report are the most recent available editions of country laws relevant to child labor; national-level child labor surveys; NGO reports on the nature of child labor in various countries; and UN reports, including direct requests and observations by the ILO Committee of Experts. (75)

The U.S. Department of State and U.S. embassies and consulates abroad provided important information by gathering data from contacts, conducting site visits, and reviewing local media sources. A request for information from the public was published in the *Federal Register*, and a copy of the request was mailed to the Washington, DC-based foreign embassies of the countries included in this report. (99) Data also were gathered through key informant interviews.

Analysis of Information

The existence of child labor, particularly in its worst forms, often involves violations of laws and regulations, including serious criminal violations in some egregious cases. Information on child labor may be intentionally suppressed. Victims of the worst forms of child labor often are unable to claim their rights or even communicate the abuse they are suffering because they are traumatized, unaware of their rights under the law, or politically underrepresented or marginalized. These factors make information on the worst forms of child labor difficult to obtain. Therefore, to compile a credible and comprehensive report, ILAB used the following criteria to assess information:

Nature of the information

Whether the information about child labor and government efforts to combat it gathered from research, public submissions, or other sources was relevant and probative, and covered the "worst forms of child labor" and "government efforts" as used in this report. Specific evidence of government efforts was preferred when it was available.

Date of the information

Whether the source information about child labor was no more than 5 years old. More current information was given priority, and to the extent possible, ILAB used sources published during the reporting period. Information from sources older than 5 years was generally not considered.

In the case of child labor statistics, however, certain factors contribute to less frequent generation of new data. Because government and other efforts to address exploitative child labor take time to have an impact on national-level rates of child labor, children's involvement in such activities does not change dramatically from year to year. Child labor surveys are carried out infrequently, in part, because the child labor picture does not change frequently, although the number of surveys have increased recently. To present an overall picture of children's work in as many countries as possible, ILAB used statistics that are, in some cases, more than 10 years old (from 2010) as of the writing of this report. For more information on the statistics used in this report, see "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" in Appendix 7.

Additionally, in cases in which previous editions of this report have asserted that the worst forms of child labor exist in the production of goods, and in the absence of evidence that the problem has been effectively eliminated, sources more than 5 years old may be used. This practice makes the report's information on such forms of child labor consistent with USDOL's *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA). Statements that the worst forms of child labor exist in the production of goods will be removed when there is evidence that the problem has been effectively eliminated.

Source of the information

Whether the information, either from primary or secondary sources, was from a source in which methodology, prior publications, degree of familiarity and experience with international labor standards, or reputation for accuracy and objectivity warranted a determination that it was relevant and probative.

Extent of the corroboration

Whether the information about the use of child labor was corroborated by other sources.

Limitations

While data on the worst forms of child labor and information about government efforts to provide remediation are improving, data are still insufficient to provide a complete understanding of the problem. A lack of information may create the impression that a country has less serious problems with the worst forms of child labor than it actually has. At the same time, a dearth of information may create the impression that a government is doing less than it should when, in fact, efforts to combat child labor exist, but are simply unreported or unpublicized. Although countries with open and available information may sometimes appear to have greater problems relative to other countries, this may not be the case. In fact, countries that collect information on child labor are in a better position to eliminate the problem than countries in which such information is suppressed, because with better information, they can target their policies and programs toward identified problem areas to achieve maximum impact.

Due to an inability to travel to each country covered in the report, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, ILAB relied on U.S. embassies, internet research, and submissions received in response to the *Federal Register* notice to gather primary and secondary sources of information. For countries where internet access and technology are limited, there may be less information available online. Countries with more closed government processes and less civil society participation also may have less information readily available. When ILAB was unable to find information about report topics, including the content of important laws or enforcement efforts, this was noted in the report.

Most of ILAB's online research was conducted in English; however, we also gathered and read source materials written in Spanish, French, and, to a limited extent, Portuguese, Russian, and Arabic. Materials written in other languages were generally not reviewed.

