

In 2020, Costa Rica made significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. In November, the government ratified the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention of 1930. The government also provided updated statistics on child labor prevalence and published the first findings of its Child Labor Risk Identification Model. In addition, the Attorney General published disaggregated data on efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor, and the Office for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker began drafting a new National Action Plan to combat the worst forms of child labor. However, children in Costa Rica are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture, including in the production of coffee. Furthermore, existing social programs are not accessible to workers in all sectors, and the labor inspectorate lacks a sufficient number of inspectors.



### I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Costa Rica are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture, including in the production of coffee. (I-10) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Costa Rica.

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

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	6.5 (46,509)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	98.4
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	7.0
Primary Completion Rate (%)		102.7

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2019, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021. (11)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6 (MICS 6), 2018. (12)

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	Cultivating vegetables, roots, and tubers (8)
	Picking coffee (2,3,13-15)
	Weeding, clearing land, and watering seeds (4,16)
	Cattle raising, including for the production of milk (2,8,13,16)
	Fishing,† including shellfish extraction (13,17,18)
Industry	Construction, including of buildings (2,8,16,17)
	Mining† gold (16)
	Manufacturing, activities unknown (2,17)
Services	Working in restaurants, shops, and hotels (2,8,17)
	Street vending,† car washing, and repairing motor vehicles (2,8,10,13,16)
	Domestic work (2,8,10,16,17,19)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (5,6,18,20,21)

# Costa Rica

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Use in the production of pornography (16,22,23)
	Forced labor in the agriculture, construction, fishing, street vending, and commercial sectors (7,18,22,24)
	Domestic servitude (18,21)
	Use in transporting or selling drugs, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (21)

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

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

Children in Costa Rica, including migrant children, are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation, particularly in tourist destinations, border areas, and in the Northern and Pacific coastal zones. Costa Rica is also a destination country for child sex tourism, particularly with tourists from Europe and the United States. (21,25) Migrant children, typically from Nicaragua, are subjected to forced labor in agriculture, domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation. (20,21,25)

In 2020, Costa Rica published updated child labor data through its National Household Survey, which showed that the number of working children between the ages of 12 through 17 had dropped from 13,328 in 2018 to 6,706 in 2019. (26) While the government highlighted the data as an indication of the near eradication of child labor, its last survey to incorporate children between the ages of 5 and 17 was conducted in 2016. (18)







A third of children engaged in child labor in Costa Rica work in agriculture, with the highest incidences of child labor occurring in coastal regions, in provinces such as Limon, Puntarenas, and Guanacaste. Migrant, indigenous, and Afro-descendant children are at the greatest risk of labor exploitation. (27,28)

Although preschool and general basic education are free and compulsory, children in rural areas, girls, LGBTI youth, and children from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities face challenges, such as discrimination and gender stereotypes, in accessing and completing their education. (1,5,29,30,31) Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, an estimated 324,000 students may have lost access to education due to a lack of Internet connection after the government shut down schools and transitioned to a virtual learning model to reduce transmission of the virus. (18)

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

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

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

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

The government has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Costa Rica’s legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the prohibition of non-state military recruitment of children.

**Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor**

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Articles 3, 78, 92, and 101 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (31)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Articles 1 and 5 of Law 8922; Article 87 of the Labor Code (32,33)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 94 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 5 of Law 8922; Article 88 of the Labor Code; Articles 5–6 of Regulation No. 36640 (31-34)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 20 and 56 of the Constitution; Article 8 of the Labor Code; Articles 7, 170–172, 189 <i>bis</i> , 192, 376, 381, and 383–384 of the Penal Code; Article 84 of Regulation No. 36659; Article 7 of the Trafficking in Persons Law (33,35-38)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 7, 170–172, 189, 192, 376, 381, and 383–384 of the Penal Code; Article 84 of Regulation No. 36659; Article 5 of the Trafficking in Persons Law (35-37)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 160, 168, and 170–174 of the Penal Code (35)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 7, 188, 381, and 390 of the Penal Code; Article 77 of the Narcotics Law (35,39)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	N/A†		
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	N/A†		
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	17‡	Articles 57 and 59 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 78 of the Constitution (31,38)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 59 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 8 of the Education Law; Article 78 of the Constitution (31,38,40)

† No standing military (38)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (31,38)

During the reporting period, Costa Rica ratified the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention of 1930, which commits the government to take national action to combat, prevent, raise awareness of, and support victims of forced and compulsory labor. The Protocol will enter into force in Costa Rica in November of 2021. (18,41,42)

Two bills drafted in 2019 to amend the country's comprehensive list of hazardous occupations had yet to be sent to the National Assembly, pending inter-agency commission review and Ministry of Labor approval. The draft bills would restrict the participation of minors in public presentations and shows, particularly routines that pose the risk of death, have content contrary to morality, are performed during restricted hours, or interfere with compulsory education. (18,43) The bills would also restrict some fishing activities. (18)

Costa Rica's minimum age for work is lower than the compulsory education age, making children between ages 15 and 17 vulnerable to child labor exploitation.

