

In 2015, El Salvador made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government's National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) issued a National Action Plan for 2014–2017 to implement the National Policy for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, which aims in part to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. CONNA also increased its technical assistance in developing the Departmental and Local Committees for Children's and Adolescents' Rights, pursuant to the Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents. The Salvadoran Ministries of Labor and Public Works signed agreements with the Sugar Association of El Salvador and the Salvadoran Chamber of Construction Companies, respectively, to reduce child labor in the sugar and construction sectors. However, children in El Salvador are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in the harvesting of sugarcane and in illicit activities sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Law enforcement agencies continue to lack sufficient resources to enforce child labor laws, and no penalties for child labor violations were issued in 2015.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in El Salvador are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in the harvesting of sugarcane and in illicit activities sometimes as a result of human trafficking. (1-6) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in El Salvador.

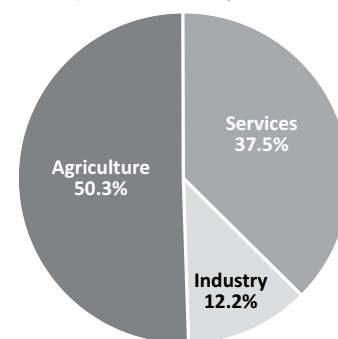
Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	6.5 (80,704)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	92.4
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	6.6
Primary Completion Rate (%)		106.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2013, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(7)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (EHPM), 2013.(8)

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	Harvesting sugarcane† and coffee† (2, 4, 6, 9, 10)
	Fishing,*† including harvesting shellfish† (2, 4, 10-12)
Industry	Manufacturing fireworks† (2-4, 6, 10, 13)
	Construction,† activities unknown (2, 10, 14)
Services	Garbage scavenging† (2-4, 6, 10)
	Vending on the streets† and in markets† (2-4, 6, 10, 12)
	Street begging*† (10, 15)
	Domestic work (2-4, 6, 10, 16)
	Repairing motor vehicles*† (14, 15)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor†	Commercial sexual exploitation sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2, 5, 10, 17)
	Use by gangs to perform illicit activities, including committing homicides and trafficking drugs sometimes as a result of human trafficking (3, 5, 10, 18, 19)
	Forced begging and forced domestic work (2, 5, 6, 10)

* Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown.

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

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

In 2015, El Salvador, like Honduras and Guatemala, continued to be a principal source of the high numbers of unaccompanied children from Central America who were found migrating to the United States.(20-22) These children often lack economic and educational opportunities and are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation and the recruitment by gangs into illicit activities, such as committing homicides and trafficking drugs.(23-25) Children often emigrate to escape violence, extortion, and forced recruitment by gangs, in addition to seeking economic opportunities and family reunification. Once en route, they become vulnerable to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.(23-25)







Child labor in El Salvador is predominantly male, with boys comprising approximately three-fourths of child laborers ages 5 to 17.(26-28) However, girls comprise the majority of children engaged in domestic service in third-party homes.(2, 16) Victims of forced domestic service include migrant children from Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.(29) The Government has reported that approximately 50 percent of sex trafficking victims in El Salvador are girls ages 13 to 18.(30) There are reports that children are recruited into gang activity or are threatened by gangs while at school, including through extortion, which may cause children to stop attending school.(18, 31-34)

The Government regularly collects statistics on children’s work through its annual Multipurpose Household Survey.(8) However, the Government does not appear to conduct research on hard-to-reach populations who are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in illicit activities. Multiple reports, including by a third-party monitoring group, indicate that the use of child labor in the sugarcane harvest has declined since 2010.(9, 35, 36)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

El Salvador 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, including its worst forms (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	14	Article 114 of the Labor Code; Article 38 of the Constitution; Article 59 of the Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (LEPINA) (37-39)

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor (cont)