Despite ILAB's best efforts to cover relevant topics as comprehensively as possible, this report cannot address every salient issue that may affect children's involvement in child labor. For example, there are many factors that affect whether a household sends a child to school, to work, or both. A lack of available information, however, limits the discussion of these issues for some countries. In these cases, we note that the profile's information is incomplete. Furthermore, ILAB chose to limit its reporting of education to the issue of access, and generally does not cover the quality of education because research on the relationship between the quality of education and child labor is lacking.

Organization and Content of Country Profiles

ILAB organized country profiles to track the types of efforts outlined in the TDA Conference Committee report. In this report, the Conference Committee indicated that the President should consider certain criteria when determining whether a country has met its obligation under the Generalized System of Preferences program to implement its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. (1) Each country profile contains an introductory paragraph that provides an assessment of government actions to advance efforts in eliminating the worst forms of child labor, six sections that describe the problem and different aspects of government efforts to address it, and a set of suggested actions. The following section describes the content in the country profiles.

Content of Country Profiles

Each country profile begins with an overview of 2020 in a single paragraph, beginning with a statement identifying the assessment level assigned to the country for 2020. Following the statement of assessment, the summary includes meaningful efforts taken by a government to implement its commitment to eliminating child labor. The summary also notes where children are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, or if no worst forms of child labor exist, where they are engaged in tasks for which there is evidence that such tasks fall into the categories suggested by ILO R. 190 for hazardous work–referred to as "dangerous tasks" in this report. Depending on the situation in the country, the summary also may discuss child labor that does not rise to the level of hazardous work. Finally, the paragraph highlights areas in which key gaps in government efforts remain.

Section I: Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of Child Labor

The first section of each country profile attempts to provide, to the extent that information is available, a comprehensive picture of child labor in the country. This section begins with a review of available data on working children and school attendance, followed by a presentation of the most common sectors and activities in which children are engaged. The narrative also provides information about the nature and conditions of the work, specific populations that are particularly vulnerable to child labor, government complicity in the use of forced child labor as relevant, circumstances that make accessing education difficult, and events during the year that destabilized the country.

Section II: Legal Framework for Child Labor

The second section of each country profile provides information on whether the country has adequate laws and regulations proscribing the worst forms of child labor. This section describes a country's legal framework with regard to child labor and assesses the adequacy of that legal framework by comparing it, in general, to the standards set forth in ILO C. 182 and ILO C. 138, and to other international instruments, including the Palermo Protocol and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. ILAB considered whether the laws criminally prohibited the categorical worst forms of child labor in ILO C. 182, Articles 3(a)–(c), as suggested by ILO R. 190. In line with the ILO Committee of Experts, ILAB considered any law that could be used to prohibit child

labor, including its worst forms. ILAB also considered whether the country had ratified key international instruments related to child labor.

It is important to note that ILAB analyzes a country's legal framework regarding compliance with international standards, regardless of whether a problem exists in a country. This is to ensure that legal frameworks also serve as preventive mechanisms. For example, even in the case of a country that does not have a problem with the use of children in illicit activities, if there are no laws to prohibit the use of children in illicit activities, the report points out a gap when comparing laws on this issue against international standards.

The corresponding table indicates where the legal framework meets international standards and where it does not. For example, the table indicates whether the country's minimum age for work complies with the international standard.

ILAB assessed whether a country has created a hazardous work list and whether the types of hazardous work prohibited are comprehensive, based on whether there is evidence that children engage in work where, according to ILO R. 190, the work may be hazardous. Because the standards on the minimum age for work in ILO C. 138 provide a foundation for protections against the worst forms of child labor, ILAB used the standards embodied in that convention to assess each country's minimum age for admission to work and the age up to which education is compulsory. (75) ILO C. 138 establishes that countries should set a minimum age of 15 for work, or age 14 for countries with less-developed economies where the country has specified an age of 14 upon ratification of the convention. For countries that permit children to engage in light work, the profile also indicates whether the country has set a minimum age of 13 for light work, or age 12 for less-developed economies, and whether legislation related to light work determines permitted activities, and the number of hours per week and the conditions under which light work may be conducted.

ILAB assessed whether a country's laws prohibit forced labor, human trafficking, and debt bondage. For child trafficking specifically, ILAB reviewed the adequacy of existing legal protections related to international and domestic trafficking for both commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor against the Palermo Protocol's standard for child trafficking, including whether the legal protections prohibit the five elements of the human trafficking process–recruiting, harboring, transporting, transferring, and receiving persons.

