

In 2020, Argentina made significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Buenos Aires Ministry of Labor issued a regulation to close a loophole that enabled companies to exploit underage workers through sub-contracting arrangements. Whereas the government previously did not actively investigate the use of children in illicit activities, during the reporting period gang members were convicted and sentenced for using children to sell drugs. The Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and Regulation of Adolescent Work was also elevated to directorate level within the Ministry of Labor, granting it more resources and responsibilities. In addition, Argentina renewed key policies aimed at addressing the worst forms of child labor, including its biannual plan against human trafficking. Finally, the government provided additional assistance to vulnerable families during the COVID-19 pandemic through its largest social program benefiting children at risk of child labor. However, children in Argentina 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 transport, sale, and distribution of drugs. Children also engage in dangerous tasks in agriculture. Moreover, the government does not publish complete information about its labor law enforcement efforts and the labor inspectorate remains understaffed to adequately address child labor issues in the country.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Argentina 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 transport, sale, and distribution of drugs. (1-4) Children also engage in dangerous tasks in agriculture. (3) Table I provides key indicators on children's work and education in Argentina. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	5.3 (371,771)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	98.9
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	6.2
Primary Completion Rate (%)		98.7

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2018, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021. (5)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Encuesta de actividades de niñas, niños y adolescentes (EANNA), 2016–2017. (6)

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

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Harvesting† blueberries, carrots, cotton, garlic, grapes, olives, onions, potatoes, strawberries, and tomatoes (3,7-13)
	Harvesting† yerba mate (stimulant plant) and tobacco (7,13-19)
Industry	Production of garments (1,20)
	Production of bricks and wooden crates (1,3,7,21-25)
	Construction,† activities unknown (7,23)
Services	Street begging† and performing,† windshield washing,† handing out flyers or promotional materials, and guarding parked cars (7,13,26)
	Refuse collection, recycling, and garbage scavenging† (3,7,10,27,28)
	Caregiving,† including caring for other children, the elderly, or infirmed people (7)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Services	Working and cooking in food service (7)
	Domestic work, including cleaning, doing laundry, and ironing (7,27)
	Yard work, including cutting lawns and pruning trees (7)
	Selling produce in grocery stores (13)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, including use in the production of pornography, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (4,7)
	Forced labor in the production of garments, charcoal, and bricks (4,13,29)
	Use in illicit activities, including transporting, selling and distributing drugs (2,7,30,31)
	Forced labor in domestic work (1,4,7)

† 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.

Although the extent of the problem is unknown, reports indicate that girls from Argentina’s northern provinces are victims of human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. (1,3,32) Reports also indicate that Paraguayan children are victims of human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in Argentina. (1,33,34) Limited reporting also indicates that sex traffickers exploit minors participating in domestic youth sports clubs. (4,29) Children from primarily the northern provinces and from Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, and other countries are used in forced labor in numerous sectors, including garment production, agriculture, street vending, charcoal and brick production, domestic work, and in small businesses. (3,4,25,29,35)

Misiones—producer of 90 percent of Argentina’s and 60 percent of the world’s yerba mate—is one of the provinces most affected by child labor. Children as young as age 5 help their parents harvest yerba mate, sometimes carrying heavy loads. (19) In Salta and Jujuy, children harvest tobacco. (17,36)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the transition to virtual instruction limited access to education for socio-economically disadvantaged children who did not have Internet connectivity, possibly increasing vulnerability to child labor. (13)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