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 105 of the Labor Code; Article 38 of the Constitution; Article 2 of Agreement 241 of 2011 (37, 38, 40)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Yes		Article 1 of Agreement 241 of 2011 (40)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 3 and 54-55 of the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons; Article 13 of the Labor Code; Article 56 of LEPINA; Articles 4 and 9 of the Constitution (37-39, 41)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 3 and 54-55 of the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons; Article 56 of LEPINA (39, 41)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 3 and 54-55 of the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons; Articles 169-173 of the Penal Code; Article 55 of LEPINA (39, 41, 42)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 3 and 54-55 of the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons; Articles 214 and 345 of the Penal Code; Article 56 of LEPINA (39, 41, 42)
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 215 of the Constitution (37)
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Yes	16	Articles 2 and 6 of the Military Service Law (43)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18‡	Articles 5, 18, 20, and 22 of the General Education Law; Article 82 of LEPINA; Article 56 of the Constitution (37, 39, 44)
Free Public Education	Yes		Articles 5, 18, 20 and 22 of the General Education Law; Article 82 of LEPINA; Article 56 of the Constitution (37, 39, 44)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (39, 44)

In January 2015, the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly in October 2014, went into effect. This law replaced previous legislation and increased prison sentences for convicted human traffickers from a minimum of 4 years and a maximum of 8 years to 10 and 14 years, respectively.(41, 45) When the trafficking victim is a child or adolescent, these penalties are increased to 16 to 20 years, and when the convicted trafficker is the head of a gang or organized criminal group, the penalties are increased to 20 to 25 years.(41) The law also treats forced labor and the use of children in illicit activities as trafficking in persons crimes, and expands mandated assistance to survivors of trafficking.(30, 41, 45)

Article 627 of the Labor Code specifies a default fine of no more than \$60 per violation of all labor laws, including child labor laws.(38) The Government is currently reviewing national legislation to ensure that monetary penalties for all labor violations are proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the offense.(46, 47)

The Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (LEPINA) states that initial, basic, and secondary education are compulsory but does not specify ages for this schooling.(39) The General Education Law states that initial education typically begins at age 4 and comprises 3 years; basic education begins at age 7 and comprises 9 years; and secondary education comprises an additional 2 years, making education compulsory to age 18.(44)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5).

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MTPS)	Enforce regulations on child labor, including hazardous child labor. Inspect registered businesses for all types of labor violations, including child labor.(10, 15) Maintain a special child labor unit that trains inspectors and businesses on child labor law.(48) Refer cases of possible crimes committed against children to the Office of the Attorney General.(10)

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Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement (cont)

Organization/Agency	Role
Office of the Attorney General (AG)	Enforce criminal law related to the worst forms of child labor. Maintain the AG's Special Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes, made permanent by Article 11 of the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons, that consists of prosecutors who investigate human trafficking and related crimes.(6, 10, 41) Refer exploited children to the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) for social services and shelter.(10)
National Civilian Police (PNC)	Enforce criminal laws regarding the worst forms of child labor. Maintain the PNC's Special Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes, made permanent by Article 12 of the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons, that investigates cases of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking, including child trafficking.(10, 15, 41) Maintain an emergency hotline that receives complaints about commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.(49)
Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA)	Receive referrals from law enforcement agencies on cases of criminal exploitation of children, including forced labor, human trafficking, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Provide child victims with services, including shelter; medical attention; psychological help; and legal advice.(50)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in El Salvador took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2014	2015
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$1,770,070 (3)	\$1,862,755 (6)
Number of Labor Inspectors	114 (3)	186 (6)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (3)	Yes (3, 6)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Yes (47)
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (6)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (3)	Yes (6)
Number of Labor Inspections	36,495 (51)	27,241 (51)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	36,495 (47, 51)	27,241 (47, 51)
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	0 (47)	0 (47)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	20 (3)	11 (6)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	0 (3)	0 (6)
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	0 (3)	0 (6)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (3)	Yes (6)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown	Unknown
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (3)	Yes (3, 6)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Unknown	Unknown
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (3)	Yes (3, 6)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (10)	Yes (6)

In 2015, the Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MTPS) reported that its level of funding was insufficient to enforce labor laws.(6) During the reporting period, the MTPS employed 186 labor inspectors, which is a significant increase from the 114 inspectors employed in 2014.(3, 6) Despite this increase, the Government reported that the current number of inspectors is inadequate to inspect for labor violations nationwide.(6)

In October 2015, the MTPS, with support from the Spanish International Development Agency, created the School of Labor Inspection Trainings. The school trained MTPS officials on the prevention of risks in the workplace as well as on the detection of forced labor and trafficking in persons.(6) During the reporting period, the MTPS, in conjunction with the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA), trained 2,473 public officials, including judges, police, and public defenders, on their roles in enforcing the 2014 Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons.(6)

