

In 2020, Georgia made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government adopted amendments to the Labor Code that expanded and clarified the roles and duties of the Labor Inspectorate. The government also implemented its new Code on the Rights of the Child beginning in June. In addition, the Healthcare Minister approved a decree that defines hazardous work and light work, as well as lists occupations prohibited for children under 18. In spite of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government made notable efforts to directly address child labor and trafficking in persons, while initiating a number of programs to provide increased support to vulnerable populations. However, children in Georgia are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture. Although the government made meaningful efforts in all relevant areas during the reporting period, the labor law governing the minimum age for work does not meet the international standard because it does not apply to informal work. In addition, the Criminal Code does not explicitly prohibit the use of children in illicit activities. Furthermore, the compulsory education age leaves children who are 15 years of age vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, because they are not required to be in school but are not legally permitted to work full time.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Georgia are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture. (1-4) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Georgia.

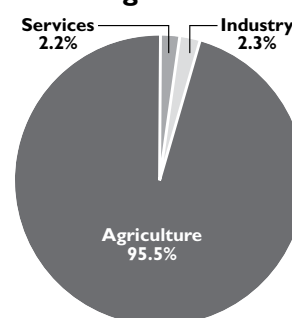
Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	2.9 (13,547)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	96.9
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	3.7
Primary Completion Rate (%)		92.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2019, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021. (2)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from National Child Labor Survey (NCLS), 2015. (3)

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	Farming, activities unknown (1,4,5)
Services	Street work, including begging and vending (1,4,6-8)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (8-10)
	Forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1,4,8-10)

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

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Georgia is a source and transit country for child trafficking, especially of girls to Turkey and the United Arab Emirates for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. (6,10) Limited evidence indicates children may perform hazardous activities in construction. (11) Roma and Azerbaijani Kurd ethnic minorities and refugee and internally displaced children from Georgia, Armenia, and Moldova are subjected to forced begging and coerced into criminality in Georgia. (6-10,12) Estimates suggest that 1,000 to 2,000 children earn a living by begging, primarily caused by poverty or domestic violence. (4,6,7) During the reporting period, fewer children were reported to be engaged in begging as a result of economic contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a reduction in the tourism industry. (8) Many of the child beggars are from Roma communities. (6,8)




Lack of information limits an assessment of the types of work children perform and the sectors in which they work in the occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which are occupied by Russian forces and not under control of the central government. (1,4,10,13)

Children who do not attend school in Georgia are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. Socially vulnerable children, children from impoverished families, children with disabilities, and those who live in rural areas may have difficulty accessing education, in part due to a lack of identity documents. (1,12,14) Although the law provides a path for homeless and transient children to obtain identity documents, government outreach remains insufficient to address the issue. (12) During the reporting period, the government issued 12 temporary identification documents to minor foreign nationals (8 for homeless children and 4 for children victims of violence), 10 identity cards, 1 temporary residence card, and 5 biometric passports to homeless children and child victims of violence. (15) The identity cards ensure that such children are provided with additional state-funded services, including social, medical, and educational programs. (1) In addition, some children from Roma communities lack identity documents, and therefore have challenges accessing education. (12) However, UNICEF notes that some families continue to destroy identification and other documents in an effort to avoid interaction with state officials. (7,16)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Georgia 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 Georgia's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the minimum age for work.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	No	16	Article 10 of the Labor Code of Georgia (17)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 10 of the Labor Code of Georgia; Articles 2 and 5 of the Law on Occupational Safety; Resolution 381 Approving the List of Dangerous, Heavy, Harmful, and Hazardous Works (17-19)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 10(4) of the Labor Code of Georgia; Articles 2 and 5 of the Law on Occupational Safety; Resolution 381 Approving the List of Dangerous, Heavy, Harmful, and Hazardous Works (17-19)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 30 of the Constitution of Georgia; Articles 143/1, 143/2, and 143/3 of the Criminal Code of Georgia; Law of Georgia on Combating Human Trafficking; Article 55 of the Code on the Rights of the Child (20-23)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 143, 143/1, 143/2, and 143/3, and 172 of the Criminal Code of Georgia; Law of Georgia on Combating Human Trafficking (21,22)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 143/1, 143/2, and 143/3, 253–255, 255/1, and 255/2 of the Criminal Code of Georgia; Article 56 of the Code on the Rights of the Child (22,23)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		Article 171 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (22)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 10 of the Law of Georgia on Military Duty and Military Service (24)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Articles 9 and 21 of the Law of Georgia on Military Duty and Military Service (24)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		Article 410 of the Criminal Code of Georgia; Article 59 of the Code on the Rights of the Child (22,23)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15‡	Articles 2 and 9 of the Law of Georgia on General Education (25)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 22 of the Law of Georgia on General Education (25)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (25)

