

In 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina amended the Criminal Code to criminalize all forms of human trafficking within its jurisdiction, thereby harmonizing the law with the rest of the country. Trainings were also held for labor inspectors on human trafficking identification and the national referral mechanism. In addition, the Government funded 16 NGOs to implement programs to address human trafficking. However, children in Bosnia and Herzegovina perform dangerous tasks in street work. Children also engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation as a result of human trafficking. The Government lacks a mechanism to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms. In addition, the minimum age protections in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, and Brčko District labor codes do not apply to children who are self-employed or working outside formal employment relationships. Although forced begging is a problem in the country, labor inspectors do not have jurisdiction to investigate forced begging cases, and training is needed for law enforcement and the judiciary, particularly on how to properly identify and prosecute cases involving child begging.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) perform dangerous tasks in street work.(1-6) Children also engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation as a result of human trafficking.(6-8) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in BiH. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	8.9 (44,017)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	83.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	10.6
Primary Completion Rate (%)		Unavailable

Primary completion rate was unavailable from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(9)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children’s Work Project’s analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3, 2006.(10)

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
Services	Street work, including begging, vending, washing car windows, and scavenging for scrap metal (1-5, 11)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor [‡]	Forced begging and forced domestic work, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (6-8, 12-14)
	Commercial sexual exploitation as a result of human trafficking (7, 8, 12)
	Use in illicit activities, including for pickpocketing (2, 5, 12)
	Use in the production of pornography (3, 6, 15)

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

Street begging is the most common form of child labor in BiH.(1, 2, 5, 13, 16) Organized groups sometimes traffic children to lucrative locations and force them to beg, both domestically and internationally, to regional and European Union countries.(2, 12, 14, 17) BiH lacks recent, comprehensive data on the extent and nature of child labor in the country.(5, 6, 13)

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Children from the Roma community, the largest minority group in BiH, remain vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.(1, 2, 4-8, 12, 13, 18) The Roma custom of paid and arranged marriages between families has resulted in the exploitation of some Roma girls as domestic workers.(6-8, 12) Birth registration is required to attend school in Bosnia. Some Roma children lack identity documents, which may affect their access to education.(6, 17, 19-23) Children out of school are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. Sources also indicate that some Roma children face discrimination by some teachers and peers; travel long distances to schools; and are unable to afford school supplies, including clothing and food.(15, 18, 22, 24) In addition, research found that discrimination against some Roma children by school administrators has led to disproportionately high enrollment rates of Roma children in schools for children with intellectual disabilities.(25)




Children with disabilities generally face barriers to accessing education, which may make them vulnerable to child labor.(6) Although the number of school programs for children with disabilities is increasing, parents of such children often receive little support from the Government and many schools are unable to provide accommodations for their disabilities.(6)

Non-state armed groups, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), recruited adults and their children in BiH for use in armed conflict in Syria.(26, 27)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

BiH 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	✓

BiH is a democratic republic with a bicameral parliament. Governmental responsibility lies within the entities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), Republika Srpska (RS), and the self-governing Brčko District (BD).(6) The Government of BiH has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms, at the state, entity, and district levels (Table 4). However, gaps exist in BiH's, FBiH's, RS', and BD's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Related Entity	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH)	No	15	Article 20 of the Labor Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (28)
	Republika Srpska (RS)	No	15	Articles 26-27 of the Labor Law of Republika Srpska (29)
	Brčko District (BD)	No	15	Article 10 of the Labor Law of Brčko District (30)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	FBiH	Yes	18	Article 57 of the Labor Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (28)
	RS	Yes	18	Articles 103 and 264 of the Labor Law of Republika Srpska (29)
	BD	Yes	18	Article 41 of the Labor Law of Brčko District (30)

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor (cont)