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

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

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

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

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Articles 2, 7, and 17 of the Prohibition of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Work Law; Article 9 of the Special Code on Contracting Domestic Workers; Article 25 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law; Articles 54–55 of the Law on Agrarian Work; Article 189 of the Employment Contract Law (37-41)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 10 of the Prohibition of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Work Law; Articles 176 and 191 of the Law on Labor Contracts; Article 62 of the Law on Agrarian Work (39-41)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article I of Executive Decree 1117/2016 on Dangerous Work (42)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 15 of the Constitution; Articles 1 and 24–26 of the Modifications to the Prevention of and Sanction Against Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Law; Article 9 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (37,43,44)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 1 and 25–26 of the Modifications to the Prevention of and Sanction Against Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Law; Article 9 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (37,44)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 1 and 21–23 of the Modifications to the Prevention of and Sanction Against Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Law; Article 6 of the Crimes Against Sexual Integrity Law; Article 128 of the Penal Code (44-46)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 11 of the Possession and Trafficking of Drugs Law (47)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 8 of the Voluntary Military Service Law (48)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes*		Article 19 of the Voluntary Military Service Law (48)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 10 of Law No. 26.200 (49)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18	Articles 16 and 29 of the National Education Law; Article 2 of the Law on Early Education (50-52)
Free Public Education	Yes		Articles 15–16 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (37)

* No conscription (53)

During the reporting period, the Buenos Aires province Ministry of Labor issued a regulation to restrict children between the ages of 14 and 16 from working in family enterprises unless they are working directly under the authority of their parent or guardian. The regulation aims to address a loophole that enabled franchises or contractors to indirectly utilize and exploit child labor. (54,55)

Although the former Secretariat of Labor worked with the ILO in 2018 to update Argentina's list of hazardous work, the Argentine Government did not formally adopt or promulgate the proposed updates in 2020. (1,3) The minimum age for work is lower than the compulsory education age, which may encourage children to leave school before the completion of compulsory education. (41-44,56)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5). However, gaps exist within the operations of the 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, Employment, and Social Security (MLES)	Carries out labor law enforcement efforts in coordination with provincial-level labor authorities in each of Argentina's 23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires. (57) Enforces child labor laws in part through its Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and Regulation of Adolescent Work (COODITIA) and collaborates with the National Registry of Rural Workers and Employers (RENATRE) in enforcing child labor laws in the agricultural sector. (13) In addition, maintains a national hotline through which labor violations can be reported and leads the Network of Businesses Against Child Labor (<i>Red de Empresas contra el Trabajo Infantil</i>), a network of companies promoting best practices in the private sector to combat child labor. Labor inspectors are tasked with enforcing laws related to child labor as part of MLES's broader enforcement strategy, the National Plan for the Regularization of Labor (<i>Plan Nacional de Regularización del Trabajo [PNRT]</i>). (13) A specific line of action in the PNRT is to detect and eradicate child labor and irregular adolescent work, so the standard operating procedure for inspections includes efforts to detect child labor violations. (13)
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	Manages Line 145, the anonymous national hotline that allows the public to report suspected human trafficking cases. Through its Office of Rescue and Attention to Victims of Trafficking (<i>Oficina de Programa de Rescate</i>), provides emergency legal and other assistance to victims of labor and sex trafficking, including child victims. (13,56,58) Maintains regional offices that coordinate the provision of legal and social services to human trafficking victims in the provinces of Chaco, Chubut, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Rio Negro, and Santa Fe. (13,34,59)
Public Prosecutor's Office	Through its Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Trafficking and Exploitation, detects, investigates, and prosecutes cases of human trafficking and labor exploitation. (60)
Federal and National Immigration Police	The Federal Police conduct human trafficking investigations through the Trafficking in Persons Division. (13,61) The National Immigration Police, directed by the National Immigration Directorate, oversee the rights of migrants and assist in investigating cases of transnational human trafficking. (13)

Labor Law Enforcement

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

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown (3)	Unknown (13)
Number of Labor Inspectors	315 (3)	324 (13)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (3)	Yes (63)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (3)	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	141,422 (3)	19,034 (13)
Number Conducted at Worksite	141,422 (3)	19,034 (13)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	13 (3)	16 (13)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (3)	Unknown (13)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (3)	Unknown (13)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (3)	Yes (63)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (3)	Yes (13)

Due to the pandemic, the government imposed movement restrictions that impacted the labor inspectorate's ability to carry out labor inspections. Furthermore, unlike previous years in which total number of inspections conducted by both the national and provincial governments was reported, in 2020, the government provided only the number of child labor inspections carried out by the Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and Regulation of Adolescent Work. (13,64)