### III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

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

# Costa Rica

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

**Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS)	Monitors and enforces provisions in the Labor Code related to child labor, including conducting inspections and verification at worksites to ensure children are not engaged in hazardous labor or engaging in work that compromises a child's education. (31) Through the Office for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker (OATIA), responds to and attempts to prevent child labor through policy development and public awareness campaigns. (44) Protects adolescent labor rights by conducting school and workplace visits, providing referrals to government services, and writing socio-labor studies and technical reports to inform policies and programs. (31)
Attorney General's Office	Enforces criminal laws protecting children, including laws prohibiting forced child labor, human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and the use of children in illicit activities. Coordinates with the Judicial Investigative Police, Immigration Police, Uniformed Police, and municipal police forces, and administers the following investigative and prosecutorial units: Specialized Prosecutorial Unit against Trafficking in Persons, Organized Crime Unit, Specialized Prosecutorial Unit for Gender Issues, and Juvenile Justice Unit. (10,16,45)
Judicial Investigative Police	Investigate child labor violations, including child trafficking, child commercial sexual exploitation, and the use of children in illicit activities. (20)
National Child Welfare Agency (PANI)	Leads the coordination of government and civil society efforts in child and adolescent protection. (46) Ensures that child labor victims receive social services, including temporary shelter, legal advice, counseling, and reintegration into the educational system. (31)

### Labor Law Enforcement

In 2020, labor law enforcement agencies in Costa Rica took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including penalty assessment authorization.

**Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor**

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$14,000,000 (10)	\$8,300,000 (18)
Number of Labor Inspectors	123 (10)	123 (18)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (33)	Yes (33)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	18,082 (10)	6,424 (47)
Number Conducted at Worksite	18,082 (10)	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	23 (10)	10 (18)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (33)	Yes (33)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (10)	Yes (18)

While the labor inspectorate identified 10 child labor violations during the reporting period, the Office for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker (OATIA) also identified 231 minors working. Meanwhile, the National Child Welfare Agency reported receiving 43 reports of minors engaged in child labor and exploitation. (18) In 2020, the Labor Inspection Office (DNI) within MTSS forwarded one case of child labor to OATIA so that social services could be provided. Meanwhile, OATIA referred 129 working minors to the Joint Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS) for inclusion in the cash transfer program for adolescent workers. (18)

During the reporting period, the DNI was forced to cease inspections in April and May due to the pandemic, and it modified its inspection strategy to conduct some onsite and some virtual inspections. It is not clear if the pandemic was the sole cause in the drop in total number of inspections. (18)

In 2020, MTSS reported its budget for only the DNI, as opposed to its entire program budget as it has reported in previous years. The DNI has indicated that its 2020 budget was sufficient to meet its needs. (10) However, enforcement of child labor laws, particularly in rural areas, is reportedly challenging due to insufficient funds for travel, facilities, and per diem costs incurred during inspections. (1,16) In addition, the Labor Inspection Office has acknowledged that the number of labor inspectors was insufficient to cover the target population. (10,18) The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Costa Rica’s workforce, which includes more than 2 million workers. According to the ILO’s technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, Costa Rica would employ about 148 inspectors. (48,49) Government monitoring and enforcement of child labor laws is also limited in the informal sector, in which most child labor occurs, especially hazardous adolescent work. (2,13,23,50) Informal work is more common in agriculture than in other sectors in Costa Rica. (2)

The government did not provide information on number of worksite inspections conducted or amount of penalties imposed or collected for child labor violations for inclusion in this report.

### **Criminal Law Enforcement**

In 2020, criminal law enforcement agencies in Costa Rica took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including training for criminal investigators.

**Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor**

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (10)	Yes (18)
Number of Investigations	91 (10)	31 (18)
Number of Violations Found	79 (10)	12 (18)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	16 (10)	4 (18)
Number of Convictions	9 (10)	2 (18)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (20)	Yes (18)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (10)	Yes (18)

The Attorney General's Office provided disaggregated data of its criminal law enforcement efforts in 2020 in relation to the worst forms of child labor, which showed charges including forced begging, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, labor exploitation, and the distribution or possession of pornographic material. It investigated 31 cases, including 10 cases involving child trafficking and 21 cases of child pornography. (18) In one case, a defendant was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment for the commercial sexual exploitation of minors to whom he had offered modeling jobs. (18) In another case, two Nicaraguans were arrested for the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor, who was trafficked by her stepmother. (51)

During the reporting period, investigators received initial training and training on human trafficking and smuggling laws that were modified in 2019. The Attorney General's Office indicated that the pandemic had affected its operations and thus training during the reporting period was insufficient. (18)

Reports indicate that the judiciary, prosecutors, and the police require additional staff, training, and resources to identify victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, refer victims to appropriate social services, and investigate, prosecute, and convict perpetrators. Due to the pandemic, the government issued

# Costa Rica

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

significant budget cuts in 2020 that further reduced resources for criminal law enforcement agencies. (6,20,24,52) In addition, a lack of training and resources for municipal-level authorities hampered the abilities of local governments to respond to cases that could involve the worst forms of child labor. (25) Costa Rica does not have a database to track human trafficking cases, making it difficult to target enforcement and prevention efforts. (24)

## 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 sufficient resources to ensure coordination among relevant agencies.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
MTSS Office for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker (OATIA)	Coordinates government policies and programs to combat child labor. (2,4) Oversees the Inter-Institutional Coordinating Protocol for the Protection of Working Minors. (53) In 2020, OATIA, in collaboration with the ILO, the U.S. Department of Labor, and other agencies, published the results of the Child Labor Risk Identification Model, a statistical tool designed to identify localities with the greatest risk of child labor to develop targeted policies and strategies. (18,27,54)
National Committee for the Elimination of Child Labor and the Protection of Adolescent Work	Develops and promotes policy and program initiatives focused on eliminating child labor and regulating adolescent work. Overseen by OATIA and includes a technical secretariat that comprises representatives from various sectors. (4) During the reporting period, Costa Rica began drafting a new roadmap to combat child labor to replace the one that expired in 2020. Work on the roadmap included hosting individual stakeholder workshops in anticipation of a national workshop. (18,47)
National Coalition against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (CONATT)	Leads government efforts to combat human trafficking and coordinates with OATIA and the National Commission Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CONACOES). (6,16) Coordinates anti-trafficking efforts among 22 public institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations. Responsible for developing and implementing anti-trafficking policies, providing care to victims, prosecuting perpetrators, and providing training to government agencies. (25) During the reporting period, CONATT conducted trainings for various stakeholders on human trafficking and migration, including targeted trainings in San Carlos, Alajuela. The trainings reached around 2,500 individuals, a decrease from previous years since most trainings were conducted virtually due to the pandemic. (18,25)
National Commission Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CONACOES)	Prevents the commercial sexual exploitation of children and provides assistance and protection to victims. (16) Led by the National Council of Childhood and Adolescence; coordinates with OATIA and CONATT to address the worst forms of child labor. (16,55) In 2020, the commission held regular plenary and sub-commission sessions focusing on developing sub-commission work plans for 2021. (18)

Reports indicate that coordination is lacking between institutions responsible for investigating the worst forms of child labor and those providing social services to victims. (4,6) OATIA has reported that its office needs additional staff to better assist children engaged in child labor and their families. In addition, OATIA has noted that its office shares one vehicle with two other MTSS units, which limits its ability to provide oversight of child labor programs. (45)

## 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 implementation.

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

Policy	Description
Roadmap against Child Labor and the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2010–2020)	Aimed to eradicate all forms of child labor in Costa Rica by 2020 by strengthening anti-poverty, health, and educational programs and policies, and by raising awareness of child labor. (56,57) The roadmap expired in 2020 and the government began drafting a new roadmap for 2021. (18)
Inter-Institutional Coordinating Protocol for the Protection of Working Minors	Outlines provision of services for child laborers through collaboration between MTSS, PANI, the Ministry of Public Education, and the Joint Institute of Social Assistance (IMAS), and their regional and local agencies and the private sector. (2,4,58) The government implemented the protocol during the reporting period, as demonstrated by referrals of child labor cases to various support agencies. (18)

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

Policy	Description
National Plan for Development (2019–2022)	Outlines the government's objectives, priorities, and goals in the use of resources and in the implementation of policies, plans, and projects over a 4-year period. The plan incorporates labor rights, child welfare and development, and poverty reduction, and integrates child labor as an indicator for establishing decent work and reducing employment insecurity. (10,59) In 2020, an action plan was developed and agencies received training on steps to take to meet the goals of the development plan. (60) The government also published data in 2020 indicating that the plan had met three of its five goals in 2019, including reducing poverty. (61)

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2020, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the accessibility of programs to all relevant groups.