Standard	Related Entity	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	FBiH	Yes		Articles 42, 57, and 171 of the Labor Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (28)
	RS	Yes		Articles 70, 72, 103, and 264 of the Labor Law of Republika Srpska (29)
	BD	Yes		Articles 28, 41, and 111 of the Labor Law of Brčko District (30)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)	Yes		Articles 185, 186, and 186a of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Article II of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (31, 32)
	FBiH	No		
	RS	Yes		Article 198b of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (33)
	BD	Yes		Article 207 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (34)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	BiH	Yes		Articles 185, 186, and 186a of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (32)
	FBiH	Yes		Articles 210a and 210b of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (35)
	RS	Yes		Article 198b of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (33)
	BD	Yes		Article 207 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (34)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	BiH	Yes		Articles 186 and 187 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (32)
	FBiH	Yes		Articles 210 and 211 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (36)
	RS	Yes		Articles 198 and 198b–200 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (33)
	BD	Yes		Articles 186 and 207–209 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (34)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	BiH	No		Article 195 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (32)
	FBiH	Yes		Article 219 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (36)
	RS	Yes		Articles 198b and 224 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (33)
	BD	Yes		Article 216 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (34)
Minimum Age for Military Recruitment				
State Compulsory	BiH, FBiH, RS, BD	N/A*		Article 9 of the Law on the Service in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (37)
State Voluntary	BiH, FBiH, RS, BD	Yes	18	Article 9 of the Law on the Service in the Armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (37)
Non-state Compulsory	BiH	No		Article 173(e) of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (32)
	FBiH	No		
	RS	No		
	BD	No		

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Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor (cont)

Standard	Related Entity	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Compulsory Education Age	FBiH	Yes	15 [‡]	Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (38)
	RS	Yes	15	Article 3 of the Law on Primary Education of Republika Srpska; Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (38-39)
	BD	Yes	15	Article 55 of the Law on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools in the Brčko District; Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (38, 40)
Free Public Education	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes		Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (38)

* No conscription (39)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (38)

In 2016, FBiH amended its Criminal Code to add a criminal prohibition on trafficking in persons in line with international standards.(31, 35) The Criminal Codes of BiH, FBiH, RS, and BD prohibit the incitement to prostitution, forced prostitution, and turning a person over to a third party for the purpose of prostitution.

Laws related to illicit activities in BiH are not sufficient because the use, procuring, and offering of children for the production and trafficking of drugs is not criminally prohibited. Also, minimum age protections in the FBiH, RS, and BD labor codes do not apply to children who are self-employed or working outside of formal employment relationships.(28-30) Therefore, most children engaged in street work, the most common form of child labor, are not protected by the law.(1-5, 21, 28-30) In addition, BiH, FBiH, RS, and BD do not have laws that prohibit the recruitment of children by non-state armed groups and children are punished for their association with armed groups.(11, 32-34, 36) Finally, the types of hazardous work prohibited for children do not include begging, an area of work where there is evidence of associated dangers.(42-44)

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). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy Federal Inspection Agency and Cantonal-Level Labor Inspectorates	Enforce labor laws, including those on child labor, in FBiH.(5, 45, 46)
RS Ministry of Labor and Veterans Labor Inspectorate	Enforce labor laws, including those on child labor, in RS.(5, 46)
BD Administrative Support Department	Enforce labor laws, including those on child labor, in BD.(5)
Entity and Cantonal-Level Police	Enforce criminal laws against human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution, and begging.(47)
Ministry of Security	Enforce national policy to prevent the worst forms of child labor. Collect data on human trafficking.(45) Ensure that victims are placed in Government-approved shelters.(45)
State Investigative and Protection Agency (SIPA) and State Border Police (SBP)	Investigate human trafficking crimes and enforce anti-trafficking laws across the entire country (SIPA).(45, 47) Identify victims of human trafficking at the border (SBP).
State, Entity, and FBiH Cantonal-Level Prosecutors' Offices	Prosecute human trafficking, forced labor, enticement to prostitution, and forced begging cases at their respective levels, based on applicable laws.(45, 47)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in BiH 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		2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown* (5)	Unknown (13)
Number of Labor Inspectors	FBiH	78 (5)	39 (48)
	RS	36 (5)	35 (48)
	BD	7 (5)	4 (48)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (5)	Yes (13)
Training for Labor Inspectors	FBiH/RS/BD		
Initial Training for New Employees		Unknown	No (13)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor		Unknown	No (13)
Refresher Courses Provided		Unknown	No (13)
Number of Labor Inspections	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown	Unknown (13)
		Unknown	Unknown (13)
		Unknown	Unknown (13)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	FBiH/RS/BD	0 (5)	0 (13)
		N/A	0 (13)
		N/A	0 (13)
Routine Inspections Conducted	FBiH/RS	Yes (5)	Yes (13)
	BD	Unknown	Yes (13)
Routine Inspections Targeted	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown	Yes (13)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (5)	Yes (13)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (5)	Yes (13)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	FBiH/RS/BD	No (5)	Yes (13)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	FBiH/RS/BD	No (45)	Yes (13)

* The Government does not publish this information.