In 2015, the MTPS conducted 27,241 labor inspections; of these, 1,477 were child labor-specific inspections.(47, 51) Research did not find information on the sectors or geographical regions in which these inspections were conducted. As a result of the inspections, the MTPS found 11 children under the minimum age of 14 engaged in work without prior authorization.(6) Research did not find information on the activities in which these children were engaged. The MTPS did not report issuing any penalties or collecting any fines for these child labor violations in 2015.(6)

Reports indicate that the inspection process, which may include complaint driven and unannounced inspections, can entail multiple visits per site and that the MTPS's process to issue penalties can sometimes take up to 6 months. The Government reports that the Labor Committee of the Legislative Assembly is drafting an updated Labor Procedures Code, which will include provisions to streamline the issuance of penalties.(47)

In El Salvador, children removed from child labor are referred to the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) for services. Research could not determine whether the MTPS referred the 11 children it found in child labor to ISNA for services. In 2015, ISNA reported assisting a total of 62 children that were engaged in child labor, including its worst forms.(6)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in El Salvador took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2014	2015
Training for Investigators		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (6)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (3)	Yes (52)
Number of Investigations	42 (30)	43 (6)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Convictions	3 (30)	19 (6)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (30)	Yes (6)

In 2015, the Government reported that the National Civilian Police's (PNC) Special Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes comprised 30 officials, including 25 investigators, and the Attorney General's (AG) Special Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes comprised 21 officials, including 12 prosecutors.(6) Both units are mandated by the 2014 Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons.(41)

During the reporting period, the AG provided training to all prosecutors in its Special Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes on the 2014 Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons. The training was conducted in collaboration with the IOM.(6)

Criminal law enforcement agencies in El Salvador have reported that they lack sufficient resources to adequately investigate and prosecute crimes, including the worst forms of child labor.(3) Although the Government has funded and begun implementing the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons, which expands and strengthens law enforcement agencies, reports indicate that increased coordination between the PNC and the AG is needed to improve the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving the worst forms of child labor.(47) In addition, reports indicate that coordination between criminal law enforcement agencies and social service agencies also needs improvement.(30)

In El Salvador, children removed from the worst forms of child labor are referred to ISNA for services.(6) Reports indicate that ISNA also assists children engaged in the worst forms of child labor without referrals. Of the 62 children engaged in child labor ISNA assisted, 27 were engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, 11 were engaged in illicit activities, and 10 were engaged in forced begging.(6) Research could not determine whether these cases were referred to law enforcement agencies for investigation and prosecution.

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

Table 8. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor (CNETI)	Determine and implement government efforts to combat child labor, including the Roadmap to Make El Salvador a Country Free of Child Labor and its Worst Forms. Chaired by the MTPS and includes 12 government agencies, along with representatives from labor unions, business associations, and NGOs.(2, 15, 53) Use a Web-based monitoring system that allows government agencies to share and analyze information on their agencies to coordinate the implementation of the Roadmap.(54-56) In 2015, convened to draft an action plan for implementing the Roadmap to Make El Salvador a Country Free of Child Labor for the period 2016–2017.(47)
National Council Against Trafficking in Persons (CNCTP)	Coordinate government efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by implementing the National Policy Against Trafficking in Persons.(57) Headed by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and composed of 11 government ministries and law enforcement agencies. Made permanent by the Special Law Against Trafficking in Persons, and administered by an Executive Secretariat and a Technical Committee.(1, 30, 41)
National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA)	Develop policies to protect the rights of children, including child labor policies, and implement the LEPINA and the National Policy for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (PNPNA).(39, 58, 59) Composed of Departmental and Local Committees for Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights, ISNA, the Ministry of Public Security and Justice, the AG, the Human Rights Ombudsman, and other agencies.(15) Maintain a Public Registry of civil associations that monitor and advocate for the rights of children and adolescents.(60) In 2015, issued a National Action Plan to implement the PNPNA for the period 2014–2017.(61) Also during the reporting period, continued to provide technical assistance in developing the Departmental and Local Committees for Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights, as mandated by the LEPINA. As of April 2015, Local Committees had been created in 20 municipalities to help develop local plans and policies for the defense and promotion of children’s rights.(62, 63)
Departmental and Local Committees for Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights	Implement CONNA’s policies, including the PNPNA, at the departmental and municipal levels, as well as receive complaints of child rights violations at the departmental level. Composed of local elected officials, government specialists in public health and education, and members of civil society.(39, 62–64)

