



In 2017, Argentina made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government hosted the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labor, published the results of its National Child Labor Survey, and released its third National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of Adolescent Labor. The government also distributed a new child labor inspection protocol, created a national registry of child labor complaints, and launched a national campaign against child labor in brickmaking. However, children in Argentina engage in 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 transportation and sale of drugs. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. The government does not appear to publish federal and provincial labor and criminal law enforcement data on child labor, and social programs that address child labor in agriculture do not appear to address the full scope of the problem.

I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Argentina engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and illicit activities such as the transportation and sale of drugs. (1; 2; 3; 4; 5) Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. In November 2016, the government, in collaboration with the ILO, began conducting the National Survey on Children and Youth Activities (EANNA) to assess child labor in urban areas. In 2017, the government extended that survey into rural areas. (4; 6; 7) The government's 2017 Child Labor Survey Report, released in 2018, concluded that there are 291,335 working children between the ages of 5 and 15. Raw data used in the government's 2017 Child Labor Survey report were not available for analysis in time for inclusion in this report. Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Argentina.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	4.2 (258,286)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	98.5
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	4.8
Primary Completion Rate (%)		101.5

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2014, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2018. (8)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from *Módulo de Actividades de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes*, 2012. (9)

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; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18) (19; 20; 21; 22; 23)
	Harvesting yerba mate (stimulant plant)† and tobacco† (1; 2; 24; 23) (25; 26; 27; 28; 29)
Industry	Production of garments (30; 31)
	Production of bricks† and wooden crates (4; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 23; 37)
	Construction,† activities unknown (35; 23)
Services	Street begging and performing,† windshield-washing, handing out flyers or promotional materials, and guarding parked cars (38; 39; 40; 23)
	Refuse collection, recycling, and garbage scavenging† (18; 38; 41; 42; 43; 35; 23)
	Caregiving, including caring for other children, or elderly, or infirmed people (23)
	Working and cooking in food service (23)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Services	Domestic work, including cleaning, laundry, and ironing (38; 44; 35; 23)
	Yard work, including cutting lawns and pruning trees (23)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, including use in the production of pornography (4; 38; 5; 23; 45)
	Forced labor in the production of garments (46; 23; 45)
	Use in illicit activities, including distribution of drugs (23; 47; 48)
	Forced labor in domestic work (23)

† 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.

Misiones—the 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. (49) Children as young as five years old help their parents harvest yerba mate, sometimes carrying heavy loads. (49) In Salta and Jujuy, children between 5 and 17 years old harvest tobacco. (50)

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. (51; 52) Bolivian children and children of Bolivian immigrants in Argentina engage in child labor in agriculture, production of bricks, and domestic service, and in forced child labor in the production of garments. (16; 44; 53; 37) Reports also indicate that Paraguayan children are victims of trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in Argentina. (54; 51)







In 2017, adults used girls as young as 13 years old to distribute drugs in nightclubs. (47) In the Northern and Western provinces, indigenous children were used to move drugs across the border. (55; 56; 57)

In Argentina, education is compulsory until age 18. However, reports indicate that many children, including 16 and 17 year olds, drop out of school. (58) Those children are not eligible for many youth employment programs, including most apprenticeships, as the minimum age to qualify for those programs is 18. (59; 60; 61) Thus, they are likely to engage in jobs in the informal sector and, without formal training, may remain in informal work as adults.

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’s laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	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 1 of the Child Labor Law; Article 25 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law; Articles 54–55 of the Law on Agrarian Work (62; 63; 64; 65; 66)
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 (62; 66; 67)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 1 of Executive Decree 1117/2016 on Dangerous Work (68)
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 (64; 69; 70)
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 (64; 70)
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 (70; 71; 72)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 11 of the Possession and Trafficking of Drugs Law (73)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes*	18	Article 19 of the Voluntary Military Service Law (74)
State Voluntary	Yes	18	Article 8 of the Voluntary Military Service Law (74)
Non-state	Yes		Article 10 of Law No. 26.200 (75)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18‡	Articles 16 and 29 of the National Education Law; Article 2 of the Law on Early Education (76; 77; 78)
Free Public Education	Yes		Articles 15–16 of the Child and Adolescent Rights Protection Law (64)

* No conscription in practice (79)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (76)