The new Code on the Rights of the Child entered into force in June 2020, establishing the right of children to be protected from harmful activities and forbidding forms of exploitation, including child labor and commercial sexual exploitation. (1,23) In addition, in November, the Healthcare Minister approved a decree that defines hazardous work and lists activities and occupations prohibited for children under age 18 including industrial work such as mining and construction, and work involving exposure to extreme temperatures, hazardous chemicals, or potentially dangerous elements, such as electricity or munitions. (26) In July, Parliament adopted amendments to the Criminal Code that strengthen penalties for child pornography. (8,22)

The labor law governing the minimum age for work is not in compliance with international standards because it does not apply to informal work. (17,27) The compulsory education age leaves children who are age 15 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor because they are not required to be in school but are not legally permitted to work full time. Article 4 of the Labor Code specifies conditions under which children ages 14 and 15 may perform light work, and Article 14 prescribes the hours, but the law does not specify the activities in which light work is permissible. (17,27) Article 4 of the Labor Code stipulates that children under age 14 are allowed to work only in sport, art, and culture, as well as some advertising activities. (17,27) Lastly, Georgia's laws do not criminally prohibit the use, procuring, and offering of children for the production or trafficking of drugs. (22)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

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

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Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs (MoLHSA)	Oversees child welfare issues and pursues enforcement of labor laws. (1,12) Through the Department of Labor and Employment Policy, revises laws and policies to be in accordance with international standards. (28) Through the Social Services Agency, administers social benefits such as targeted social assistance, health care, and vouchers for day care, and employs social workers who oversee child protection. (4) Receives complaints through the Child Protection and Social Programs sub-department, and refers complaints of child labor violations to law enforcement agencies for investigation. (28) In 2020, enforced occupational safety and health laws, including those related to hazardous child labor, and enforced prohibitions on forced labor and human trafficking through the Department of Labor Inspection. (4) In January 2021, MoLHSA's Department of Labor Inspection became a separate Labor Inspection Service within MoLHSA. (8)
Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)	Enforces criminal laws related to child labor and child trafficking. (1,4) Through District Police Units, collects information on minors in each jurisdiction and visits minors' families to inform them of their rights. (28) Through the Human Rights Department, ensures prompt responses to human trafficking crimes and suggests recommendations for investigations. (6) Operates a hotline that is available in Georgian, Russian, and English. (6)
Central Criminal Police Department within MoIA	Leads criminal investigations of trafficking in persons, including the trafficking of children, through the Division for Combating Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration. (1,6) Identifies human traffickers and collates data on traffickers across various agencies through the Information-Analytical Department. (29) Investigates possible human trafficking schemes by deploying teams of law enforcement officials in Mobile Units to investigate companies offering suspicious work opportunities abroad. (10,30)
Prosecutor's Office of Georgia	An independent entity separate from the Ministry of Justice which prosecutes criminal cases involving child exploitation, forced labor, and trafficking in persons. (9,31) Includes the Prosecution Service of Georgia Working Group, which addresses labor trafficking issues under the framework of the Prosecution Service Strategy for 2017–2021. (8,12)

In 2020, Parliament adopted a new Law on Labor Inspection that defines the basic scope, jurisdiction, and power of inspections, as well as the rights and obligations of the Labor Inspection Service. It also ensures effective implementation of labor laws.