For the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children, ILAB assessed whether a country's laws criminally prohibit the using, procuring, and offering of children for prostitution; the production of child pornography; and the use of children in pornographic performances. For illicit activities, ILAB assessed whether laws criminally prohibit the using, procuring, and offering of a child in the production and trafficking of drugs.

In all cases in which countries maintain a military force, ILAB assessed whether the country prohibited the compulsory military recruitment of children and whether the minimum age for voluntary military recruitment is at least 16, with certain safeguards to ensure voluntariness. For all countries, ILAB assessed whether the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups is prohibited, even if non-state armed groups are not present in the country.

ILAB assessed whether the age for compulsory education aligns with the minimum age for work, in accordance with ILO C. 138, which states that the minimum age for work should not be less than the age up to which education is compulsory, and that it should be at least age 15, or age 14 for developing countries. However, the opposite situation–in which the minimum age for work is higher than the upper cut-off age for compulsory education–also should be avoided because when children are not required to be in school or permitted to work, they are susceptible to falling into the worst forms of child labor. This section

points out when a country's age up to which education is compulsory is below or above the minimum age for employment and suggests that the government rectify this gap. It also notes whether a country has free public education through at least the basic level.

Section III: Enforcement of Laws on Child Labor

The third section of the country profiles addresses the second and third criteria included in the TDA Conference Committee report, concerning whether the country has "adequate laws and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of such measures," and has "established formal institutional mechanisms to investigate and address complaints relating to allegations of the worst forms of child labor." (1) This section describes the role of government agencies in enforcing laws relevant to child labor, including its worst forms, and reports on labor law and criminal law enforcement efforts during the reporting period.

In this section, ILAB analyzes whether and to what degree the country defines enforcement agency roles and investigates and addresses complaints related to allegations of child labor. Because ILO C. 182 only discusses enforcement to a limited extent, other international standards and practices also are considered as general evaluation guidelines, including from ILO C. 81 and ILO C. 129 on Labor Inspection and Labor Inspection in Agriculture, respectively. To the extent possible, ILAB assesses whether the country has taken these actions:

- Established labor inspection systems, including a functioning labor inspectorate.
- Provided sufficient funding and resources to enforce child labor laws and regulations.
- Employed a sufficient number of inspectors, according to the ILO's technical advice, to enforce the country's child labor laws and regulations.
- Provided sufficient training for inspectors, including initial training for new employees, training on new laws related to child labor, and refresher courses.
- Developed and implemented an adequate labor inspection strategy that allows for different types of onsite inspections of worksites–such as routine, targeted, complaint-driven, and unannounced–and conducted inspections with sufficient frequency and in all relevant sectors.
- Provided sufficient authority to the labor inspectorate to penalize child labor violations and follow through with sanctions, where appropriate.
- Published information on specific inspection results and fines or sanctions imposed for violation of child labor laws and regulations, including the worst forms of child labor.
- Established a complaint mechanism for labor violations.
- Set up a reciprocal referral mechanism between labor authorities and social services.

Although ILAB researched and requested law enforcement information on the topics for this year's report, the information was not available in all cases. For example, in many cases, ILAB did not have enough information to determine whether the number of inspectors was sufficient in the country. Only in certain situations, where a country's government acknowledged that it did not have a sufficient number of labor inspectors or ILAB obtained information indicating that the number of labor inspectors was insufficient relative to the size of the country's workforce, did ILAB issue findings of insufficiency. In the latter situation, and in determining whether a finding should be included, ILAB considered that the ILO's technical advice of a ratio of labor inspectors in relation to workers should approach 1:10,000 in industrial market economies, 1:15,000 in industrializing economies, 1:20,000 in transition economies, and 1:40,000 in less developed countries. (74)

Additionally, ILO R. 190 states that countries should criminally prohibit the categorical worst forms of child labor as set forth in ILO C. 182, Articles 3(a)–(c). Therefore, the report also assesses whether

criminal law enforcement in the country has taken these actions:

- Established criminal investigation systems.
- Provided sufficient funding and resources to enforce the worst forms of child labor laws and regulations.
- Provided sufficient training for investigators, including initial training for new employees, training on new laws related to the worst forms of child labor, and refresher courses.
- Conducted a sufficient number of investigations related to the worst forms of child labor.
- Published information on specific investigation results and violations, prosecutions, and convictions related to the worst forms of child labor.
- Imposed penalties for violations related to the worst forms of child labor.
- Established a reciprocal referral mechanism between criminal authorities and social services.