Reports indicate that the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) lacks sufficient resources to implement all of its mandates established by the LEPINA. As a result, it cannot fully implement the interagency coordination mechanisms it has developed to combat child labor and protect children’s rights.(15, 65)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government of El Salvador has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 9).

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Roadmap to Make El Salvador a Country Free of Child Labor and its Worst Forms	Serves as the Government’s main policy framework to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2015, and all child labor by 2020, by reducing poverty, improving education and health, protecting children’s rights, raising awareness, and generating knowledge.(1, 66)
National Policy for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (PNPNA) (2013–2023)	Sets government policies aimed at guaranteeing children’s rights and protecting them from violence and harm, including the worst forms of child labor. Other objectives include improving health services for children, improving access to quality education, improving services for children with disabilities, and reducing poverty among children, among others.(59)
National Action Plan for the PNPNA (2014-2017)†	Sets a framework for the implementation of the PNPNA for the period 2014-2017. By focusing on children’s and adolescents’ rights, gender equality, and social inclusion, aims to address PNPNA objectives including the prevention of violence, the promotion of access to quality education, and the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms.(61, 67)
National Policy Against Trafficking in Persons	Defines a comprehensive plan to combat human trafficking of both adults and children, including commercial sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, begging, pornography, and sex tourism. Aims to improve prevention efforts, victim assistance, prosecution, interagency coordination, training, and anti-corruption efforts.(1, 68, 69)

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor (cont)

Policy	Description
Inclusive Education Policy	Defines actions that the Ministry of Education (MINED) should implement to improve education for marginalized and excluded groups, including child laborers.(1, 70)
National Youth Policy (2010–2024)*	Outlines the Government’s strategy to provide integrated services to socially excluded youth. Includes the goal of providing vocational training and creating 50,000 temporary jobs for youth.(71)
Cooperative Agreement for the Elimination of Child Labor in the Sugarcane Sector†	Aims to increase cooperation between the MTPS and the Sugar Association of El Salvador in efforts to eliminate child labor in the sugarcane sector. Objectives include increasing labor inspections in the production of sugarcane and child labor awareness-raising programs, each with technical and financial support from ILO-IPEC. Signed in 2012 and renewed in June 2015. (72, 73)
Cooperative Agreement for the Elimination of Child Labor in the Construction Sector†	Aims to reduce child labor in the construction sector through the exchange of strategies for the prevention and elimination of child labor among relevant businesses, labor unions, and government agencies.(74) Participating agencies include the Ministry of Public Works, which commits to review El Salvador’s public procurement policies and legislation to ensure that companies that contract with the Government prohibit the hiring of minors. Signed by the ILO, the Government, and the Salvadoran Chamber of Construction Companies.(74)
Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle	Aims to create economic growth, increase educational and vocational training opportunities for youth, and reduce violence in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, in part to reduce the number of unaccompanied minors who leave El Salvador and other Central American countries for the United States and who are vulnerable to human trafficking. Signed by the presidents of each country in 2014.(75-77)
Declaration of the Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor (2014–2020)	Aims to increase regional cooperation on eradicating child labor by 2020 through signatories’ efforts to strengthen monitoring and coordination mechanisms, government programs, and South-South exchanges. Reaffirms commitments made in the Brasilia Declaration from the Third Global Conference on Child Labor (October 2013), and signed by El Salvador at the ILO’s 18th Regional Meeting of the Americas in Lima, Peru (October 2014).(78-80)
Memorandum of Understanding between El Salvador and Colombia on Preventing and Investigating Trafficking in Persons and Assisting Victims	Establishes joint actions between Salvadoran and Colombian government agencies to improve their coordination in preventing and investigating human trafficking cases and protecting victims. Signed in 2013.(81)
Central American Regional Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking	Aims to improve government and civil society efforts to combat human trafficking in Central America. Includes the participation of civil society organizations and the national police and public prosecutors’ offices in Central America.(82-84) Includes a Memorandum of Understanding between El Salvador and Guatemala on Protecting Trafficking Victims and the Illicit Trafficking of Migrants, which establishes actions for the Governments of Guatemala and El Salvador to improve the protection of trafficking victims and reduce the trafficking of migrants along the Guatemala-El Salvador border. Includes a focus on improving services for children.(82-84)
Partnership for Growth: Joint Country Action Plan between El Salvador and the United States (2011–2015)	Aims to promote broad-based economic growth in El Salvador, with a focus on human capital development and crime prevention, including the provision of assistance to at-risk youth.(85, 86)
XIX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor†	Promotes decent work with social inclusion throughout the Americas. Held in Cancún, Mexico, participating countries adopted the Declaration of Cancún 2015 which aims in part to foster policies to eliminate labor exploitation, including child labor, and to promote education and vocational training for youth.(87, 88) Participating countries also adopted a Plan of Action that prioritizes the elimination of child labor, including through data collection, enforcement of labor laws, and the development of social protection policies for children and families.(87, 89)
Declaration of the Vice-Ministers of the XX Regional Conference on Migration†	Aims to strengthen regional cooperation in order to protect the human rights of migrants, especially youth and children, in countries of origin, transit, and destination, including by increasing opportunities for education and employment. Adopted by El Salvador at the XX Regional Conference on Migration in Mexico City (November, 2015).(90-92)