In 2016, all three entity-level ministries reported that they possessed sufficient resources for inspections and labor inspectors were adequately trained through seminars and internal instruction on how to detect child labor violations.(13, 49) The labor inspectors have a quarterly plan for inspections.(48) A complaint mechanism exists in all entities. Each market inspectorate has a mechanism for receiving online complaints.(48) All three labor inspectorates are authorized to inspect any formal sector site without receiving prior approval; approximately 30 percent of these inspections conducted in 2016 were unannounced.(13) Inspectors who find violations of the child labor law are permitted to assess administrative penalties or issue fines.(5) In 2016, no violations of child labor laws were found in the entities. Forced begging is pursued by entity-level police and state-level prosecutors, although labor inspectors do not have jurisdiction to investigate such cases.(13)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in BiH 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		2015	2016
Training for Investigators			
Initial Training for New Employees	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (13)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown	Unknown
Refresher Courses Provided	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (50)	Yes (14)
Number of Investigations	BiH	1 (12)	Unknown (13)
	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown	Unknown (13)
Number of Violations Found	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	16 (12, 51)	10 (14)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	BiH	8 (12)	Unknown (13)
	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown	Unknown (13)

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

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement		2015	2016
Number of Convictions	BiH	1 (12)	Unknown (13)
	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown	Unknown (13)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (5)	Yes (13)

In 2016, in cooperation with the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons and the entity level Judicial and Prosecutorial Centers, the OSCE provided trainings for judges and prosecutors on human trafficking for labor exploitation, processing human trafficking cases, and interviewing child trafficking victims in a sensitive manner.(14) The Government continued to train police officers, inspectors, and investigators on human trafficking at its police academies.(12, 14) The Criminal Policy Research Center and the OSCE Mission in BiH organized two multidisciplinary trainings for 85 labor inspectors on human trafficking identification.(14) However, the State Coordinator acknowledged that there was a lack of recognition of forced begging and forced labor cases.(14)

Police refer children detained for begging to appropriate social service providers. NGOs receive funding from either the Ministry of Security or the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees to provide shelter to these children.(5) However, law enforcement personnel and prosecutors often are unwilling to pursue investigations and prosecutions against parents involved in the trafficking of their children, particularly for forced labor, and the shelters subsequently return the children to the parents who trafficked them.(13)

Furthermore, a government official acknowledged that, although judges and prosecutors receive some basic training on human trafficking through the Agency for Education and Training, additional training is needed, particularly on how to properly prosecute cases involving child begging as a result of human trafficking.(25, 49, 52)

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

Although the Government has established the Department of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons, research found no evidence of mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address other forms of child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Department of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons (State Coordinator) within the Ministry of Security (MOS)	Coordinate human trafficking victim protection efforts among relevant ministries at the entity level, and among prosecutors at the state, entity, and local levels, as well as with NGOs.(12, 53) Oversee the human trafficking database, which includes data from NGOs, SIPA, SBP, and police agencies and Prosecutors' Offices at all levels.(47) Publish data from this database in its annual report on trafficking.(12) Oversee shelter management and monitor NGOs' compliance with the agreed-upon provisions on victims' assistance.(47)
Strike Force for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Organized Illegal Migration (Anti-Trafficking Strike Force)	Coordinate human trafficking investigations across government agencies.(12) Convene once a month, with additional meetings scheduled as needed.(11, 12, 14, 52) Chaired by the Chief State Prosecutor, includes BiH, FBiH, RS, and BD ministries and agencies.(12, 45) In 2016, it began drafting an action plan to protect children from pornography and internet child exploitation.(14)
Inter-Ministerial Working Group	Monitor implementation of the Strategy to Counter Trafficking in Human Beings (TIP Strategy), the corresponding Action Plan, and the National Referral Mechanism.(12, 54) Comprises appointed representatives from the state and entity governments, including labor inspectors and elected representatives from NGOs.(3)
Regional Monitoring Teams	Facilitate coordination among state, entity, and cantonal-level institutions, as well as between NGOs and intergovernmental organizations.(12, 51) In 2016, implemented activities in the national TIP Strategy, Action Plan, and National Referral Mechanism.(14) Labor inspectors were incorporated into the regional monitoring teams in 2016.
Council for Children	Coordinates children's issues among state-level agencies and institutions under the Action Plan for Children of BiH.(55, 56)