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In 2020, the National Registry of Rural Workers and Employers (RENATRE) conducted targeted inspections to verify compliance with safety protocols established in response to the pandemic. During these operations, inspectors discovered at least 15 children harvesting onions in Santiago del Estero province. (65) Inspectors found that the children were working in extreme heat with no water or bathroom facilities for a period of 8 to 18 hours a day. (65-67) In similar inspections conducted in the province of Mendoza, 16 cases of child labor or children working without adequate protections were discovered in the agriculture, ranching, and forestry industries. (68) In response to these cases, RENATRE activated its Action Protocol for Child Labor in the Rural Sector. (66,68) Meanwhile, MLES inspectors reported discovering child labor in the wood industries in Corrientes province and one case of a child working in a sweatshop in Buenos Aires. (13)

While Argentina slightly increased its number of labor inspectors in 2020, the number is still likely insufficient for the size of Argentina's workforce, which includes approximately 17.7 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, Argentina would employ about 1,200 labor inspectors. (69) The government does not report on the number of provincial inspectors, so the totals reflect only the number of federal inspectors; NGOs continue to report that the number is insufficient. (3,70) Moreover, the government does not publish labor enforcement data on the labor inspectorate budget or the total number of child labor penalties imposed or collected. (13,70)

MLES requires inspectors to refer victims of child labor to the Provincial Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor for social services assistance and its inspection protocol mandates that federal labor inspectors notify the relevant provincial child protection authorities after detecting a child labor violation. (3,70) Labor inspectors are also required to file a criminal complaint with the provincial courts of the relevant jurisdiction for any child labor violation detected. (3,7,70) MLES reported that its labor inspectors cooperated with law enforcement authorities in criminal matters resulting from the criminal complaints that inspectors filed after finding child labor violations. (3)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2020, criminal law enforcement agencies in Argentina took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including allocating human resources.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2019	2020
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Number of Investigations	Unknown (3)	19 (13)
Number of Violations Found	29 (3)	12 (13,64)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown (3)	9 (13)
Number of Convictions	5 (3)	5 (13)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (3)	Yes (13)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (3)	Yes (13)

During the reporting period, the Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Trafficking and Exploitation initiated prosecution of three labor trafficking cases and six cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children. The government secured one conviction for a case of labor trafficking involving two minors from Corrientes province, and upheld convictions in two separate cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children that included eight minor victims from Tucuman province. (13) The government also overturned an acquittal of a sex trafficker convicted for the commercial sexual exploitation of a child. (13) In July 2020, five gang members were convicted in Entre Ríos Province for using two children, ages 12 and 14, to sell drugs. The suspects were sentenced to between 3 and 6 years in prison. (13)

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Argentine law enforcement authorities report a lack of funding and resources. (13) Research has identified the need for the government to build the capacity of its judiciary and police to investigate cases of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. (71)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