The mandate of the Labor Inspectorate applies to all labor rights determined by the Labor Code, Law on Public Service, including forced labor, labor exploitation and occupational safety and health (OSH) norms as determined by the Organic Law of Georgia on Occupational Safety. (1,32) However, research indicates the Labor Inspectorate does not have the staff, resources, and training to fully conduct labor oversight responsibilities. (8,10)

In December 2020, the Prosecutor's Office met virtually with a working group that includes the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), the Labor Inspectorate, and the Agency for State Care to discuss the challenges of detecting labor exploitation and child labor cases during the pandemic. This working group has met regularly since its establishment in 2017 as part of a 5-year strategy to address the difficulties of detecting and prosecuting child labor and forced labor. (1)

The Russia-occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are not under the control of Georgian central authorities, who are prevented from carrying out inspections and law enforcement there. (1,13)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2020, labor law enforcement agencies in Georgia took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$517,241 (4)	\$967,000 (1)
Number of Labor Inspectors	40 (4,32)	67 (1,33)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (17)	Yes (34)

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

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	1,530 (4)	21,081 (1)
Number Conducted at Worksite	1,530 (4)	21,081 (1)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	2 (4)	0 (1)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	2 (4)	0 (1)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	2 (4)	0 (1)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (4,32)	Yes (1)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (17)	Yes (34)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (4)	Yes (1)

In September, Parliament adopted a new law that defines the role and authority of labor inspectors and the rights and obligations of the Labor Inspection Service. The mandate of the Labor Inspectorate applies to all labor issues, including forced labor and labor exploitation, collective bargaining agreements, and OSH norms. (1) Although the number of inspections increased significantly from 2019, the majority of inspections were conducted based on pandemic-related regulations. (1) Out of the 21,081 inspections conducted, only 188 inspections were conducted on OSH issues, and 90 inspections were conducted on forced labor and labor exploitation, including child labor. Although inspections took place throughout the country and in a range of economic sectors, no inspections were conducted in agriculture. (1) In 2021, new amendments to the Labor Inspectorate's mandate will come into effect that will grant labor inspectors the authority to conduct inspections on private farms and homes. (1,17)

The government reported a twofold budget increase for the Labor Inspectorate in 2020. (1,32,33) Despite a notable increase from 2019, the number of labor inspectors is still likely insufficient for the size of Georgia's workforce, which includes around 1.9 million workers. (35) In January, the government adopted a decree to increase the number of labor inspectors to 100 in accord with the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 20,000 workers in transition economies, but this goal was not met during the reporting period. (1,32,33,36,37) In September, in close cooperation with the ILO, the Labor Inspectorate trained 57 newly recruited labor inspectors on identification of forced labor and labor exploitation cases. (8) The inspectors continue to cover labor issues related to both children and adults, including a specialized unit responsible for identifying child labor and trafficking violations. However, the government reported that only six inspectors were tasked with monitoring labor code violations, and the remainder were focused solely on OSH concerns. (1,33)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2020, the government's criminal law enforcement agencies appeared to function adequately in addressing child labor (Table 7).

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Number of Investigations	6 (9)	4 (1)
Number of Violations Found	29 (4)	1 (1)

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Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (Cont.)