* Child labor elimination and prevention strategies do not appear to have been integrated into this policy.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

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VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of El Salvador funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Project to Combat Child Labor in El Salvador	\$14 million USDOL-funded, 5-year project implemented by ILO-IPEC to combat child labor, including by strengthening national and municipal government capacity to address child labor.(93, 94) As of October 2015, project has provided educational or vocational services to 13,054 children engaged in or at high risk of entering child labor, and livelihood services to 5,100 families of child laborers or children at high risk of entering child labor.(95) In 2015, project assisted MTPS in developing a new operational plan for 2015 to 2017 outlining specific steps government agencies may take to implement the Roadmap to Make El Salvador a Country Free of Child Labor and its Worst Forms. In addition, project worked with the Ministry of Finance to begin developing regulations that require the prohibition of child labor in public procurement processes.(95)
Youth Pathways Central America (2015 – 2019) (<i>Senderos Juveniles</i>)*	\$13 million USDOL-funded, 4-year project implemented by Catholic Relief Services to prevent at-risk youth, including returned migrant youth, in El Salvador and Honduras from engaging in hazardous work by providing them with vocational training, skills programs, employment services, and other holistic support services. Works with the Governments, private sector stakeholders, and community organizations to improve job training models for at-risk youth, increase the number of job opportunities accessible to at-risk youth, and support self-employment opportunities for youth.(96)
Child Labor Measurement and Policy Development (MAP)	USDOL-funded research project implemented by the ILO in 10 countries, including El Salvador, to increase the knowledge base around child labor by collecting new data, analyzing existing data, and building capacity to conduct research in this area.(97)
“Don’t Put Your Lives at Risk” Public Awareness Campaign (<i>No pongas en riesgo sus vidas</i>)†	CONNA campaign that sensitizes children and their families to the dangers of irregular and unaccompanied migration, including the risks of being trafficked and forced to engage in commercial sexual exploitation. Supported by UNICEF and IOM.(47, 98)
Public Awareness Campaigns on Child Labor†	Government public-awareness campaigns implemented by MINED, the Ministry of Health, CONNA, and others to inform children about the dangers of child labor, including manufacturing and handling fireworks.(99, 100) In 2015, MINED implemented awareness efforts in 74 school districts with high levels of child labor.(3, 47)
First I Learn (<i>Primero Aprendo en Centroamérica</i>)	MTPS project implemented with the Ministries of Labor from Nicaragua and Guatemala that assisted 1,000 children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation in the three countries. Provided training to businesses in the tourism sector on commercial sexual exploitation and developed a manual for workers on the prevention and eradication of child labor.(3)
Strengthening Regional and National Authorities in TIP Prevention and Victims Care Campaign	Directorate of Migration and Foreigners program implemented by Save the Children to raise public awareness of methods used by human traffickers. Focused primarily on helping women and girls detect traffickers’ schemes.(52)
Solidarity Communities Programs (<i>Comunidades Solidarias</i>)†	Government programs implemented in the poorest municipalities to reduce social exclusion and boost household income by increasing access to public services and building human capital. Includes Health and Education Bonus Programs that assist more than 100,000 families with cash transfers conditioned on children’s school attendance and regular health checkups.(1, 101, 102) Includes the Temporary Income Support Program (PATI) that provides financial support and vocational training to beneficiaries ages 16 and older and female heads of household who face poverty. PATI is financed with support from the World Bank.(1, 101, 102)
School Meal and School Supply Program†	MINED programs that provide low-income children with school meals and school supplies, including uniforms, to encourage school attendance.(103-105) In 2015, continued to assist 1.4 million students with school meals.(6, 106)
Inclusive Full-Time School Program (<i>Escuela Inclusiva de Tiempo Pleno</i>)†	MINED program that provides extracurricular programs in schools, such as art and entrepreneurship classes, to extend the school day and prevent children from becoming involved in harmful activities. Funded by the World Bank, USAID, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and others, with the Government providing \$10.2 million.(3, 107, 108) In 2015, program operated in 1,620 schools in 100 municipalities across the country, including with technical support from World Vision.(3, 109, 110)
School Prevention and Security Plan†	Programs implemented by MINED, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and the PNC in schools with high levels of violence. Includes activities such as providing psychological help, skills workshops for youth, crisis intervention, and increased police patrols.(105, 111) Expanded in 2015-2016 to operate in approximately 1,000 schools.(112)