In 2017, the Argentinean Congress passed a law on the Protection of Victims of Crimes, which enhances and clarifies guidelines for victims' assistance, including human trafficking victims. (80) The government also drafted a labor reform bill introducing workplace-based education and training opportunities for high school, technical school, and university students. (23)

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 Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security (MTESS) that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security (MTESS)	Enforce child labor laws, in part through its Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work (COODITIA). Oversee the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI). (38; 81; 82) Collaborate with the National Registry of Agricultural Workers and Employers (RENATRE) in enforcing child labor laws in the agricultural sector. (4; 39; 83) Maintain a national hotline through which labor violations can be reported. (40)

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Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	Maintain a tribunal for adjudicating disputes involving domestic work and hotlines for reporting cases of child labor and forced labor. (84)
Office for the Rescue and Care of Trafficking Victims	Provide emergency legal and other assistance to victims of labor and sex trafficking, including child victims. Under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. (85) Maintain Regional Offices that coordinate the provision of legal and social services to trafficking victims in the Provinces of Chaco, Chubut, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Rio Negro, and Santa Fe. (51; 86; 87; 88) Maintain a hotline through which alleged crimes of trafficking in persons can be reported. (85)
Public Prosecutor's Anti-Trafficking Division (PROTEX)	Prosecute crimes of trafficking in persons for labor and commercial sexual exploitation, instruct federal personnel in the investigation of human trafficking, and design criminal policy related to human trafficking. (89; 90; 91) Manages Line 145, the anonymous national hotline that allows the public to report suspected trafficking cases. (92)
National Directorate of Criminal Intelligence, Human Trafficking Unit	Improve the ability of the Ministry of Security and federal police forces to collect information and investigate trafficking in persons. (92)
National Immigration Directorate	Direct the National Immigration Police, oversee the rights of migrants, and assist in investigating cases of transnational human trafficking. (93)
Federal Police	Conduct human trafficking investigations through its Trafficking in Persons Division. (31)
Federal Administration of Public Revenue (AFIP)	Ensure employer compliance with national laws, assist in workplace and labor-related inspections, and initiate prosecutions of labor violations through the Penal Section of its Social Security Directorate. (31; 94; 95)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2017, labor law enforcement agencies in Argentina took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the MTESS 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	2016	2017
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown	Unknown* (23)
Number of Labor Inspectors	421 (96)	355 (23)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (4)	Yes (23)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (97)	Yes (23)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (23)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4)	Yes (23)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	156,956 (98)	184,440 (23)
Number Conducted at Worksites	Unknown	Unknown* (23)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	458 (98)	38 (99)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties were Imposed	21 (4)	32 (23)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that were Collected	Unknown* (4; 100)	Unknown* (23)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	Yes (23)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (4; 100)	Yes (23)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (4)	Yes (23)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (100)	Yes (23)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (4)	Yes (23)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Unknown	Yes (23)

* The government does not publish this information.

In 2017, the MTESS released a new inspection protocol for child and adolescent labor and began updating the list of hazardous occupations prohibited for children. (101; 23) The government also created a national registry of child labor complaints that allows for monitoring of child labor cases and referral of these cases to social services at national, provincial, and municipal levels. (101) In coordination with the Argentine National Institute of Census and Statistics, ILO, and UNICEF, the MTESS also completed the

EANNA to better understand child labor, including in rural areas. (23; 35) In November, in connection with hosting the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labor, the MTESS published preliminary findings from the EANNA. (23; 35) The MTESS also conducted a raid on tobacco farms in Jujuy and found 800 unregistered workers, including child laborers; the number of child laborers found is unknown. (102)

Within the reporting period, the MTESS provided federal and provincial inspectors with child labor training, including training on improving child labor inspections and interagency coordination to address child labor. (23) However, the number of labor inspectors is 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 should employ roughly 1,200 labor inspectors. (103) The government does not report on the number of provincial inspectors, so the totals reflect only the number of federal inspectors. Additionally, labor inspections in rural areas have decreased, and coordination between the MTESS and provincial inspectors have become less adequate. (92)

Federal labor inspectors are obligated to file a citation with the provincial labor authority of the relevant jurisdiction documenting any labor violation—including child labor—found during a site inspection, triggering an administrative process that may result in fines imposed. (23) Labor inspectors are also required to file a criminal complaint in the provincial courts of the relevant jurisdiction for any child labor violation detected. (23) The government reports that, in 2017, in every child labor case detected, children were referred to the relevant Provincial Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETI)—local interagency authorities responsible for coordinating social services for children rescued from child labor. Within the reporting period, the MTESS rescued 38 children resulting from 32 child labor violations. (23) In 2016, the MTESS reported 21 cases of child labor involving 458 victims. The MTESS reports the number of penalties imposed based on the number of cases, rather than on the number of victims, so in 2016 the number of penalties imposed appeared to be much lower than the number of violations. (99) In 2017, as was the case in 2016, the government imposed penalties on all child labor violations.