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

Program	Description
Bridge to Development†	Aims to reduce poverty and eliminate vulnerability, including child labor, by providing social services to families in poor communities. (4,23,62) In 2020, the program expanded to include 19,000 families in the Chorotega region. (63) The program also launched a new joint initiative in 2020 that focuses on implementing strategies to improve female economic independence with a focus on environmental sustainability. The new initiative implemented three "innovation laboratories" in the Buenos Aires, Puntarenas, and Limon cantons. (64)
Face of Justice Shelter†	NGO-run shelter for child victims of human trafficking that provides PANI-funded monthly subsidies to victims and care from full-time staff, including a trauma psychologist and health practitioner. (22,24) The organization announced in 2020 that it had received funding to build a new shelter for child victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation referred by PANI, and indicated the shelter would have space for 24 female survivors. (65,66)
Houses of Joy (Casas de la Alegría)†	Public-private alliance that provides culturally sensitive daycare and meals to <i>Ngäbe Buglé</i> , indigenous children whose parents work on coffee farms in Coto Brus. Aims to promote social inclusion and developmental opportunities for indigenous children and provide an alternative to child labor during the coffee harvest. (3,16,23,67-69) IMAS funds meals, caregiver salaries, and training; farm owners provide the land and classrooms, with financial contributions from UNICEF for building and teaching materials. (1,23,55,58,68) In 2020, <i>Casas de Alegría</i> initiated a cooperative expansion with <i>Cooperativas de Las Americas</i> and the EU to renovate facilities and incorporate home appliances, and to implement strategies for improving employment conditions for agricultural workers. (70,71)
Let's Get Ahead Program (Avancemos)†	IMAS program that provides monthly conditional cash transfers to low-income families to keep children in school and out of exploitative work. (2,30,72) In 2020, IMAS increased funding for all of its social programs by nearly 65 percent, including for the <i>Avancemos</i> program, which received over \$49 million during the reporting period. The program served 163,434 students in 2020. (73) In addition, during the reporting period, IMAS conducted a survey of <i>Avancemos</i> participants to gauge perceptions of the program's effectiveness during the pandemic. (74)
USDOL-Funded Projects	<u>Youth Pathways to Leadership, Learning, and Livelihoods in Costa Rica</u> , \$3 million project implemented by Youth Build International; (75) <u>Promoting Apprenticeship as a Path for Youth Employment in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Kenya through Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN) National Networks</u> , \$3.3 million multi-country project that works with employers, government agencies, civil society organizations, and other actors to promote apprenticeships and other types of work-based training opportunities for vulnerable youth; (76) <u>Implementing a Culture of Labor Compliance in Costa Rica's Agricultural Export Sector</u> , \$2 million project implemented by the Foundation for Peace and Democracy (FUNDAPEM). (77) For additional information, please see our <a href="#">website</a> .

† Program is funded by the Government of Costa Rica.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (78,79)

Research indicates that *Ngäbe Buglé*, indigenous children in Costa Rica who migrate with their families to work seasonally on coffee farms, face additional challenges in accessing social services due to long distances to service providers, language barriers, and complications in obtaining required documents from government institutions. (3,14)