Section IV: Coordination of Government Efforts on Child Labor

The fourth section of the country profiles also addresses the third criterion included in the TDA Conference Committee report–whether the country has established "formal institutional mechanisms to investigate and address complaints relating to allegations of the worst forms of child labor." (1) This section provides information on key institutions in the country charged with coordinating overall efforts to combat child labor, including its worst forms. Although the TDA Conference Committee report speaks only to whether such mechanisms are in place with regard to investigation and complaints of the worst forms of child labor, ILO C. 182, Article 5, states that "[e]ach Member shall, after consultation with employers' and workers' organizations, establish or designate appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the provisions giving effect to this Convention." ILAB applied this concept of monitoring to all provisions of the Convention, not just those directly related to the enforcement of child labor laws. However, because the term *monitor* is often associated exclusively with enforcement activities, ILAB uses the term *coordinate* to describe this function.

Section V: Government Policies on Child Labor

The fifth section of the country profiles provides information on the fourth criterion in the TDA Conference Committee report–whether the country has "a comprehensive policy for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor." (1) This section describes a country's key policies and plans to combat child labor, including its worst forms.

ILAB used the framework provided in ILO R. 190, Article 15(f), which illustrates measures that countries might take to combat the worst forms of child labor, such as "encouraging the development of policies by undertakings to promote the aims of the Convention." (90) In ILO C. 182 and in comments from the ILO Committee of Experts, the terms *programs* and *plans of action* are often used interchangeably. Indeed, in some cases, it is difficult to distinguish among a policy, a plan, or a program. (5) For the TDA Conference Committee report, a policy on child labor is defined as a framework that lays out general principles that are intended to guide a government's actions on child labor. Although policies may call for the passage of new laws and the establishment of new programs, the actual adoption of laws and program implementation are reported in the "Legal Framework for the Worst Forms of Child Labor" or the "Social Programs to Address Child Labor" sections of the profiles.

Specifically, ILAB assessed whether governments have achieved the following activities:

- Established specific child labor policies, any related development policies that explicitly incorporate the issue of child labor, or any related development policies that do not explicitly target child labor but that could have an impact on the problem. (ILAB

determined that because so few governments distinguish between the worst forms of child labor and child labor, any policy on child labor, whether targeted toward the worst forms of child labor or not, would be reported.)

- Ensured that these policies include specific action plans, assign responsibilities, establish goals, and set timetables.
- Implemented established policies and plans.

Section VI: Social Programs to Address Child Labor

The sixth section of each country profile provides information on the fifth criterion in the TDA Conference Committee report–whether social programs exist in the country "to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor and assist in the removal of children engaged in the worst forms of child labor." (1) This section of the country profiles reports on key programs focused on child labor and the worst forms of child labor because countries often do not distinguish between the two when creating child labor programs. This section of the profiles also reports on programs that focus on child labor specifically, and programs that address poverty, education, and other related matters that could have a beneficial impact on child labor. Only programs launched or implemented during the reporting period are included in this section.

ILAB generally considers the implementation of projects through international organizations to be government efforts because the projects can be carried out only with the consent of the government, and such efforts are sometimes considered part of a country's national budget.

ILAB applied the standards embodied in Articles 6 and 7 of ILO C. 182 to assess country programs to combat child labor. ILO R. 190 also is considered to determine the types of efforts that governments might make, such as giving special attention to girls, providing training to employers and workers, and raising awareness. With this in mind, ILAB assesses whether governments have taken the following actions:

- Participated in any social programs to combat child labor, including programs aimed at directly preventing and withdrawing children from participation in child labor.
- Implemented social programs with sufficient resources to combat the scope and magnitude of the child labor problem at issue.
- Targeted at-risk populations.
- Implemented social programs successfully and sustainably.