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

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI)	Housed in MLES, Employment, and Social Security, coordinates national efforts to monitor and eliminate child labor and implement the Third National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work. (72-74) Led by the Secretariat of Promotion, Protection, and Technological Change and comprises 16 government agencies, representatives from UNICEF, ILO, industry associations, and labor unions. (3) The commission met virtually and regularly during the reporting period, with meetings focusing on addressing challenges during the pandemic that could exacerbate vulnerabilities to child labor. CONAETI also conducted various child labor trainings throughout the reporting period. (75-78) During the reporting period, the committee also unveiled its National Program to Strengthen COPRETI (Provincial Committees for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor) in an effort to improve coordination between the provincial and national governments. (13)
Coordination of Child Labor Eradication and Adolescent Work Protection Policies (MLES)	Housed in MLES, executes the policies established in the Third National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work. (3) In 2020, the coordinating unit developed a new virtual training course focusing specifically on the impact that the pandemic could have on child labor. (79)
Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and Regulation of Adolescent Work (COODITIA)	Housed in MLES, implements audits to detect child labor and irregular adolescent labor, trains inspectors on auditing and monitoring child and adolescent work, promotes the creation of special inspection units, and provides technical assistance and advice to provincial inspectors. (70,80) As part of a restructuring within MLES in 2020, COODITIA was elevated to Directorate rank within the ministry, granting it more resources and responsibilities. (13) The new directorate now has responsibilities that include conducting child labor inspections, verifying adolescent work, and monitoring for labor exploitation such as child trafficking. (64) COODITIA took part in inspection operations in Buenos Aires province during the reporting period that resulted in the discovery of two different instances of child labor. (81)
Provincial Committees for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETLIs)	Created under a cooperative agreement between MLES and the Federal Work Council, coordinate activities implemented at a provincial level. There are currently 23 provincial committees in operation. (82) The committees coordinate between government, business, union, and civil society stakeholders within their respective provinces to implement actions to combat child labor at a local level. (83) The committees remained active during the reporting period and carried out a variety of activities. For example, the committee in Buenos Aires province launched a new strategic plan to combat child labor called " <i>Cuidado. Sin Trabajo Infantil</i> ," while the committee in Tres Arroyos launched a training course for provincial stakeholders on child labor and public policy. (13,84,85)
Executive Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking and Exploitation of People and the Protection and Assistance of Victims	National coordinating body on government anti-trafficking in persons policies comprising the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; the Ministry of Security; the Ministry of Social Development; the Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity; and MLES. (29) Drafted and published the new biennial national action plan against human trafficking in December 2020, titled "100 Actions Against Trafficking." (29)

Research indicates that coordination to provide services to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation is ineffective, obstructing full implementation of some programs, and causing some programs' objectives and target groups to overlap. (87) During one of its virtual meetings in 2020, the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor acknowledged that, in addition to addressing the challenges of the pandemic, one of the central areas of concern for the committee was the need to strengthen cooperation between national- and provincial-level governments. (75)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Third National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work (2018–2022)	Aims to prevent and eliminate child labor, including its worst forms, and to regulate adolescent work. Promotes the dissemination of information on child labor, creates local roundtables on child labor, promotes families' livelihoods, strengthens the labor inspectorate, fosters civil society engagement on child labor issues, provides for a more inclusive educational system, raises awareness of the safety and health implications of child labor, and promotes institutional and legislative strengthening for child labor issues. (7,88–90) In 2020, RENATRE launched a new initiative as part of the national plan to train agricultural extension agents in identifying and responding to cases of child labor. (91)
National Action Plan to Improve the Safety and Health at Work of Adolescents and Youth (2020–2022)	Adopted in 2019, aims to coordinate the following actions: (1) improve statistics and research; (2) promote compliance and inspections; (3) encourage the incorporation of occupational safety and health in education and vocational training; and (4) develop networks and awareness and promotion activities. (92,93) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement this policy during the reporting period.
Strategic Framework for Cooperation Between Argentina and the UN System for Development (2021–2025)†	Relaunched in 2020, establishes development priorities for Argentina as agreed upon by the government and the agencies comprising the UN System for Development in Argentina. Envisions a cooperative strategy to transition Argentina out of the informal economy, including through the eradication of child labor and forced labor. (94)
Inter-Agency Agreement for Prevention of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker	Collaborative agreement between MLES and the Ministry of Education to integrate child labor prevention and protection of adolescent workers in curricula and teacher training courses. (7,95) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement this policy during the reporting period.
Biennial National Plan Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation, and for Protection and Assistance of Victims (TIP Action Plan 2020–2022)†	Approved by the Federal Council to Fight Human Trafficking and to Protect and Assist Victims, focuses on prevention, prosecution, and protection of human trafficking victims and incorporates an institutional goal of fortifying inter-agency coordination, including by establishing a unified database on human trafficking victims. The Federal Council coordinates the plan's implementation and includes NGO representation in its meetings. (1) In 2020, the Department of Justice approved a new biannual version of the plan, which contains 100 specific actions within a framework of 4 strategic themes: prevention, assistance, prosecution, and capacity building. (13,29,96–98) Under the previous plan, MLES released in 2020 a working guide intended to assist labor inspectors in identifying and responding to cases of human trafficking and labor exploitation. (29,99)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (100)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2020, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including adequacy to address the problem in all sectors.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Universal Child Allowance Program (Asignación Universal)†	Government program funded in part by the World Bank that provides a cash transfer to unemployed parents and workers in the informal economy, contingent upon parents' fulfillment of health and education requirements for their children. (7,101) Through presidential decree, in 2020 the government issued revised criteria for the program, removing some restrictions such as the number of children per family eligible for the benefit. (102) In March 2020, in response to the pandemic, the government issued an additional economic payment to participant families in the amount of \$32 (3,000 Argentine pesos) per child. (103,104)
RENATRE Awareness-Raising Campaigns‡	RENATRE campaigns that raise awareness of child labor in agriculture and inform families and children of the right to education. (105) RENATRE was part of an awareness campaign in 2020 along with other government organizations and representatives of the blueberry industry to warn of the increased risks of child labor as a result of the pandemic. (106)
Good Harvest Program	Through Rural Social Educational Centers and in cooperation with provincial and municipal governments, unions, and civil society, provides services to children up to age 16 from migrant and rural families involved in seasonal harvests. (107) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Good Harvest Program during the reporting period.