# Costa Rica

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

### 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 Costa Rica (Table II).

**Table II. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups.	2016 – 2020
	Raise the minimum age for work to be commensurate with the compulsory age for education.	2020
Enforcement	Publish information on the number of inspections conducted at worksites, and of child labor violations for which penalties were imposed and collected.	2017 – 2020
	Allocate sufficient resources to ensure regular labor inspections in rural areas and the informal sector, including child labor inspections, particularly in agriculture.	2015 – 2020
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice.	2015 – 2020
	Ensure that the judiciary, prosecutors, municipal authorities, and the police have sufficient staff, training, and resources to investigate, prosecute, and convict perpetrators of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, and identify victims of child trafficking and refer them to appropriate social services.	2017 – 2020
	Develop a mechanism to properly track human trafficking cases to improve enforcement and prevention efforts.	2019 – 2020
Coordination	Strengthen coordination and information sharing between institutions responsible for investigating child labor and providing social services to victims.	2015 – 2020
	Increase transportation and human resources for the Office for the Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker so that the office can improve program oversight.	2015 – 2020
Government Policies	Adopt and implement a new roadmap to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.	2020
Social Programs	Enhance efforts to eliminate barriers and make education accessible for all children, including children in rural areas, girls, LGBTI youth, children from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and migrant children.	2015 – 2020
	Improve access to social services, particularly for migrant, Ngäbe Buglé indigenous children in coffee-growing areas.	2015 – 2020

## REFERENCES

- U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. January 8, 2019.
- UCW. Entender el trabajo infantil y el empleo juvenil en Costa Rica. Rome, Understanding Children's Work (UCW) Programme. October 2015. [http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/13052016799CostaRica\\_trabajo\\_infantil\\_empleo\\_juvenil.pdf](http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/13052016799CostaRica_trabajo_infantil_empleo_juvenil.pdf)
- Government of Costa Rica. Consideraciones respecto al informe Child Labor and Forced Labor Report. San José, Ministry of Labor and Social Security. November 21, 2016. Source on file.
- Government of Costa Rica. Información sobre trabajo infantil para el Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos. San José, Ministry of Labor and Social Security. December 21, 2015. Source on file.
- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Costa Rica. July 24, 2017: CEDAW/C/CRI/CO/7. [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/CRI/CO/7&Lang=En](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/CRI/CO/7&Lang=En)
- International Bureau for Children's Rights. Mapping Report on the Fight Against Human Trafficking in Costa Rica. 2016. [http://www.ibcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Cartographie-Costa-Rica-ANG\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.ibcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Cartographie-Costa-Rica-ANG_WEB.pdf)
- U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report- 2017: Costa Rica. Washington, DC, June 27, 2017. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2017-trafficking-in-persons-report/costa-rica/>
- Government of Costa Rica. Magnitud y características del trabajo infantil y adolescente en Costa Rica- Informe 2016. 2017. <http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/magnitud-y-caracteristicas-del-trabajo-infantil-adolescente-CR-Informe2016.pdf>
- Presidencia de la República de Costa Rica. Costa Rica reduce trabajo infantil al sacar a 12 mil menores de edad. March 28, 2017. <http://presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2017/03/costa-rica-reduce-trabajo-infantil-al-sacar-a-12-mil-menores-de-edad/>
- U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. January 15, 2020.
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education, both sexes (%). Accessed March 3, 2021. For more information, please see "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" in the Reference Materials section of this report. <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>
- ILO. Analysis of Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Statistics from National Household or Child Labor Surveys. Original data from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6 (MICS 6), 2018. Analysis received March 3, 2021. Please see "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" in the Reference Materials section of this report.
- U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. January 27, 2017.
- IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean. We improve the human security of the indigenous migrants Ngäbe and Buglé. January 22, 2016. Source on file.