Section VII: Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

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

Framework for Country Assessments

Objective for Country Assessments

ILAB is using an assessment tool to clearly indicate and highlight the status of efforts by each country that benefits from U.S. trade preferences to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Research Question Guiding Country Assessments

The research question that ILAB is asking in its assessment of an individual beneficiary country is "To what extent did the beneficiary country advance efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period?"

Scope of Country Assessment

As discussed, the TDA Conference Committee report outlines the following six criteria that the President is asked to consider in determining whether a country is implementing its international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor:

- Whether the country has adequate laws and regulations proscribing the worst forms of child labor;
- Whether the country has adequate laws and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of such measures;
- Whether the country has established formal institutional mechanisms to investigate and address complaints related to allegations of the worst forms of child labor;
- Whether the country has a comprehensive policy for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor;
- Whether social programs exist in the country to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor, and assist in the removal of children engaged in the worst forms of child labor; and
- Whether the country is making continual progress toward eliminating the worst forms of child labor.

The country assessment tool is intended to inform the sixth criterion–whether the country is "making continual progress toward eliminating the worst forms of child labor." In preparing the assessments, ILAB evaluated the first five criteria, grouping them into the same five areas addressed in the individual country profiles: laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs. The assessment is based on an analysis of the status of each country's efforts in these five areas considered as a whole, and which may be compared to the country's prior efforts. The assessments do not take into account the impact of government actions on the problem, or whether they have a documented effect on eliminating child labor. This type of analysis would require rigorous impact evaluations and assessments based on data from solid research designs, which is beyond the scope of this report. It is important to note that the assessment is not intended to reflect a determination of "whether a country has implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor." That determination is reserved for the President.

Method for Determining a Country Assessment

Each country profile in this report identifies a set of suggested actions for governments to take to advance its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The implementation–or lack of implementation–of these suggested actions establishes a baseline or point of reference from which to assess a country's advancement. These actions, in combination with other efforts undertaken by a country, were considered when assessing the level of a country's advancement during the current reporting period in comparison with the previous reporting period.

After identifying and assessing a country's efforts, ILAB considered the significance of the efforts undertaken during the reporting period–actions that could have an impact on eliminating the worst forms of child labor, and the extent to which these efforts addressed the first five TDA criteria, outlined above, in a limited or meaningful manner during the reporting period. Additionally, ILAB reviewed whether the government established or failed to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law, policy, or practice that delayed advancement in eliminating child labor. Finally, ILAB also examined whether countries had a policy or demonstrated a practice of being *complicit in forced child labor* in more than isolated incidents at the national, regional, or local level.

To promote consistency and transparency, and to operationalize these first five TDA criteria, each country's efforts were analyzed according to a uniform set of guidance questions related to the five general areas of laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, policies, and social programs. Detailed information is given in "TDA Guidance Questions."

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CSO volunteers in partnership with UNICEF engage with adolescents to discuss perceptions and experiences of violence and safety with a focus on gender-based violence. Khodiyarnagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. December 7, 2020.

Appendix 9

TDA Guidance Questions

Assessment Level

TDA Conference Report Criterion:

- Whether the country is making continual progress toward eliminating the worst forms of child labor

Guidance Questions

- What efforts did the country make to address child labor during the year?
- Has the government instituted minimally acceptable laws and regulations, mechanisms, and programs to address and prevent child labor?
- Did the government of the country establish or fail to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law, policy, or practice that delayed advancement in the elimination of child labor?*
- Was the government of the country complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents?*

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of Child Labor

Guidance Questions

- Were government officials complicit in the use of forced child labor in more than isolated incidents?*
- What are the prevalent types of child labor in each country?
- Has the government conducted research on the prevalence and nature of the worst forms of child labor and made the results publicly available?
- Are specific populations vulnerable to child labor due to gender, race, ethnicity, origin, disability, language, or socioeconomic status?
- Were there events during the year that destabilized the country, such as armed conflict; health epidemics and natural disasters; or other social, economic, and political crises?