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	4 (9)	1 (1)
Number of Convictions	2 (4)	26 (1,15)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (1)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (4)	Yes (1)

Law enforcement agencies received training on addressing the most relevant forms of child labor, including forced child labor, child trafficking, and commercial exploitation and use of children in illicit activities. In November, the MoJ and the International Center for Migration Policy Development, with support from the EU, conducted training on human trafficking and interviewing potential victims, as well as methods of identifying child labor and child forced begging. (1) The government employs Witness and Victim Coordinators, who participate in court proceedings by advocating for the interests of witnesses and victims and work to avoid re-victimization. Between April and December 2020, Witness and Victim Coordinators assisted 12 minor victims of trafficking in persons. (8) The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia (POG) conducted six training activities for prosecutors and investigators, including training covering human trafficking, child exploitation, online sexual exploitation of children, and usage of crypto currency within the sphere of child pornography. (8) The POG also launched a new 3 month-long training course for prosecutors on combating trafficking in persons. (1)

Following a 2019 joint Georgian, U.S., Australian, and Europol investigation of a child trafficking ring, in 2020, Georgian authorities convicted 23 people on multiple charges, including child trafficking and producing or selling child pornography. Sentences for those convicted ranged from 3 to 20 years' imprisonment, as well as fines and property confiscation. (1,8) In addition, the MoA initiated investigations into four alleged cases of forced begging of minors, resulting in one prosecution of a case involving two children. (1,8) Three other individuals were convicted of labor exploitation of minors. (1)

Criminal investigators were unable to investigate and prosecute any potential human trafficking cases, including of children, in Abkhazia and South Ossetia because they remain occupied by Russian forces and outside of central government control. (1,6,38)

The MoA continued to support the operation of six mobile task force units dedicated to anti-trafficking activities. The task force units continued to proactively interview individuals in vulnerable occupations and demographics, including hospitality workers and children living and working on the streets, to identify possible cases of labor exploitation and to advise them of their legal rights and available government services. (15)

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 coordination among agencies.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Inter-Agency Commission for the Implementation of the UN CRC	Supervises implementation of the Child Rights chapter of the National Human Rights Action Plan, which is based on provisions of the UN CRC. (1,4) Met several times during 2020 and drafted a concept paper on psychological-social service centers for children victims of violence. Based on the paper, two psycho-social service centers for child victims of sexual violence will be established in Tbilisi and Kutaisi under the Agency for State Care. (1)
Inter-Agency Human Rights Council	Oversees law and policy on gender equality, children's rights, anti-discrimination, and the rights of people with disabilities. Chaired by the Prime Minister and includes government ministers and members of civil society. (1)

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Inter-Agency Anti-Trafficking Coordination Council for the Implementation of Measures Against Human Trafficking	Coordinates government efforts against human trafficking, including efforts to protect and rehabilitate victims. (9) Drafts National Action Plans and other strategic government programs to address trafficking in persons and publishes biannual statistics on trafficking, including sexual and labor exploitation of minors. (1) Refers child victims to shelters to receive social services. Chaired by the Minister of Justice and comprises representatives from state agencies and non-state entities. (6,9) In 2020, worked to create specialized thematic working groups, including a group to draft a Governmental Strategy for 2021–2025 on Protection of Homeless Children from Violence, including Trafficking in Persons. Drafted guidelines for mobile units of the Agency for State Care to identify and assist children working and living on the streets. (8)
Public Defender of Georgia	Monitors the observance of human rights and freedoms in Georgia. Advises the government on the nation's laws, policies, and practices on human rights issues. (39) Publishes an annual parliamentary report on human rights in Georgia with a chapter dedicated to children's rights. (1) In 2020, monitored and reported on adverse effects of the pandemic on vulnerable child populations. (1)
Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee	Standing committee in Parliament that prepares new legislation and proposes amendments to existing laws relating to children's rights, trafficking in persons, and other human rights issues. Monitors and evaluates the government's compliance with and respect for national laws and international agreements. (40)
Joint Child Referral Mechanism	Ensures inter-agency coordination of the enforcement of child labor laws and enumerates the procedures for referring children subject to any form of violence, including labor exploitation, to child protective services. (1,6,12) Through MoLA, registers cases of child exploitation identified by any government ministry. Through MoLHSA, assesses the child's condition, provides shelter and rehabilitation services to the child as needed, and monitors the child's case. (1)