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

Program	Description
National Campaign Against Child Labor in Brickmaking†	Developed in 2017 by MLES and the Argentine Brick Workers Union (UOLRA). (108) Aims to develop policies that improve labor inspections in this sector and to better support brick workers so their children do not have to work. (108,109) UOLRA launched its sixth campaign in October 2020, highlighting cooperative agreements established with the Buenos Aires Ministry of Labor and announcing it was working to establish Care Centers across the country for the children of brickmaking families. (110)
USDOL-Funded Projects	<u>Project to Promote Workplace-Based Training for Vulnerable Youth in Argentina (Noemi Project) (2016–2021)</u> , \$3 million project implemented by <i>Centro de Desarrollo y Autogestión</i> (DyA); "P.A.R. Project": <u>Multi-Stakeholder Strategy for Child Labor Elimination in Agriculture in Argentina (2019–2021)</u> , \$2.5 million project implemented by DyA ; "Offside Project": <u>Improving the Capacity of Labor and Agriculture Stakeholders to Address Child Labor in Agricultural Areas of Argentina Project</u> , \$2.5 million project implemented by ILO; <u>Measurement, Awareness-Raising, and Policy Engagement (MAP16)</u> , \$215,000 global project implemented by ILO; Promoting Apprenticeship as a Path for Youth Employment in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Kenya through Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN) National Networks, \$3.3 million multi-country project; <u>Attaining Lasting Change (ATLAS)</u> , \$8 million global program implemented by Winrock International; and <u>Evidence to Action: Increasing the Impact of Research to Mobilize Efforts against Forced Labor</u> ; \$3 million project implemented by the ILO. (111–117) Additional information is available on the USDOL website.

† Program is funded by the Government of Argentina.

Research has identified the need for the government to increase funding for shelters and assistance to girl victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. (70) Research found no evidence of social programs that specifically target children engaged in street begging and performing, windshield washing, and guarding parked cars, despite the prevalence of these activities that are designated as hazardous for children.

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

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

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Raise the minimum age for work to the age up to which education is compulsory.	2018 – 2020
Enforcement	Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for enforcing laws on child labor to meet the ILO's technical advice.	2015 – 2020
	Publish information on the labor inspectorate budget, the number of child labor violations identified for which penalties were imposed, and the number of child labor penalties imposed that were collected.	2015 – 2020
	Strengthen the capacity of Argentina's judiciary and police to investigate trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation cases.	2019 – 2020
Coordination	Improve government coordination, particularly between national and local government entities, in the provision of services to victims of all forms of child labor, including for children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.	2017 – 2020
Government Policies	Publish information on activities taken under key policies to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.	2018 – 2020
Social Programs	Publish information on activities taken under social programs to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.	2019 – 2020
	Develop specific programs that target child labor in sectors in which child labor is prevalent, including street begging and performing, windshield washing, and guarding of parked cars, and increase funding for shelters and assistance for girl victims of human trafficking.	2018 – 2020
	Increase funding for shelters and assistance to girl victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.	2020

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