* Note: *A "yes" response likely means that the country will automatically receive an assessment of Minimal Advancement or No Advancement.*

Legal Framework for the Worst Forms of Child Labor

TDA Conference Report Criterion:

- Whether the country has adequate laws and regulations proscribing the worst forms of child labor

Guidance Questions

- Did the laws meet international standards?
- Is the minimum age for admission to employment in line with ILO C. 138?
- Is the minimum age for admission to hazardous work in line with ILO C. 138 and C. 182?
- Are criminal prohibitions on forced child labor, child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and use of children in illicit activities in line with ILO C. 182?
- Is the prohibition against recruitment of children under age 18 for state compulsory military service in line with ILO C. 182 and the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict?
- Is the minimum age for recruitment into state voluntary military service in line with the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict?
- Is the prohibition against recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups in line with ILO C. 182?
- Does the age up to which education is compulsory align with the minimum age for work and meet the standards in ILO C. 138?
- Is the provision of free public basic education in line with ILO C. 182?

- If the law permits light work, is the minimum age in line with ILO C. 138 and are there appropriate safeguards as outlined in ILO C. 138?
- Has the country ratified ILO C. 182 and C. 138, as well as other relevant conventions and protocols?
- If the country's constitution and laws are not compliant with international standards embodied in ILO C. 138 and C. 182, has there been any change in the constitution or laws that brings the country closer to being fully compliant?
- Are laws related to child labor available to the public?
- Did the country establish or fail to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law that delayed its advancement in the elimination of child labor?*

* Note: *A "yes" response likely means that the country will automatically receive an assessment of Minimal Advancement or No Advancement.*

Enforcement of Laws on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

TDA Conference Report Criteria:

- Whether the country has adequate laws and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of such measures
- Whether the country has established formal institutional mechanisms to investigate and address complaints relating to allegations of the worst forms of child labor
- In this section of the country profiles, ILAB analyzes whether, or to what degree, a country has defined enforcement agency roles, conducted routine and unannounced inspections, and investigated and addressed complaints related to allegations of the worst forms of child labor. The analysis is based on the following guidance questions.

Guidance Questions

- Does the country have a labor inspectorate?
- Does the country have labor inspectors? Are its labor inspectors public servants as opposed to contractors?
- What was the amount of funding for the labor inspectorate? Was there an increase or decrease in the funding and resources to enforce child labor laws and regulations, and were these resources adequate given the incidence of child labor in the country?
- Was there an increase or reduction in the number of labor inspectors to enforce child labor laws and regulations, and was the number of labor inspectors adequate given the size of the country's workforce?
- Did the country offer initial training to new labor inspectors and investigators, including specialized training on child labor; training on new laws related to child labor, including its worst forms; and refresher courses?
- Did the labor inspectorate fail to conduct labor inspections during the reporting period?*
- Does the labor inspectorate lack legal authorization to conduct unannounced inspections?*
- Did the inspectorate conduct unannounced inspections?
- Did the government develop and implement a labor inspection strategy that allowed for different types of onsite inspections of worksites, such as routine, targeted, complaint-driven, or unannounced?
- Were inspections conducted with sufficient frequency and in all relevant sectors?
- Did the government provide the labor inspectorate with sufficient authority to sanction child labor violations?
- Did the country make available information on labor law enforcement efforts related to child

labor, including the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites and by desk review, the number of child labor violations found, and the number of child labor violations for which penalties were imposed and collected?

- Does the government have a mechanism for filing and resolving complaints expeditiously regarding child labor?
- Does a reciprocal referral mechanism exist between labor and criminal authorities and social services?
- Did the government investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence cases of violations of criminal child labor statutes, including public officials who participate in or facilitate the worst forms of child labor?
- Did the government impose penalties for violations related to the worst forms of child labor?
- Did the country make available information on criminal law enforcement efforts related to the worst forms of child labor, including the number of investigations, violations found, prosecutions initiated, convictions obtained, and penalties imposed?
- Did the government establish or improve a process for information sharing among enforcement authorities?
- Did the government ensure that all children engaged in the worst forms of child labor were protected from inappropriate incarceration, penalties, or physical harm?
- Did the country establish or fail to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental law enforcement practice that delayed its advancement in the elimination of child labor?*

* Note: *A "yes" response likely means that the country will automatically receive an assessment of Minimal Advancement or No Advancement.*

Coordination of Government Efforts on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

TDA Conference Report Criterion:

- Whether the country has established formal institutional mechanisms to investigate and address complaints relating to allegations of the worst forms of child labor.
- In this section, ILAB analyzes whether, or to what degree, the country has institutions charged with coordinating overall efforts to combat child labor, including its worst forms. The analysis is based on the following guidance questions.