In 2020, the Interagency Human Rights Council met for the first time in several years to discuss the protection of human rights during the pandemic. (1,41) The Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, with financial support from UNICEF, established a “Child Hotline” through the State Care Agency that provides free assistance to children by connecting them to the relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies. The hotline can provide both over-the-phone and in-person psychological support and counseling services for children and parents. (1)

The government developed a new coordination system between state agencies and municipalities in accord with the Code on the Rights of the Child. The Permanent Parliamentary Council on Protection of the Rights of the Child coordinated the establishment of Child Care and Protection units in 64 municipalities, and the government provided retraining to up to 200 social workers and 64 Code coordinators, as well as judges, lawyers, legal aid officers, and public servants. (1,8,15)

The Inter-Agency Anti-Trafficking Coordination Council for the Implementation of Measures Against Human Trafficking (A-TIP Council) began drafting the Governmental Strategy for 2021–2025 on Protection of Homeless Children from Violence, including Trafficking in Persons. (1) In December, the A-TIP Council's Secretariat issued a 2021–2022 State Action Plan, which addresses new challenges caused by the pandemic and provides for increased activities to detect online human trafficking recruitment. During the year, the Secretariat organized joint thematic meetings of different agencies to discuss human trafficking challenges. (1,8) The Central Criminal Police Department and MoLHSA's Labor Inspectorate began drafting an update to their Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation. However, a lack of transparency and clarity among the various coordinating bodies still hinders cooperation between them, the Labor Inspectorate, and law enforcement. (1,10,16)

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 the scope of existing policies.

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Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Human Rights Action Plan (2018–2020)	Included a chapter on children's rights to lay out actions for government's commitment toward developing a broad-based approach to fighting violence against children. (12,42)
National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons (2019–2020)	Supported the development of policy and the implementation of activities to address human trafficking. Committed the government to protect and effectively integrate street children, through measures such as issuing identity documents and increasing school enrollment. (1,9,12,43,44) In addition, the government approved a National Action Plan for 2021–2022. (1)
Code on the Rights of the Child	Commits the government to establish or implement a range of measures aiming to protect children from violence and hazardous child labor. (1,4,23) More than 200 judges and 600 lawyers received training on Georgia's Code on the Rights of the Child, which went into effect in June 2020. (1)

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (12,45)

Although the government has established policies to address child begging, child trafficking, child labor in street work, and hazardous child labor, it does not have a policy to address child labor in agriculture.

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 adequacy of programs to address the full scope of the problem.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Agency for State Care and for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking†	MoLHSA legal public entity under law that provides care and services for victims of trafficking and domestic and sexual violence, as well as for elderly, disabled, and orphan populations. (1) Implements the government's Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategy, which includes operating shelters for victims of human trafficking in Batumi and Tbilisi. (12) Operates a hotline for potential victims of human trafficking with assistance available in eight languages. (8) In 2020, received a budget of \$13.21 million. (1)
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport†	Oversees national primary education curriculum and vocational training programs. (1) Funds programs that promote the inclusion of vulnerable children in education. (1,12) Initiatives include a program designed to increase the participation in school by street children, victims of forced begging, and children who are seasonal agricultural workers; a program to increase the number of Georgian language teachers in communities with large ethnic minority populations; and a program to distribute free textbooks to public school students. (12,46) Leads anti-trafficking activities in elementary schools, high schools, and institutions of higher education. (8) In 2020, the government continued to fund inclusive education and allocated money to develop or renovate the infrastructure of education facilities. (1)
Targeted Social Assistance Program and Child Benefit Program†	Social Services Agency-administered social assistance programs designed to eliminate poverty, especially child poverty. In 2020, provided a variety of services, including shelters for homeless children, support for impoverished families, and daycare for vulnerable children. (1)
Social Rehabilitation and Childcare Program†	Provides assistance to children at high risk of abandonment and children with disabilities; places abandoned children in appropriate care. In 2020, received a budget of \$11.26 million (GEL 37.4 million), compared to \$12.37 million (GEL 35.9 million) in 2019. (1,4)
Strengthening Labor Law Enforcement	\$8.75 million USDOL-funded grant to enhance the Government of Georgia's capacity to create, implement, and monitor the application of labor laws by working with ministries of labor, labor judges, and other judicial labor authorities. Uses data collected from labor inspections to identify gaps that facilitate violations and to support legal reforms to address them. (47) Additional information is available on the USDOL website . (48)