Research found no evidence of mechanisms to coordinate efforts to address child labor that does not involve trafficking, including its worst forms. A source also indicated the need for the Regional Monitoring Teams to increase their coordination efforts regarding the referral and protection of human trafficking victims.(12, 25)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Action Plan to Counter Trafficking (2016–2019)	Mandates that the Government provide assistance to human trafficking victims, efficiently prosecute trafficking crimes, prevent trafficking in persons, and strengthen collaboration and coordination among stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking in BiH.(12, 57)
Action Plan for Children of BiH (2015–2018)	Designed to take a multidisciplinary approach that aims to continue improving the Government’s efforts to protect children’s rights.(58)
Action Plan for Solving Problems of the Roma in the Fields of Employment, Housing, and Healthcare (2013–2016)	Aimed to improve the socioeconomic status and social inclusion of Roma. Joint initiative of 12 European countries.(5, 59)
Policy for the Protection of Children Deprived of Parental Care and Families at Risk of Separation in FBiH (2006–2016) and Action Plan (2013–2016)	Called for the development of social protection systems to provide sufficient protection to children without parental care and children separated from their parents.(7)
Council of Europe Action Plan for BiH (2015–2017)	Outlines a comprehensive strategy for cooperative efforts between the Government and the Council of Europe. Includes components designed to increase inclusive education and decrease discrimination against Roma.(60)

Although the Government of BiH has adopted the National Action Plan to Counter Trafficking and the Action Plan for Child Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Children through Information-Communications Technologies, research found no evidence of an overall policy to combat child labor or the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, or illicit activities.(3, 5, 12, 61) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Action Plan for Solving Problems of the Roma in the Fields of Employment, Housing, and Healthcare, Policy for the Protection of Children Deprived of Parental Care and Families at Risk of Separation in FBiH, and the Council of Europe Action Plan for BiH.

Sources also have indicated that the Government has not allocated adequate financial resources for effective implementation of inclusive education initiatives.(24, 62-64)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government of BiH funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor†

Program	Description
Registration Project	UNHCR-funded project, implemented by NGO <i>Vasa Prava</i> , which promotes the registration of Roma people to increase their access to social benefits and schools.(12, 45, 65) Helped 1,300 Roma individuals register for citizenship and enabled 19,000 individuals to apply for social inclusion programs since its initiation in July 2009.(55, 66) In 2016, the Government confirmed the citizenship of 20 individuals.(14)
Daily Centers and Crisis Centers†	Center for Social Welfare-supported and NGO-operated day care centers in nine locations across the country for vulnerable children, especially street children.(54, 55) Provide direct assistance for children, including educational activities, counseling, food, and hygiene.(2, 19) In four locations, NGOs also maintain Crisis Centers to provide protection to children found in exploitative labor situations who need emergency access to accommodation and social services.(16) In 2016, 28 children were identified as potential trafficking victims by the centers and were provided assistance.(14)
Assistance for Trafficking Victims†	Government program that allocates small grants to local NGOs for the provision of shelter and social services to victims of human trafficking. In 2016, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees distributed \$32,327 to assist domestic victims, \$37,716 to assist foreign victims, and \$5,500 for European Anti-Trafficking Day.(14) Services include counseling, educational assistance and job training for domestic victims, and visa and legal services for foreign victims of human trafficking.(49)

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Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor[†]

Program	Description
Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Organized Crime—Phase 2 (2014–2017)	EU-funded project implemented by the International Center for Migration Policy Development in six countries, including BiH. Aims to build the capacity of participating governments to prevent human trafficking by providing policy, legal, and technical assistance.(67) Focuses on improving victim identification, increasing the prosecution of traffickers, and strengthening coordination among stakeholders.(67)
UNICEF Country Program (2015–2019)	UNICEF-funded program. Aims to reduce child poverty and enhance child protection and inclusive education. The Program also aims to create inclusive early education for Roma children, as well as identify gaps in access to education for Roma children and children with disabilities.(68)
United Nations Program and Common Budgetary Framework (2015–2019)	UN funded project implemented by UN-affiliated implementing partners. Goals include inclusive education for Roma children and children with disabilities, as well as social protection for vulnerable individuals.(69)

[†] Program is funded by the Government of BiH.

[‡] The Government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms.(14)

Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Organized Crime – Phase 2, the UNICEF Country Program, and the United Nations Program and Common Budgetary Framework.

