

In 2021, Rwanda made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Rwanda finalized a new national action plan to combat human trafficking and launched a new hotline for the public to report child abuse, including child labor. Furthermore, the Isange One Stop Centers that provide services to human trafficking victims inaugurated the first child-safe space to provide care to child victims of trafficking. However, children in Rwanda are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work. Children also perform dangerous tasks in mining, including carrying heavy loads. Reports indicate that government officials have detained children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and forced street begging in transit centers intended for individuals demonstrating so-called deviant behaviors, in which children often experience physical abuse. The number of labor inspectors does not meet the International Labor Organization's technical advice for the size of Rwanda's workforce. Finally, social programs do not address all relevant sectors in which child labor is present.



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

Children in Rwanda are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work. Children also perform dangerous tasks in mining, including carrying heavy loads. (I-3) Table I provides key indicators on children's work and education in Rwanda.

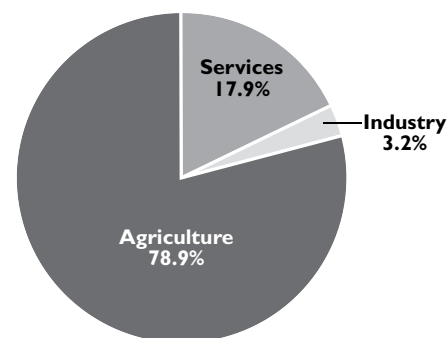
**Table I. Statistics on Children's Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	6 to 14	5.4 (156,522)
Attending School (%)	6 to 14	89.4
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	4.9
Primary Completion Rate (%)		97.4

Source for primary completion: Data from 2019, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2022. (4)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV-5), 2016–2017. (2)

**Figure I. Working Children by Sector, Ages 6-14**



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	Forestry activities (5)
	Production of sugarcane, rice, bananas, beans, coffee, manioc, pineapples, and potatoes, including carrying heavy loads† and wielding machetes (6,7)
	Production of tea, including applying fertilizers,† carrying heavy loads,† planting, plucking tea leaves, and weeding (6,8,9)
	Fishing† (10)
	Herding cattle and caring for pigs, sheep, goats, and chickens (6,11)
Industry	Construction,† including laying and making bricks (1,5,6,12)
	Mining† tantalum ore (coltan) and quarrying (1,5,6,13,14)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Producing charcoal (6)
Services	Domestic work† (5,6,12,15,16)
	Repair and cleaning of motorcycles and motor vehicles (5,17)
	Street work, including collecting scrap metal,† carrying heavy loads as porters,† begging, and small-scale vending (6,17-19)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (16,17,20)
	Forced labor in agricultural work, mining, domestic work, and begging (11,12,15,21)

† 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.

Rwanda is a source and transit country for child trafficking victims, primarily those from Rwanda and neighboring countries trafficked to Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Kenya, and elsewhere in East Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. (11,20,22,23) Within Rwanda, young girls are forced into domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation, and boys are exploited in forced labor in the agricultural and industrial sectors, including on plantations and in mines. (16,22-25) Children between ages 13 and 18 are often trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in hotels, at times with the cooperation of hotel owners. Reports indicate an increase in domestic human trafficking, possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on cross-border travel. (20) Homeless and orphaned children, children with disabilities, and girls are at particular risk of being trafficked. (20)

The government identified street begging as a growing problem in the country, noting that some families were renting out their children to individuals who would collect earnings from the children and pay a percentage to the families. (9,11,20) The closure of schools due to the pandemic may have contributed to an increase in forced begging, and children who begged typically worked almost 11 hours per day and were at risk of not returning to school. (9,20)

National data show that approximately 3.6 percent of all children in Rwanda are engaged in child labor, primarily in the agriculture and services sectors. (10,26) In a survey of working children between ages 5 and 17 from 11 districts in the country, Rwanda’s National Commission for Human Rights reported in 2020 that more than half of the respondents indicated that they performed some type of hazardous labor, including carrying heavy loads, working in construction and brick kilns, and mining. (3,9)