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2017, 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 human resource allocation.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Yes (23)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	Yes (23)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4; 59)	Yes (23)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	869‡ (23)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Convictions	Unknown	2 (23)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Unknown	Yes (23)

‡ Data are from January 1, 2017, to August 31, 2017.

In 2017, the government assisted 207 child victims of sex and labor trafficking. (23; 92) Between January and August, the PROTEX prosecuted three cases and secured two convictions for commercial sexual exploitation of children as a result of human trafficking. (23) However, the total number of federal and provincial prosecutions involving the worst forms of child labor is unknown. Research could not determine whether agencies responsible for enforcing criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor had sufficient resources to carry out their mandates. (23)

The government conducted 64 human trafficking detection and prevention seminars, training 8,136 individuals including members of the security forces, Ministries of Labor and Social Development staff, teachers and students, members of the judiciary, hospital

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staff, and municipal and provincial officers. (92) Additionally, the government began implementing a new database system to track human trafficking cases, and trained prosecutors and investigators in identifying and addressing cases of human trafficking. (23) La Quiaca, a border town in the northeast Jujuy Province, inaugurated a monitoring center that provides tools for detection and prosecution of human trafficking crimes. (92) However, UNHCR identified the need for the government to build the capacity of its judiciary and police to investigate cases of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including those involving children, and recommended that the government increase funding for shelters and assist girl victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. (104)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including coordination among agencies to provide services to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

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

Coordinating Body	Role and Description
National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI)	Coordinate national efforts to monitor and eliminate child labor and implement the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor. (38; 105; 106; 107; 108) Led by the MTESS and re-established in 2016 to comprise 16 government agencies, representatives from UNICEF, the ILO, industry associations, and labor unions. (38; 98; 109; 110; 99) In 2017, implemented the Awareness Campaign on Child Labor in Mar del Plata. (111)
Provincial Commissions for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETI)	Coordinate efforts to prevent and eliminate child labor at the provincial level, including through Local Roundtables on Child Labor at the municipal level. (38; 110; 112; 113) Comprises representatives from government agencies, NGOs, labor unions, and religious institutions; there are 23 COPRETI. (110; 112) In 2017, organized awareness-raising activities for children and their parents, met with representatives of the Pilar municipality to discuss child labor eradication in the region, led a workshop on access to rights for children and adolescents at risk for child labor in garbage scavenging and recycling, and trained inspectors to detect child labor and human trafficking. (114; 115; 116; 117; 118) Also met in Parana to discuss building consensus and operative agreements between the COPRETI and the MTESS and review the Strategic National Plan for Prevention and Eradication of Adolescent Work. (119)
National Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence, and Family (SENNAF)	Establish public policies through its Childhood and Adolescence Protectorate to secure the rights of children and adolescents, coordinate child protection efforts with other government ministries and NGOs, and assist trafficking victims. Overseen by the Ministry of Social Development. (120) In 2017, assisted 37 children rescued from transnational human trafficking and for the first time compiled national statistics on trafficking victim assistance by province. (23; 92; 99)
Coordinating Body for the Prevention of Child Labor and the Regulation of Adolescent Work (COODITIA)	Implement audits to detect child labor and irregular adolescent labor; train inspectors on auditing and monitoring child and adolescent work; promote the creation of special inspection units; and provide technical assistance and advice to inspectors. (101) In 2017, released a new inspection protocol to detect child labor and created the National Registry of Criminal Child Labor Complaints, which allows for monitoring the criminal procedure and intervention of social services at national, provincial, and municipal levels. (101)
Child and Adolescent Labor Monitoring Office (OTIA)	Conduct qualitative and quantitative research on child and adolescent labor to provide policy analysis and inform programming to eradicate child labor and regulate adolescent labor. Created through the Undersecretariat of Technical Programming and Labor Studies of the MTESS. (106; 110; 121) Research could not determine any actions taken by this coordinating body in 2017.
Coordinating Unit for Children and Adolescents in Danger of Commercial Sexual Exploitation	Provide guidance to relevant institutions; run workshops and research programs on commercial sexual exploitation; and assist children, adolescents, and their families. Formed within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. (122) Research could not determine any actions taken by this coordinating body in 2017.
Federal Council to Fight Human Trafficking and to Protect and Assist Victims	Coordinate government-wide efforts to combat human trafficking. Comprising representatives from the three branches of government and NGOs. Presided by the Under Secretary for Access to Justice of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. (4; 99) Led by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and oversees five thematic working groups. (23) In 2017, established five working groups and conducted four high-level meetings in the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, La Rioja, and San Juan. (92)
Executive Council to Fight Human Trafficking and to Protect and Assist Victims	Coordinate executive branch efforts to combat human trafficking. Comprising representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Human Rights, Security, and Social Development, and the MTESS. (123) In 2017, it produced two bimonthly newsletters on government-led anti-human trafficking activities. (99)
Network of Businesses Against Child Labor	Develop initiatives to raise awareness of child labor and programs to prevent and eradicate child labor. Formed through a partnership among the MTESS, the CONAETI, and the businesses that comprise it. (105; 124; 125) Research could not determine any actions taken by this coordinating body in 2017.

