

*In 2015, the Philippines made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Government agencies signed a joint memorandum on the Rescue and Rehabilitation of Abused Domestic Workers, which established a protocol for interagency coordination on efforts to rescue and assist exploited domestic workers, including child domestic workers. The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking established five new regional task forces to support enforcement of criminal laws related to child labor and provided training on trafficking in persons to a total of 3,693 government personnel and 5,972 non-government participants. In addition, the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography adopted a new strategic plan that aims to eradicate child pornography in the Philippines. However, children in the Philippines are engaged in child labor, including in the production of sugarcane, and in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. Despite the existence of strong mechanisms to respond to cases of child labor, enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging due to the limited number of inspectors and lack of resources for inspections.*



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

Children in the Philippines are engaged in child labor, including in the production of sugarcane, and in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation.(1-10) The 2011 National Survey on Children indicated that 3.2 million children are engaged in child labor, of which approximately 3 million work in hazardous labor.(11) Most child labor occurs in the informal sector, with approximately 60 percent of these children working in agriculture.(11, 12) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in the Philippines.

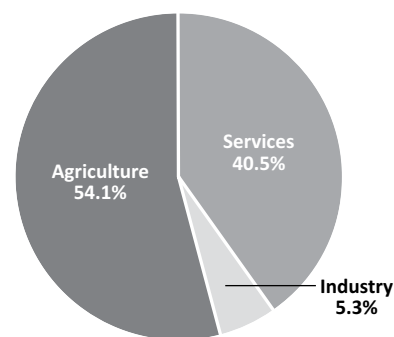
**Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	7.5 (1,549,677)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	93.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	7.8
Primary Completion Rate (%)		101.0

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2013, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(13)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children’s Work Project’s analysis of statistics from Survey on Children, 2011.(14)

**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	Production of sugarcane, including growing, weeding,* harvesting,* cutting,* and carrying sugarcane bundles* (1, 3, 6-8, 15)
	Growing bananas, coconuts, corn, rice, rubber, and tobacco (1, 2, 6, 15)
	Hog farming (6)
	Production of palm oil,* including harvesting,* hauling,* and loading palm oil fruits* (4, 6, 15)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Deep-sea fishing† (1, 6, 16-18)
Industry	Mining† and quarrying,† including gold extraction (1, 3, 15, 17-23)
	Manufacturing pyrotechnics† (1, 18, 24, 25)
	Construction,† activities unknown (1, 17, 26)
	Production of fashion accessories (27)
Services	Domestic work (1, 3, 28-31)
	Street work, including scavenging, selling flowers,* and begging* (1, 8, 12, 17, 32)
	Scavenging in dumpsites† and in rivers* (1, 18, 33, 34)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, including use in the production of pornography, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (10, 12, 18, 30, 35-37)
	Forced labor, including domestic work, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (9, 10, 30, 38)
	Use in armed conflict (34, 39, 40)
	Forced begging* (3)
	Use in illicit activities, including in the trafficking of drugs (3, 18, 19, 41)

\* 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.

Children, primarily girls, are trafficked domestically from rural communities as well as conflict- and disaster-affected areas to urban centers and tourist destinations for the purpose of domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation.(30, 42) An increasing number of Filipino children are coerced into performing sex acts for live Internet broadcast to paying foreigners.(36, 43)

Child soldiering remains a concern among non-government militias and terrorist organizations, predominately in the southern region of Mindanao.(10, 44) In 2015, there were reports that the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, the New People’s Army, and the Abu Sayyaf Group recruited and used children as both combatants and noncombatants. During the reporting period there were no reports of the recruitment or use of children by security forces of the state.(42)




Many Filipino children work as domestic workers, or *kasambahays*, and are particularly vulnerable to forced labor.(1, 28, 45) Child domestic workers often live and work in the private homes of their employers, where they are expected to work long hours; have limited access to education; and may be subjected to sexual, verbal, and physical abuse.(9, 30, 36, 45)

Although the law mandates free public education, many children are unable to attend school due to the prohibitive cost of books, uniforms, meals, and transportation.(1, 18, 46) During the reporting period, the UN confirmed incidents of military use of schools, armed forces operating near schools, and attacks on schools and their personnel, all leading to the disruption of classes, primarily in indigenous, conflict-affected communities.(44)