As labor inspectors do not have a mandate to inspect informal work on the streets, staff from Daily Centers are often the first to identify children engaged in hazardous street work. Sarajevo’s Center for Social Welfare’s Mobile Team engages in daily outreach to children on the streets and to families in vulnerable communities.(4, 14) The Mobile Team staff stated, however, that they lack sufficient resources for their work, especially reliable transportation.(2, 25) Government support for outreach to street children in areas outside of Sarajevo varies significantly. Although the majority of Daily Centers collaborate with local Centers for Social Welfare, most Daily Centers are not institutionalized and, therefore, lack consistent financial and technical support.(16, 25) This may limit the ability of Daily Centers to identify and assist children working on the streets. Although the Government provides some social services for low-income families through the Center for Social Welfare, many families do not receive enough assistance to reduce their reliance on child labor, especially begging, as a source of income.(2)

Government officials noted that, although the number of domestic human trafficking victims identified in BiH is significantly higher than the number of foreign human trafficking victims identified, government funding is disproportionately allocated to assist foreigners.(14) As a result, some organizations that provide services to victims of domestic human trafficking may lack adequate financial resources.(3, 14, 25, 56) In addition, research found that most NGOs rely exclusively on grant funding from foreign donors. Their capacities have diminished as foreign assistance to NGOs has declined, creating obstacles for continued implementation of their programs.(14)

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 BiH (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 all children are protected by labor law, including those who work in the informal sector, such as children engaged in street work.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that BiH law prohibits the use of children in illicit activities, including using, procuring, and offering children for the production and trafficking of drugs.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that the laws criminally prohibit the recruitment of children under 18 by non-state armed groups, and that children are not punished for engagement in non-state armed groups.	2016
	Include child begging in the list of hazardous occupations prohibited for children for all entities.	2016

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Collect and publish information on labor law enforcement efforts, including labor inspectorate funding, the training labor inspectors receive, and the number of labor inspections.	2015 – 2016
	Collect and publish data on the number of child labor investigations, as well as the number of individuals prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced for crimes related to human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation, disaggregated by the age and sex of the victim, in FBiH, RS, and BD.	2013 – 2016
	Ensure that all children identified as being engaged in child labor are referred to appropriate social services.	2013 – 2016
	Increase training for law enforcement prosecutors and judges on how to properly apply criminal law in cases of child labor trafficking, forced labor, and forced begging.	2014 – 2016
Coordination	Establish coordinating mechanisms to combat child labor, including its worst forms.	2009 – 2016
	Improve coordination among Regional Monitoring Teams on the referral and protection of human trafficking victims.	2016
Government Policies	Integrate child labor prevention and elimination strategies into new and existing policies.	2009 – 2016
	Adopt a policy designed to address child labor and its worst forms, other than child trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, and illicit activities.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that all government policies fulfill their mandate, including the Action Plan for Solving Problems of the Roma in the Fields of Employment, Housing, and Healthcare; Policy for the Protection of Children Deprived of Parental Care and Families at Risk of Separation in FBiH; and the Council of Europe Action Plan for BiH.	2016
	Expand and provide adequate funding for existing programs aimed at improving access to education for Roma children and implementing the commitments to include Roma in society by providing for basic needs.	2010 – 2016
Social Programs	Collect data on children involved in the worst forms of child labor in order to enhance policymakers' ability to identify problems more accurately and to address them more effectively.	2009 – 2016
	Promote inclusive education for minority children, including Roma, by expanding efforts to reduce discrimination in schools, mitigate the costs associated with education, and assist Roma and other families at risk of statelessness to register for citizenship documentation that entitles their children to access school.	2011 – 2016
	Ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities by ensuring that schools have adequate resources to provide the necessary accommodations for them.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that all social programs fulfill their mandate, including the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Organized Crime – Phase 2; the UNICEF Country Program; and the United Nations Program and Common Budgetary Framework.	2016
	Institutionalize and provide sufficient funding for Daily Centers to ensure that they have the resources and technical support necessary to assist children involved in child labor and those who are at risk of involvement.	2014 – 2016
	Strengthen social protection programs that provide support to economically vulnerable families in order to reduce their reliance on child labor.	2014 – 2016
	Ensure that resources for human trafficking victims are sufficient to meet the needs of domestic victims.	2014 – 2016
	Increase funding for programs that provide social services, including housing, for child trafficking victims.	2015 – 2016

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