Officials have indicated that children in mining often drop out of school and work in abandoned artisanal mines with their parents. (9,27) During the reporting period, police in the Musanze district of Northern Province indicated that hundreds of children had dropped out of school and many had begun working in the sugarcane and brick-making industries. (7) Poverty was identified as the key factor contributing to child labor, which in turn led to an increased incidence of children dropping out of school. (3,9)

Although the Ministry of Education established a policy that provides free basic education for 12 years, of which the first 9 are compulsory, in practice, the costs of uniforms, school supplies, and unofficial school fees may preclude some families from sending their children to school. (25,27,28) Furthermore, children with disabilities face particular difficulties accessing education due to stigma and because schools lack the capacity to accommodate special needs. (9,20,27,29)

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Rwanda 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 Rwanda's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the difference in the minimum age for work and the compulsory age for education.

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

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Article 5 of the Labor Law; Article 2, 3, and 7-9 of the Ministerial Instruction Relating to Prevention and Fight Against Child Labor (30,31)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 6 of the Labor Law (30)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 6 of the Labor Law; Articles 4–6 of the Ministerial Order Determining the List of Worst Forms of Child Labor; Kigali City Guidelines 2012-02; Articles 7–9 of the Ministerial Instruction Relating to the Prevention and Fight against Child Labor (30-32)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 3.25 and 7 of the Labor Law; Article 178 of the Penal Code; Article 51 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child; Article 9 of the Ministerial Instruction Relating to Prevention and Fight against Child Labor (30,31,33,34)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, and 18–20 of the Law on Prevention, Suppression, and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons; Article 28 of the Law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-Based Violence; Articles 225, 251, and 259–262 of the Penal Code; Article 51 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child; Article 31 of the Law Relating to the Protection of the Child; Article 9 of the Ministerial Instruction Relating to Prevention and Fight against Child Labor (31,33-37)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 3.2 and 24 of the Law on Prevention, Suppression, and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons; Articles 190, 211, and 260 of the Penal Code; Article 51 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child; Articles 34 and 35 of the Law Relating to the Protection of the Child; Article 9 of the Ministerial Instruction Relating to Prevention and Fight against Child Labor (31,33,34,36,37)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 220 of the Penal Code; Article 51 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child; Article 9 of the Ministerial Instruction Relating to Prevention and Fight against Child Labor; Article 263 of the Law Determining Offenses and Penalties in General (31,33,34,38)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 5 of Presidential Order 72/01 Establishing Army General Statutes; Article 7 of Presidential Order 32/01 Establishing Rwanda Defense Forces Special Statute; Article 50 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child (33,39,40)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	N/A*		Article 5 of Presidential Order 72/01 Establishing Army General Statutes; Articles 99(8) and 100(2) of the Law Determining Offenses and Penalties in General (38,39)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 221 of the Penal Code (34)

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**Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor (Cont.)**

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Compulsory Education Age	No	12	Article 47 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child; Articles 55–58 of the Law Determining the Organization of Education (33,41)
Free Public Education	No		Article 47 of the Law Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child; Articles 55–58 of the Law Determining the Organization of Education (33,41)

\* Country has no conscription (33,39,40)

The 2020 Law Determining the Organization of Education stipulates that primary education is free and compulsory through the first 6 years of schooling, but the law does not provide for free and compulsory secondary education. (9,41) Although Rwanda has adopted policies separate from the education law to implement fee-free 12 years basic education and compulsory education through age 15, the national education law does not provide for free basic education through the first 9 years of schooling and states that education is compulsory only up to age 12. (26,41,42) The Law Determining the Organization of Education also establishes English as the primary language of instruction, which may create a barrier to education for children whose first language is not English. (41) Furthermore, the age up to which education is compulsory makes children between ages 12 and 16 vulnerable to child labor because they are not legally required to attend school but are not legally permitted to work.