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Philippines 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	15	Article 139 of the Labor Code; Section 16 of the Act Instituting Policies for the Protection and Welfare of Domestic Workers (47, 48)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 139 of the Labor Code (48)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Yes		Department Order 4 on Hazardous Work and Activities to Persons Below 18 Years of Age; Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (49, 50)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Section 4-5 of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (51-52)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Sections 4-5 of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; Article 4 of the: Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act (50-52)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Article 3 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Section 4 of the Anti-Child Pornography Act; Section 4 of the Cybercrime Prevention Act (24, 50, 51, 53, 54)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Section 12-D of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Articles 6 and 10 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Sections 5 and 8 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act (50, 51, 55)
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Combat: Yes Non-combat: Yes	18 17	Section 5.A.4 of Memorandum Circular No. 13 on Selective Enlistment/Reenlistment of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines; 2003 Declaration on Ratifying the Optional Protocol (56-58)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18‡	Section 4 of the Enhanced Basic Education Act (18, 59)
Free Public Education	Yes		Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution (60)

\* No conscription (56)

‡ Age calculated based on available information

In December 2015, pursuant to the Sugarcane Industry Development Act, the Sugar Regulatory Administration issued guidelines which stipulate that in order to participate in the Government's Block Farm program and receive resources, sugarcane farms must commit to implementing a farming system that is child labor free.(61, 62)

In 2015, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) continued stakeholder consultations on the draft of a revised and expanded list of hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children, which was adopted in February 2016.(63, 64)

### 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
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Bureau of Working Conditions	Enforce child labor laws; regularly train inspectors and regional personnel. Inspect establishments and monitor compliance with labor laws in all sectors, including in the informal sector and agricultural and mining operations.(3) Register DOLE enforcement activities using the Labor Law Compliance System Management Information System, a Web-based application that uses tablet computers for transmitting and processing real-time data collected from the field using an electronic checklist.(41)

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

Organization/Agency	Role
Rescue the Child Laborers Quick Action Teams ( <i>Sagip Batang Manggagawa – SBM QAT</i> )	Lead the regional mechanism for rescuing children who work in exploitative situations.(29) Detect, monitor, and respond to incidents of child labor using a cooperative, interagency approach involving DOLE, the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local representatives of government agencies, local NGOs, labor unions, and the business community.(3, 41)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	Rehabilitate and reintegrate child laborers.(19, 29) Coordinate regional Special Action Units, with at least one dedicated staff member per region to conduct rescue operations for child laborers and cooperate with social workers to manage ongoing cases. Maintain 16 Crisis Intervention Units and 30 residential facilities nationwide to address cases of child abuse and support child abuse victims, including children exploited in hazardous labor.(18)
Philippine National Police (PNP)	Investigate and prosecute cases related to the worst forms of child labor.(38, 65) The PNP's Women and Children's Protection Center leads the enforcement of laws on child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children as well as other tasks related to the protection of children.(3)
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)	Investigate and prosecute child labor cases.(38, 65) Operate a national Trafficking in Persons Task Force, as well as a Task Force on the Protection of Children from Exploitation and Abuse.(36, 66)
Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	Enforce the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act. Maintain a national hotline for reporting cases of children used in illicit activities.(19) Coordinate with the DSWD to assist during rescue operations.(3)

In April 2015, the National Police Commission issued Resolution 2014–441 to strengthen and restructure the Women and Children's Protection Center as a specialized unit under the Philippines National Police (PNP-WCPC). The PNP-WCPC's new mandate includes responsibility for all investigations and operations relating to human trafficking.(42, 67)

### **Labor Law Enforcement**

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in the Philippines 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	\$4,050,000 (41)	\$706,480 (68)
Number of Labor Inspectors	462 (18)	536 (18, 69)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (18)	No (18)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (41)	Yes (18)
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (41)	Yes (18)
Number of Labor Inspections	69,749 (41)	44,524† (68)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	Unknown (68)
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown (68)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown (41)	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A	N/A
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	N/A	N/A
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (70)	Yes (68)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (70)	Yes (70)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (41)	Yes (18)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (41)	Yes (18)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (41, 71)	Yes (18)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (41)	Yes (18)

† Data are from January 1, 2015 to November, 2015.