In 2017, the MTESS and Ministry of Social Development met with UNESCO to discuss research and strategies for prevention and eradication of child labor. (126) The MTESS and Attorney General of Salta signed an agreement to establish a more efficient referral policy for child labor cases. (23) The provincial government of Neuquén and the Argentine Union of Rural Workers and Stevedores signed a cooperative agreement to strengthen collaboration, coordination, and training on the detection and eradication of unregistered labor, including child labor. (127) In addition, the government signed cooperative agreements with two other countries, Colombia and Bolivia, to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons and assist and protect its victims. (92) The government also participated in seminars and roundtables with the Government of Peru to establish mechanisms for institutional cooperation and with the Government of Australia to share strategies to address trafficking. (92) The government granted access to provincial law enforcement agencies to the Integrated System of Trafficking in Persons Criminal Information, the database that allows federal law enforcement agencies to report on raids, victims rescued, and other data on trafficking cases. (92) Civil society reports, however, that coordination to provide services to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation is ineffective, causing program proposals to remain in the implementation stage, and their objectives and target groups to overlap. (128)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies that are consistent with relevant international standards on child labor (Table 9).

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, strengthens the COPRETI and 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. (129; 130; 23; 131; 132)
Strategic Framework for Cooperation Between Argentina and the UN System for Development (2016–2020)	Establishes development priorities for Argentina as agreed upon by the government and the agencies comprising the UN System for Development in Argentina. Comprises five areas for cooperation, including the expansion of social protection support and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, which prioritizes the prevention and elimination of child labor and forced labor, and the protection of adolescent workers. (133) In 2017, the government held an event to launch its National Report on Sustainable Development. (134; 135)
Interagency Agreement for Prevention of Child Labor and Protection of the Adolescent Worker†	Signed between the Ministries of Labor and Education to integrate child labor prevention and protection of adolescent workers in curricula and teacher training courses. (23)
National Plan of Action on Human Rights†	Contains over 200 actions to apply government policies in the following areas: (1) inclusion, non-discrimination, and equality; (2) public safety and non-violence; (3) memory, truth, justice, and reparations; (4) universal access to rights; and (5) civic culture and commitment to protecting human rights. (136) Includes actions focused on prevention and restitution of rights for children and adolescents exposed to violence and exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and child labor. (136; 137)

† 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. (138)

In November 2017, Argentina hosted the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labor, concluding with the adoption of the Buenos Aires Declaration. (139) This Declaration expresses a commitment to the eradication of child labor and forced labor through the adoption of a set of principles and actions, and urges other stakeholders to adopt the same. (140)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2017, 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 of programs in the agricultural sector to address the full scope of the problem.