- 15 La Nación. 30.000 familias todavía se ganan el sustento en cogidas de café. December 18, 2016.  
<http://www.nacion.com/el-pais/30-000-familias-todavia-se-ganan-el-sustento-en-cogidas-de-cafe/WNj3BIOEXRC4FN3GNGDFWFR55U/story/>
- 16 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. December 28, 2017.
- 17 ILO-IPEC. Magnitud y características del trabajo infantil y adolescente en Costa Rica- Informe 2011. Geneva. 2012.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=20655>
- 18 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. January 14, 2021.
- 19 ILO CEACR. Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Costa Rica (ratification: 2001). Published: 2018.  
[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::PI3100\\_COMMENT\\_ID,PI1110\\_COUNTRY\\_ID,PI1110\\_COUNTRY\\_NAME,PI1110\\_COMMENT\\_YEAR:3340943,102599,Costa Rica,2017](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::PI3100_COMMENT_ID,PI1110_COUNTRY_ID,PI1110_COUNTRY_NAME,PI1110_COMMENT_YEAR:3340943,102599,Costa Rica,2017)
- 20 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. February 19, 2020. Source on file.
- 21 U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report- 2020: Costa Rica. Washington, DC, June 25, 2020.  
<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/costa-rica/>
- 22 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. February 22, 2017.
- 23 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. January 19, 2016.
- 24 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. February 22, 2019.
- 25 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. February 26, 2021.
- 26 Government of Costa Rica. ENAHO. 2020. Población de 12 a 17 años ocupada por promedio de horas trabajadas e ingreso promedio mensual en la ocupación principal según zona y sexo. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, June 2020.  
[https://www.inec.cr/sites/default/files/documentos-biblioteca-virtual/resocialenaho2020-01\\_0.xlsx](https://www.inec.cr/sites/default/files/documentos-biblioteca-virtual/resocialenaho2020-01_0.xlsx)
- 27 Government of Costa Rica. Modelo de Vulnerabilidad al Trabajo Infantil: Costa Rica. Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social. January 2020.  
<http://www.mtss.go.cr/seguridad-social/trabajo-infantil/trabajo-infantil/USDOL Nueva Ficha Nacional Costa Rica.pdf>
- 28 Agencia EFE. Trabajo infantil se concentra en zonas costeras y vulnerables de Costa Rica. San Jose. January 24, 2020.  
<https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/trabajo-infantil-se-concentra-en-zonas-costeras-y-vulnerables-de-costa-rica/20000013-4158372>
- 29 UN Human Rights Committee. Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 40 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Costa Rica. April 22, 2016: CCPR/C/CRI/CO/6\*.  
<http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkGI d/PPRiCAqhKb7yhsmeziWnPEw50wdOC4P JZQ0WtpVN0FDEDmm lYLulEDCGzdExT k0QEulVplyjnoR5oZKVueVLeMBPWw3ialrPadPNd8cju/w+L9GidLsyboh5>
- 30 U.S. Embassy- San Jose. Reporting. July 1, 2016.
- 31 Government of Costa Rica. Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, Ley N° 7739. Enacted: 1998 (updated 2010).  
[http://196.40.56.11/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm\\_texto\\_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=43077&nValor3=107852&strTipM=TC](http://196.40.56.11/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=43077&nValor3=107852&strTipM=TC)
- 32 Government of Costa Rica. Prohibición del Trabajo Peligroso e Insalubre para Personas Adolescentes Trabajadoras, Law 8922. Enacted: February 3, 2011.  
<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/86385/97460/F112157985/CRI86385.pdf>
- 33 Government of Costa Rica. Código de Trabajo, Ley No. 2. Enacted: 1943 (updated 2010).  
[http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm\\_texto\\_completo.aspx?nValor1=1&nValor2=8045](http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?nValor1=1&nValor2=8045)
- 34 Government of Costa Rica. Reglamento a la Ley Sobre Prohibición del Trabajo Peligroso e Insalubre para Personas Adolescentes Trabajadoras y Reforma Reglamento para la Contratación Laboral y Condiciones de Salud Ocupacional de las Personas Adolescentes, No. 36640-MTSS. Enacted: June 22, 2011.  
<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88852/101726/F662984233/CRI88852.pdf>
- 35 Government of Costa Rica. Código Penal, Ley 4573. Enacted: 1970 (updated 2013).  
[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p\\_isn=31590&p\\_lang=en](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_isn=31590&p_lang=en)
- 36 Government of Costa Rica. Ley contra la trata de personas y creación de la coalición nacional contra el tráfico ilícito de migrantes y la trata de personas (CONATT), Ley 9095. Enacted: February 8, 2013. (Last amended 2019).  
[http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm\\_texto\\_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=74132&nValor3=0&strTipM=TC](http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=74132&nValor3=0&strTipM=TC)
- 37 Government of Costa Rica. Reglamento para la aplicación de la ley general de migración y extranjería número 8764 a las personas menores de edad, No. 36659. Enacted: May 2011.  
[http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm\\_texto\\_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=70690&nValor3=85525&strTipM=TC](http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=70690&nValor3=85525&strTipM=TC)
- 38 Government of Costa Rica. Constitución Política de la República de Costa Rica. Enacted: 1949 (Updated January 1, 2014).  
<https://pdba.georgetown.edu/Parties/CostaRica/Leyes/constitucion.pdf>
- 39 Government of Costa Rica. Reforma integral Ley sobre estupefacientes, sustancias psicotrópicas, drogas de uso no autorizado, actividades conexas, legitimación de capitales y financiamiento al terrorismo, No. 8204. Enacted: December 26, 2001. Source on file.
- 40 Government of Costa Rica. Ley Fundamental de Educación, Public Law Number 2160. Enacted: 1957 (updated 2001).  
[http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm\\_texto\\_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=31427&nValor3=33152&strTipM=TC](http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=31427&nValor3=33152&strTipM=TC)
- 41 International Labor Organization. P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930. Entry into force: November 9, 2016.  
[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::PI2100\\_ILO\\_CODE:P029](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::PI2100_ILO_CODE:P029)
- 42 International Labor Organization. Ratifications of P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930.  
[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11300:0::NO:11300::PI1300\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:3174672](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11300:0::NO:11300::PI1300_INSTRUMENT_ID:3174672)
- 43 U.S. Embassy- San Jose official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. June 16, 2021.
- 44 Government of Costa Rica. Trabajo Infantil y Adolescente. Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social,  
<http://www.mtss.go.cr/seguridad-social/trabajo-infantil/>
- 45 U.S. Embassy- San Jose official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. June 29, 2018.
- 46 Government of Costa Rica. Axis of Leadership. National Child Welfare Agency, 2016.  
<https://pani.go.cr/liderazgo>
- 47 U.S. Department of State official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. April 14, 2021.
- 48 CIA. The World Factbook. Accessed April 5, 2017. Please see “Labor Law Enforcement: Sources and Definitions” in the Reference Materials section of this report.  
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>
- 49 UN. World Economic Situation and Prospects 2017 Statistical Annex. New York, 2017. Please see “Labor Law Enforcement: Sources and Definitions” in the Reference Materials section of this report.  
[https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/2017wesp\\_full\\_en.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/2017wesp_full_en.pdf)