### 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.

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

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Public Service and Labor (MIFOTRA)	Enforces labor laws, including laws on child labor, in coordination with other government entities at the national and district level. (27) In partnership with the Ministry of Education, reintegrates children withdrawn from child labor with their families and enrolls them in school. Mobilizes other ministries and agencies providing social services, including the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Child Development Agency, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Local Government, to take an active role in child labor law enforcement. (1,9)
Rwandan National Police (RNP)	Through the Child Protection Unit and Anti-Trafficking Unit, enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor and operate a free hotline to report incidents of gender-based violence and child abuse, including child labor. (1,24,29) It is unknown how many calls to the hotline, if any, were related to child labor. (43)
Rwanda Investigation Bureau	Conducts investigations into criminal matters, including child labor. In the case of the Directorate for Anti-Gender-Based Violence, assists victims of the worst forms of child labor through anti-gender-based violence officers at each of the country's 78 police stations. (1)
National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA)	Prosecutes violations of labor laws, including laws on child labor. (1) Through its Anti-Gender-Based Violence unit, dedicates 12 prosecutors to work with an additional 60 prosecutors trained in handling relevant cases at the district level. (44)
Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration	Receives referrals for human trafficking cases and employs an anti-trafficking specialist. Trains border and immigration officials to identify potential human trafficking victims and to verify that children transported across the border are traveling with the permission of their parents or guardians. (1)

#### **Labor Law Enforcement**

In 2021, labor law enforcement agencies in Rwanda took actions to address child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Ministry of Public Service and Labor (MIFOTRA) that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including insufficient allocation of human resources.

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

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2020	2021
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$257,000 (9)	\$166,705 (27)
Number of Labor Inspectors	36 (9)	37 (27)
Mechanism to Assess Civil Penalties	Yes (30,45)	Yes (30,45)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (9)	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	8,712 (9)	9,432 (27)
Number Conducted at Worksite	8,712 (9)	9,432 (27)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	624 (46)	253 (43)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	6 (9)	8 (27)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	6 (9)	8 (27)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (47)	Yes (47)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (27)

Rwanda again significantly increased the number of labor inspections it conducted over the previous year as part of its effort to improve the efficiency of its public servants while using fewer resources. MIFOTRA indicated it has implemented a strategy of targeted planning and increased cooperation with Child Labor Steering Committees at the village level. (27) MIFOTRA also noted that despite budget cuts due to pandemic-related challenges, inspectors were among the few civil servants to receive vehicle and transportation allowances as well as other resources, in what the ministry highlighted as evidence of the prioritization of the labor inspectorate. (27) Of the inspections conducted during the reporting period, 720 specifically targeted child labor, and MIFOTRA reported removing 253 children from child labor situations. Inspectors receive at a minimum quarterly trainings on various labor-related topics, and in 2021 three new inspectors received initial training that included topics on child labor elimination. (27)

The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Rwanda's workforce, which includes approximately 4 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, Rwanda would need to employ about 107 labor inspectors. (48) Despite MIFOTRA's indication that the labor inspectorate was sufficiently funded, research finds that limited resources, lack of personnel, high workloads, and insufficient training may limit labor inspectors' ability to enforce child labor laws and perform onsite inspections. (4,9,20,27) Reports indicate that officials at the local level had difficulty identifying characteristics of child trafficking and child labor. (11,44)

### **Criminal Law Enforcement**

In 2021, criminal law enforcement agencies in Rwanda took actions to address child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Rwandan National Police that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including inadequate victim screening and identification.

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

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2020	2021
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (9)	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Number of Investigations	6 (9)	8 (27)
Number of Violations Found	6 (9)	19 (43)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	6 (9)	8 (27)
Number of Convictions	0 (9)	0 (27)

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

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2020	2021
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (9)	Yes (27)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (9)	Yes (27)

The government identified 19 child victims of child trafficking and forced child labor in 2021. (23) In a notable case during the reporting period, the Rwanda Investigation Bureau arrested folk singer Francois Nsengiyumva and charged him with defiling a 13-year-old girl and forcing her to work for him. (27,49) Although the alleged victim herself had reported Nsengiyumva to the authorities, he was released from custody 2 months later by the Nyagatare High Court, which found that the claims against him were baseless. (50,51)