Table 10. Social Programs to Address Child Labor (cont)

Program	Description
Education and Monitoring Program for the Eradication of Child Labor (2012 – 2015)	\$1.3 million Government of Spain-funded, 3-year project implemented by ILO-IPEC to strengthen public policies and government capacity to combat child labor in 19 countries in the Americas, including El Salvador. A main objective of the project is to develop information systems on the worst forms of child labor.(113)
Elimination of Child Labor in Latin America (Phase 4) (2011 – 2015)	\$4.5 million Government of Spain-funded, 4-year project implemented by ILO-IPEC to combat child labor in 19 countries, including El Salvador.(113)

* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of El Salvador.

The Government implements several programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor by assisting poor families and school children; however, research found no evidence that the Government has programs that assist child laborers who may not be living with their families or attending school, such as children engaged in domestic service. In addition, although government programs have expanded basic education coverage, gang violence, including the extortion of school children, has hindered efforts to increase school enrollment and decrease dropout rates.(34, 112, 114, 115)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in El Salvador (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ensure that monetary penalties for child labor violations are proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the offence.	2009 – 2015
Enforcement	Provide sufficient funding and resources to the MTPS and criminal law enforcement agencies to fully enforce child labor laws.	2010 – 2015
	Ensure that the number of labor inspectors is sufficient to fully enforce child labor laws.	2014 – 2015
	Make publicly available information on whether unannounced or targeted inspections are conducted, including the sectors and geographical regions in which inspections are conducted, and on the activities in which children are engaged as a result of inspections.	2014 – 2015
	Strengthen enforcement of child labor and other laws by streamlining the labor inspection process and the issuance of fines.	2009 – 2015
	Ensure that citations are issued, penalties are imposed, and fines are collected for child labor violations.	2015
	Ensure that law enforcement agencies and the ISNA refer child labor cases to one another for social services and prosecution, respectively.	2015
	Publicly report on the number of criminal violations and prosecutions related to the worst forms of child labor.	2015
	Improve coordination between the PNC and the AG in their investigation and prosecution of criminal cases, as well as their referral of cases to social service providers.	2014 – 2015
Coordination	Provide sufficient funding to CONNA to fully implement the LEPINA.	2012 – 2015
Government Policies	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into the National Youth Policy for 2010–2024.	2014 – 2015
Social Programs	Conduct a study on the use of children in illicit activities.	2009 – 2015
	Improve children's access to education by ensuring that school children are safe in schools.	2011 – 2015
	Implement programs to address child labor in domestic service.	2014 – 2015

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