Guidance Questions

- Does the government have an agency or committee created to coordinate government efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor? Did it create such an agency or committee during the reporting period?
- Does the agency or committee address all sectors of child labor that are prevalent in the country, or does it address only certain sectors?
- Did such an agency or committee meet regularly and take actions, or did it not meet regularly and take few or no actions?

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

TDA Conference Report Criterion:

- Whether the country has a comprehensive policy for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.

Guidance Questions

- Did the government establish any new policies or plans that specifically address the worst forms of child labor or any one of the worst forms of child labor?
- Did the government incorporate the worst forms of child labor specifically as an issue to be addressed

in poverty reduction, development, educational, or other social policies, such as poverty reduction strategy papers?

- Did the government establish poverty reduction, development, educational, or other social policies, such as poverty reduction strategy papers, that did not explicitly address the worst forms of child labor or any one of the worst forms of child labor, but that might have had an impact on it or them?
- If the country established any of the above policies or plans, do they designate responsibilities, establish goals, and set timelines?
- Did the government effectively implement existing policies and plans?
- Did the country establish or fail to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental policy that delayed its advancement in the elimination of child labor?*

* Note: *A "yes" response likely means that the country will automatically receive an assessment of Minimal Advancement or No Advancement.*

Social Programs to Address Child Labor

TDA Conference Report Criterion:

- Whether social programs exist in the country to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labor, and assist in the removal of children engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

Guidance Questions

- Did the government fund or participate in any new or ongoing programs that aim to eliminate or prevent the worst forms of child labor?
- Did the government fund or participate in any social protection programs that could reasonably be expected to have an impact on child labor? Were any of the country's programs shown, through research, to have had an impact on child labor?
- Did the government make efforts to reduce children's vulnerability to the worst forms of child labor by addressing factors such as:
  - Country-and region-specific practices that make children vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor; and
  - Barriers to education, such as a lack of teachers; lack of schools or inadequate facilities; lack of infrastructure to access schools; lack of transportation; violence, including physical and sexual abuse; birth registration requirements; and the charging of school fees?
- Are the country's programs sufficient to combat particular forms of child labor, considering the scope and magnitude of those problems?
- Do the programs provide services directly to children?
- Do the programs adequately target at-risk populations?
- Were the programs fully funded?
- Are the programs meeting their goals?
- Are the program efforts sustainable?
- Did existing government programs improve or worsen in quality or effectiveness compared with the previous year?
- Did the country establish or fail to remedy a regressive or significantly detrimental social program or other practice that delayed its advancement in the elimination of child labor?*

* Note: *A "yes" response likely means that the country will automatically receive an assessment of Minimal Advancement or No Advancement*

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Alondra smiles at her desk in one of Compassion International's church-based development centers. Nicaragua. 2019.

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Shakib, age 12, works from early morning to late evening in a rickshaw parts factory to support his family. Bangladesh. March 13, 2018.

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Children and women doing heavy labor in the coal fields. Jharia, India. 2016.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ADDRESS CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR?

ASK QUESTIONS

- **Could some of the goods I buy** be made by child labor or forced labor?
- **Do workers have a voice** to speak out against labor abuses?
- **What are companies doing** to end child labor and forced labor in global supply chains?
- **What are governments doing** to combat child labor and forced labor?

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ADVOCATE FOR A WORLD IN WHICH:

- **Workers everywhere can raise their voices** against child labor, forced labor, and other abuses.
- **Companies make serious commitments** to ensure that global supply chains are free of products made by child labor and forced labor, especially those on USDOL's ***List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor***.
- **Your investments have a positive social impact** by promoting responsible labor practices.
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