The government has acknowledged detaining thousands of street children in accordance with a 2017 law establishing a National Rehabilitation Service to address “deviant behavior” and the accompanying 2018 Ministerial Order, which defines deviant behavior to include prostitution, begging, and informal street vending. (52,53) Under the purview of these laws, authorities may detain children for exhibiting deviant behavior and place children in a transit center before transferring them to a rehabilitation center or reintegrating them into the community. (20,23,24,27) The government maintains that the purpose of the laws and the transit centers is to rescue children from the street and to provide them with life skills before reuniting them with their families. (54) However, since some types of child labor are included in the 2018 Ministerial Order definition of “deviant behavior,” children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, forced begging, and street vending may be penalized for their engagement in child labor. (23,53) Sources report that children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and forced street begging have been detained in the transit centers, in part due to inadequate screening by law enforcement officials to identify victims of human trafficking. (20,23,55) Research indicates that children placed in the primary transit center located in Kigali, also known as Gikondo, faced overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, insufficient food or water, and physical abuse. (29,52,56) Rehabilitation services at the centers were limited, and children were detained for prolonged periods at transit centers before they were referred to a rehabilitation facility or released back into the street. (20,57,58)

Despite government efforts to combat trafficking in persons, agencies lack a centralized database to share among law enforcement agencies, hindering coordination efforts. (23)

## 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 lack of implementation.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Interministerial Steering Committee on Child Labor	Coordinates government efforts related to the worst forms of child labor; reviews child labor laws, advocates the inclusion of child labor policies in national development plans, oversees the implementation of child labor interventions, and conducts field visits to assess the prevalence of child labor and raise awareness of child labor. (1) As part of the coordination efforts, MIFOTRA completed its annual Compliance Forum across all provinces and the city of Kigali, and held coordinating meetings with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) every 2 weeks during the reporting period. (27)
Interagency Working Group on Human Trafficking	Enables national-level discussion and coordination of efforts to address human trafficking, including child labor. Includes representatives of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), the Ministry of Justice, RNP, and NPPA. (1,9) The working group remained active during the reporting period, though it held fewer meetings than the previous reporting period. (43)
MIGEPROF's National Child Development Agency	Replaced the dissolved National Child Commission and the National Early Childhood Development Program in an effort to centralize the implementation of child's rights protection efforts. Monitors, promotes, and advocates for children's rights, and develops action plans to protect children from abuse and exploitation. (1,9,59,60) During the reporting period, partnered with the Rwanda Governance Board to conduct an early child development survey in 13 districts measuring various indicators of child well-being, such as child protection, to inform policy interventions. (61) Also hosted its annual National Children's Summit in 2021 to discuss issues such as school service, family violence, and sexual exploitation of children. (27)



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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Child Labor Steering Committees	Monitor incidents of child labor nationwide and implement policies developed by the Interministerial Steering Committee on Child Labor in 30 districts by coordinating with district-level officials in enforcing labor laws and providing social services to child labor victims. (1) In the case of Gender-Based Violence Committees, operate at the district level to raise awareness about gender-based violence and coordinate social services to assist gender-based violence victims. In the case of Child Protection Committees, identify and report cases of child rights violations at the district, sector, and cell levels. (1,16) Since their establishment in 2018, research has since been unable to identify any meaningful activities or efforts from these committees, particularly at the sector and cell levels. (43,46)

Reports indicate that poor coordination, training, and resource constraints hindered efforts to combat human trafficking and that efforts were focused primarily on transnational rather than domestic human trafficking. (20,44)

## 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 mainstreaming child labor issues into relevant policies.

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

Policy	Description
Strategic Plan for the Integrated Child Rights Policy 2019–2024	Aims to improve coordination and implementation issues in child protection, including strategies to address child labor. Focuses on key areas of identity and nationality; family and alternative care; health, survival, and standard of living; education; protection; justice; and participation. (62) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement this policy during the reporting period.
Anti-Human Trafficking Action Plan†	Finalized in 2021 based on analysis of the 2019 anti-human trafficking national action plan, focuses efforts on trafficking prevention, victim protection and assistance, prosecution, and strategic partnerships with various stakeholders. (23,65)
Rwanda Urban Development Project Labor Management Procedure	Lays out specific responsibilities for MINALOC to monitor and enforce child labor laws at the local level. Mandates that appointed local authorities conduct inspections, enforce child labor laws for rural development projects, and field child labor complaints from Grievance Redress Committees established at local worksites. (9,66) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement this policy during the reporting period.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government has other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (63,64)

Rwanda adopted a new National Social Protection Policy in 2020 that aims to assist families living in poverty and includes measures to ensure access to education for children and to provide livelihood development. Although the plan acknowledges that poverty is a root cause of child labor, the prevention and elimination of child labor are not integrated into the policy. (67)

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2021, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the inadequate efforts to address child labor in all sectors.