† Program is funded by the Government of Georgia.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (1,6,12,49)

During the reporting period, the government conducted regular awareness-raising campaigns related to trafficking in persons. (1) The MoJ, in cooperation with IOM, conducted an awareness campaign in October focusing on forced begging with the message “Danger might be invisible at first.” The campaign's video clips were published through social networks and television broadcast, and banners were placed in Public Service Halls of most major cities, as well as at bus stops in Batumi and Tbilisi. (1,50) Although Georgia has programs that target child labor, the scope of these programs is insufficient to fully address the extent of the problem, especially regarding street children. (1,51) The Agency for State Care continued to operate crisis centers and

shelters with additional precautions in place to prevent the spread of the pandemic, remained active in removing begging children from the streets, and provided services to 275 children in 2020. (I,8) Two child victims of forced begging were identified and referred to the Crisis Service Center in Tbilisi, where they received medical, social, psychological, and other relevant services. (I)

Due to the pandemic causing schools to move to distance learning, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport (MoES) created platforms for distance learning and launched the “TV School” educational project to broadcast the national curriculum’s standard lessons in Georgian, minority languages, and sign language. (I) The MoES also worked to make learning content available to children in penitentiary institutions and reviewed all vocational education programs to identify the components that could be delivered remotely. Vocational programs enrolled 9,500 students during the reporting period. (I,52) However, the Public Defender of Georgia noted that educational access remains inadequate for vulnerable children, including students with disabilities, street children, and children in state care. (I,53)

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 Georgia (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that the minimum age for work applies to all children, including those in informal work.	2017 – 2020
	Increase the age up to which education is compulsory to age 16, the minimum age for work.	2009 – 2020
	Ensure that the law’s light work provisions are sufficiently specific to prevent children from involvement in child labor.	2016 – 2020
	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the use, procuring, and offering of children for the production and trafficking of drugs.	2019 – 2020
	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups.	2016 – 2020
Enforcement	Ensure that inspections are conducted in all economic sectors in which child labor violations may be present, including agriculture.	2019 – 2020
	Ensure that the Department of Labor Inspection within the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs has funding to employ a sufficient number of inspectors and that inspectors are capable of performing quality targeted, complaint-based, and unannounced inspections in all sectors and businesses on all labor laws.	2009 – 2020
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO’s technical advice to monitor and combat child labor.	2018 – 2020
Coordination	Continue to increase coordination between the Department of Labor Inspection within the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs and the Criminal Police Department.	2018 – 2020
Government Policies	Adopt a policy that addresses all relevant forms of child labor, including child labor in agriculture.	2017 – 2020
Social Programs	Collect and publish data on the extent and nature of child labor, including in agriculture, to inform policies and programs.	2018 – 2020
	Make additional efforts to register children from Roma communities, provide them with identity documents, and ensure that these groups can access education.	2018 – 2020
	Ensure that socially vulnerable children, children from impoverished families, and children who live in rural areas have access to education.	2019 – 2020
	Expand existing programs to address the scope of the child labor problem, especially for street children.	2018 – 2020

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- 1 U.S. Embassy- Tbilisi. Reporting, January 15, 2021.
- 2 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/>
- 3 ILO. Analysis of Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Statistics from National Household or Child Labor Surveys. Original data from National Child Labor Survey (NCLS), 2015. Analysis received March 2021. Please see “Children’s Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions” in the Reference Materials section of this report.
- 4 U.S. Embassy- Tbilisi. Reporting, January 14, 2020.
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