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Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor‡

Program	Description
Universal Child Allowance Program (<i>Asignación Universal</i>)†	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. (42; 110; 141) In 2017, expanded coverage from 3.7 million to 3.9 million children. (23)
RENATRE Awareness-Raising Campaigns†	RENATRE campaigns raise awareness of child labor in agriculture and inform families and children of the right to education. (142; 143) In 2017, the RENATRE conducted a campaign to raise awareness of child labor in San Luis. (144)
Ministry of Labor CONAETI Awareness-Raising Campaigns†	CONAETI/Network of Businesses Against Child Labor campaigns that make businesses and the general public aware of child labor in sourcing and supply chains. (4; 124) In 2017, implemented the Awareness Campaign on Child Labor in Mar del Plata. (111)
National Campaign Against Child Labor in Brickmaking*†	Developed by the MTESS and the Argentinean Brickworkers Union (UOLRA) in 2017. (145) Aims to develop policies that improve labor inspections in this sector and better support brickworkers so their children do not have to work. (145; 146)
USDOL-funded Projects to Support Youth Apprenticeship	USDOL-funded, \$3 million Project to Promote Workplace-Based Training for Vulnerable Youth in Argentina (2016–2019) and \$2.9 million Promoting Apprenticeship as a Path for Youth Employment in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Kenya through Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN) National Networks (2016–2019). Additional information is available on the USDOL website.
Good Harvest Day Care and Future Programs†	COPRETI/Network of Businesses Against Child Labor programs that aim to reduce child labor in the production of crops, in which work is often performed by entire families. Provides child care and recreational activities to children up to 9 years old. (10; 147; 148; 149; 23) Expanded coverage in 2017 by creating 11 new cultural and educational centers for children of rural workers that provided services to more than 1,200 children in San Juan Province. (23)
Program to Strengthen Schools in Agricultural Areas†	RENATRE program that provides infrastructural developments, operating costs, and pedagogical development to rural schools located in agricultural areas where children may be at risk of child labor. (40; 150; 151; 152)
More Care = Less Child Labor (<i>Mas Cuidado = Menos Trabajo Infantil</i>)*†	Promotes the formulation and execution of local projects that articulate access to care, decent work, and good practices in critical sectors of child labor in the Buenos Aires Province. (153) Involves participation of unions, business leaders, government officials, and civil society. (153) Launched in June 2017.
Campaign to Report Human Trafficking (<i>La trata no se ve a simple vista</i>)†	Government campaign to raise public awareness of human trafficking and to encourage use of the national human trafficking hotline. (88; 154)
Work is Not for Children†	A child care service funded by the provincial government of Santa Fe since 2010. In 2017, 35 centers provided services to 1,850 children. (23)

* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Argentina.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (4; 18; 88; 155; 156; 109; 23; 37; 157)

Reports indicate that the Universal Child Allowance Program has had a positive impact on the reduction of child labor since it began in 2009. (158; 159; 160) Programs that address child labor in the agricultural sector do not appear to address the full scope of the problem. Additionally, research found no evidence of programs that specifically target children engaged in street begging and performing, windshield washing, and guarding parked cars.

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE OF 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
Enforcement	Publish federal and provincial information on the level of funding allocated to the Labor Inspectorate, the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites, the number of child labor penalties imposed that were collected, the number of criminal violations found, and the number of prosecutions initiated.	2015 – 2017
	Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for enforcing laws on child labor to meet the ILO's technical advice, and ensure that inspections are conducted in rural areas.	2015 – 2017

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Publish information on the total number of federal and provincial inspectors responsible for enforcing labor laws nationwide.	2017
	Publish federal and provincial information on the total number of children removed from child labor nationwide, including whether they received appropriate protective services, and clarify the mechanisms by which labor law enforcement and social services agencies reciprocally refer cases.	2014 – 2017
	Publish federal and provincial information regarding the adequacy of the budget and resources available to agencies responsible for enforcing criminal laws on the worst forms of child labor.	2014 – 2017
Coordination	Improve coordination of program implementation to provide services to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.	2017
	Improve coordination between the MTESS and provincial labor inspectors to adequately carry out inspections in rural areas.	2017
Social Programs	Expand the coverage and scope of programs that target child labor in the agricultural sector.	2012 – 2017
	Develop specific programs that target child labor in sectors where child labor is prevalent, including street begging and performing, windshield washing, and guarding of parked cars.	2009 – 2017
	Extend youth employment and vocational training programs to children ages 16 and 17, while ensuring these programs allow children to complete their compulsory schooling.	2015 – 2017

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