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

Program	Description
Programs to Combat Child Labor and Raise Awareness†	Include MIGEPROF's campaign to teach parents and community leaders to recognize risk factors for human trafficking and to identify victims; and the Friends of the Family Program ( <i>Inshuti Z'Umuryango</i> ), which trains volunteers to prevent and respond to child protection issues and establishes monitoring committees at various levels to combat child labor. (1) While the Friends of the Family Program remained active during the reporting period, research was unable to identify activities undertaken to address child labor specifically.
Victim Assistance Programs‡	Musanze Child Rehabilitation Center in Northern Province assists children separated from armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (27,29) Gitagata Center provides education, vocational training, and psychosocial support, and aims to reunite former street children with their families. Isange One Stop Centers located in 44 hospitals and district capitals assist victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking. (1,68) The government continued to fund the rehabilitation and Isange One Stop Centers during the reporting period. (27) In 2021, the government inaugurated its first child-friendly space within an Isange One Stop Center to provide specialized services to child trafficking victims. (23)
It Takes Every Rwandan to End Child Exploitation	Advocacy campaign against child labor and sexual abuse of children supported by MIGEPROF and World Vision Rwanda. (1,69) During the reporting period, the program launched a new campaign in the Nyagatare district of Eastern Province that aims to work with children and communities to educate them about children's rights and preventing violence against children. The campaign also seeks to simplify referral mechanisms to report incidents. (70) Also in 2021, World Vision partnered with the Rwanda Extractive Industry Worker's Union to launch a new hotline to enable the public to report child abuses, including child labor. (71)
Strengthening Social Protection Project (2017–2021)	An \$80 million World Bank-funded project in support of the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program that aimed to deliver cash transfers and improve social safety nets. (72) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the program during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Rwanda.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (73)

Although Rwanda has programs that target child labor, research did not identify sufficient programming to address the extent of child labor in the agriculture and mining sectors, in which child labor is prevalent.

Observers indicate that despite efforts to protect and assist victims of human trafficking, the country's shelter system was focused on short-term needs, with few resources for individuals needing long-term support. (22,25) In addition, service providers lacked sufficient training to properly identify victims of human trafficking. (20,22)

## 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 Rwanda (Table 11).

**Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Establish by law compulsory education up to the age of 15 and free basic public education.	2020 – 2021
	Ensure that the age up to which education is compulsory is the same as the minimum age for work.	2020 – 2021
Enforcement	Report the number of complaints received by the Rwandan National Police's hotline that relate to child labor.	2013 – 2021
	Increase the number of inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice.	2009 – 2021
	Ensure that the labor inspectorate has sufficient resources, personnel, and training to enforce child labor laws.	2017 – 2021
	Cease the practice of detaining and physically abusing children who work on the street and ensure that children in detention receive adequate screening and services, and are not subjected to abuse or unhealthy detention conditions.	2018 – 2021
	Improve ability of law enforcement agencies to share data relevant to the worst forms of child labor.	2021
Coordination	Ensure that all coordinating bodies are able to carry out their intended mandates.	2019 – 2021
	Ensure that coordinating bodies receive adequate resources and are able to combat both domestic and transnational human trafficking.	2019 – 2021



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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Government Policies	Ensure that actions are taken to implement the Strategic Plan for the Integrated Child Rights Policy.	2019 – 2021
	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into the National Social Protection Strategy.	2011 – 2021
Social Programs	Ensure that activities are undertaken to implement social programs during the reporting period and make information about implementation measures publicly available.	2020 – 2021
	Remove barriers to education, such as language barriers for non-English speakers, costs for uniforms and school supplies, and unofficial school fees, and ensure access for children with disabilities.	2010 – 2021
	Expand existing social programs to address all relevant sectors of child labor, including agriculture and mining.	2017 – 2021
	Expand services for human trafficking victims, including programs for long-term care in shelters.	2019 – 2021
	Ensure that service providers are properly trained to identify victims of human trafficking.	2019 – 2021

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