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

- 50 U.S. Department of State. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2019: Costa Rica. Washington, DC, March 11, 2020. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/costa-rica/>
- 51 Prensa Nicaragua Actual. Nicaraguense detenida en Costa Rica por Trata de Personas. October 7, 2020. <https://nicaraguaactual.tv/nicaraguenses-detenidas-en-costa-rica-por-trata-de-personas/>
- 52 Government of Costa Rica. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo y de Inversión Pública del Bicentenario 2019–2022 de Costa Rica. <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/es/planes/plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-y-de-inversion-publica-del-bicentenario-2019-2022-de-costa-rica>
- 53 Government of Costa Rica. Decreto 34423-MTSS. Enacted: February 12, 2008. [http://white.lim.ilo.org/ipecc//documentos/protocolo\\_inter\\_costa\\_rica\\_2008.pdf](http://white.lim.ilo.org/ipecc//documentos/protocolo_inter_costa_rica_2008.pdf)
- 54 Revista Summa. Costa Rica aumenta sus posibilidades de poner fin al trabajo infantil en 2025. February 21, 2020. <https://revistasumma.com/costa-rica-aumenta-sus-posibilidades-de-poner-fin-al-trabajo-infantil-en-2025/>
- 55 U.S. Embassy- San Jose official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. May 10, 2017.
- 56 ILO-IPEC. Hoja de ruta para hacer de Costa Rica un país libre de trabajo infantil y sus peores formas: Documento Estratégico. January 2, 2010. <http://www.ilo.org/ipeccinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=12713>
- 57 ILO-IPEC. Hoja de ruta para hacer de Costa Rica un país libre de trabajo infantil y sus peores formas. March 2011. [http://www.mtss.go.cr/seguridad-social/trabajo-infantil/trabajo-infantil/normativa/Hoja\\_Ruta\\_CR.pdf](http://www.mtss.go.cr/seguridad-social/trabajo-infantil/trabajo-infantil/normativa/Hoja_Ruta_CR.pdf)
- 58 Government of Costa Rica. Protocolo de coordinación interinstitucional para la atención de las personas trabajadoras menores de edad. Costa Rica. San José, February 12, 2008. <https://www.ilo.org/ipeccinfo/product/viewProduct.do?sessionId=491a4e85ee0dec21ab6b384284f6cbeb101bbce1cad03a5f515838400247f90d.e3aTbhulbNmSe34MchaRahaPb3j0?productid=12754>
- 59 Government of Costa Rica. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo y de Inversión Pública del Bicentenario 2019–2022 de Costa Rica. 2019. <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/Costa Rica PNDIP 2019-2022.pdf>
- 60 Government of Costa Rica. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo ya cuenta con un plan de acción. Ministerio de Planificación Nacional y Política Económica, April 4, 2020. <https://www.mideplan.go.cr/index.php/plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-ya-cuenta-con-un-plan-de-accion>
- 61 Delfino. Gobierno cumple tres de cinco metas nacionales del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo. February 27, 2020. <https://delfino.cr/2020/02/gobierno-cumple-tres-de-cinco-metas-nacionales-del-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo>
- 62 Government of Costa Rica. Puente al desarrollo. Accessed February 22, 2017. <https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2015/03/puente-al-desarrollo-estrategia-nacional-reduccion-de-la-pobreza/>
- 63 Periodico Mensaje. 19.000 familias nuevas se incorporaron a Puente al Desarrollo este 2020. November 13, 2020. <https://www.periodicomensaje.com/guanacaste/5884-19-000-familias-nuevas-se-incorporaron-a-puente-al-desarrollo-este-2020>
- 64 United Nations Sustainable Development Group. A joint programme for equality in Costa Rica. August 27, 2020. <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/joint-programme-equality-costa-rica>
- 65 Condega, Xavier. Fundación Rostro de Justicia construirá hogar para adolescentes víctimas de explotación sexual y trata. San Jose: El Mundo, October 14, 2020. <https://www.elmundo.cr/costa-rica/ffundacion-rostro-de-justicia-construira-hogar-para-adolescentes-victimas-de-explotacion-sexual-y-trata/>
- 66 Camarillo, Brenda. Víctimas de explotación sexual contarán con nuevo centro de ayuda. La Republica, October 21, 2020. <https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/victimas-de-explotacion-sexual-contaran-con-nuevo-centro-de-ayuda>
- 67 UNICEF Costa Rica. CAI Casas de la Alegría Coto Brus (YouTube Video); January 13, 2016, 7 min., 29 sec. Accessed: May 6, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMTYpx4JK6w&feature=youtu.be>
- 68 U.S. Embassy- San Jose official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. April 12, 2018.
- 69 U.S. Embassy- San Jose official. E-mail communication to USDOL official. June 23, 2017.
- 70 Cooperativas de las Américas. Casas de la Alegría Project begins, co-financed by the European Union in Costa Rica. June 23, 2020. <https://www.aciamerica.coop/The-Casas-de-la-Alegria-Project-begins-co-financed-by-the-European-Union-in>
- 71 Delgado, Amairani Pizarro. En «Casas de la alegría» cuidan a hijos de recolectores de café mientras estos laboran. AM Prensa, January 4, 2021. <https://amprensa.com/2021/01/en-casas-de-la-alegria-cuidan-a-hijos-de-recolectores-de-cafe-mientras-estos-laboran/>
- 72 IMAS. ¿Qué es el programa Avancemos?, Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social. Accessed April 17, 2012. [https://web.imas.go.cr/ayuda\\_social/avancemos.html](https://web.imas.go.cr/ayuda_social/avancemos.html)
- 73 Meneses, Kattia. Ayudas del IMAS incrementaron casi un 65%, en medio de la pandemia. Sinart, August 5, 2020. <https://costaricamedios.cr/2020/08/05/ayudas-del-imas-incrementaron-casi-un-65-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>
- 74 Government of Costa Rica. Se recuerda a las familias la aplicación de la encuesta sobre percepción general de Avancemos en tiempos de COVID-19. Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social, June 25, 2020. <http://costaricadutyfree.com/es/aviso/se-recuerda-las-familias-la-aplicacion-de-la-encuesta-so>
- 75 U.S. Department of Labor. Youth Pathways to Leadership, Learning, and Livelihoods in Costa Rica. September 2016–September 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/youth-pathways-leadership-learning-and-livelihoods-costa-rica>
- 76 U.S. Department of Labor. Promoting Apprenticeship as a Path for Youth Employment in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Kenya through Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN) National Networks. September 2016–July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/promoting-apprenticeship-path-youth-employment-argentina-costa-rica-and-kenya-0>
- 77 U.S. Department of Labor. Implementing a Culture of Labor Compliance in Costa Rica's Agricultural Export Sector. December 2017–November 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/implementing-culture-labor-compliance-costa-ricas-agricultural-export-sector>
- 78 Government of Costa Rica, Ministerio de Educación Pública. Aula Edad. Accessed April 2, 2020. <http://www.mep.go.cr/programas-y-proyectos/yo-me-apunto/aula-edad>
- 79 Government of Costa Rica. Yo me apunto con la educación – Estrategia Institucional. Ministerio de Educación Pública, 2017. <http://www.mep.go.cr/sites/default/files/page/adjuntos/informacion-general-yo-me-apunto-2017.pdf>