For the second year in a row, the DOLE Bureau of Working Conditions hired additional Labor Laws Compliance Officers (LLCOs), bringing the total number to 536.(18, 41) However, according to the ILO's recommendation of 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, the Philippines should employ roughly 2,783 labor inspectors in order to adequately

enforce labor laws throughout the country.(72-74) The Government noted that DOLE had limited funding for transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out inspections, particularly in the informal sector.(18) In 2015, 150 recently hired LLCOs received instruction during a 10-day basic course for new labor inspectors, which included an orientation on child labor issues. The DOLE Human Resource Development Service also conducts an ongoing series of capacity-building sessions for LLCOs on a variety of topics.(18) However, only LLCOs specifically involved in Rescue the Child Laborers Quick Action Teams (SBM QAT) regularly receive training on the enforcement of laws related to child labor.(18)

During the reporting period, DOLE identified 102 establishments with deficiencies in child labor law compliance, including employing children under the minimum age for work and engaging children in hazardous work.(18) Although DOLE does not have the authority to levy financial penalties for child labor law violations, from January to September 2015 DOLE ensured that five establishments found to be engaging six minors in commercial sexual exploitation were permanently closed; one establishment engaging two minors in hazardous work was temporarily closed.(18) SBM QATs conducted 10 rescue operations from January to September 2015 and removed 28 children from child labor in hazardous activities, including work on sugar plantations and in karaoke bars.(18) While the SBM QATs are permitted to conduct unannounced compliance visits in video karaoke bars, massage parlors, sauna/bath houses, and farms, they are not authorized to conduct visits in private homes to search for underage child domestic workers.(41)

### *Criminal Law Enforcement*

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in the Philippines 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	Yes (68)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (41)	Yes (18)
Number of Investigations	610 (41, 63)	654† (18, 68)
Number of Violations Found	440 (41, 69)	159 (18, 69)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	138 (41, 69)	102 (18, 69)
Number of Convictions	42 (41, 69)	40 (18, 69)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (41)	Yes (18)

† Data are from January 1, 2015 to November, 2015.

In 2015, the PNP-WCPC employed 4,316 personnel, assigned to 2,493 women and children’s desks throughout the country. In addition, the Anti-Trafficking Division of the National Bureau of Investigation maintained 16 agents responsible for the investigation of human trafficking cases, with five additional investigators assigned to monitor international airports.(18) However, the limited number of law enforcement agents dedicated expressly to child trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children continued to hinder the Government’s ability to investigate and prosecute complaints and violations.(18, 41)

During the reporting period, the Government organized trainings to build the capacity of law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including child labor trafficking cases. The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) conducted 26 trainings with 1,056 government personnel, and the IACAT Task Forces conducted a total of 132 trainings for 2,637 government personnel and for 5,972 non-government participants.(18) The PNP-WCPC also provided training for 1,037 police officers on human trafficking and child labor laws.(18)

In 2015, the DSWD reported providing assistance to a total of 57 child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including for prostitution, pornography, and cyber-pornography, and 26 children who had been involved in armed conflict.(18, 68) IACAT also operated the 24/7 Action line against Human Trafficking to receive and respond to requests for assistance and referrals from trafficking victims, their families, and the public.(3) In 2015, the hotline received 28 reports involving minors.(18) As some enforcement agencies do not disaggregate data on the number of investigations, violations, prosecutions, and convictions related to the worst forms of child labor by age, there are some gaps in information in these areas.(18)

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### 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
Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)	Coordinate, monitor, and oversee efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including child trafficking. Co-chaired by the Department of Justice and the DSWD, and work with other government agencies and two NGOs representing women and children.(3, 66) Composed of 24 anti-human trafficking task forces established in eight regions and seven interagency task forces in major seaports and airports.(3, 18, 41) In 2015, established five new anti-human trafficking task forces for a total of 24 nationwide.(18) Received a budget of \$1.69 million in 2015, a decrease from the \$2.3 million allocated in 2014.(18, 36)
Inter-Agency Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	Operate a monitoring and response system through its Subcommittee on Children Affected by Armed Conflict and Displacement to assist children engaged in armed conflict, including recruitment and use of child soldiers.(38)
Inter-Agency Committee on Children Involved in Armed Conflict	Advocate for protecting children and preventing the involvement of children in armed conflict. Composed of 14 government agencies and chaired by the CWC.(41) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Children in Armed Conflict Program Framework.(3) Convene on a bimonthly basis for reporting and monitoring.(41)
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography	Monitor and implement the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009.(76) Chaired by the DSWD, with numerous members, including the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor and Employment, the NBI, and three NGO representatives.(68)

In 2015, several government agencies signed a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on the Protocol on the Rescue and Rehabilitation of Abused *Kasambahay* (domestic workers). The JMC establishes guidelines for improved coordination between relevant agencies in the protection of abused or exploited domestic workers, including child domestic workers.(18, 77)

Although the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) is responsible for coordinating government efforts to combat child labor, the committee does not have a clear legal mandate under Republic Act No. 9231 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor and lacks a specific budgetary appropriation to fund its operations.(75) These factors limit the effectiveness of the NCLC in its role as the lead coordination mechanism on child labor policy and programming.(75)

### V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

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

Policy	Description
Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) Strategic Framework (2007–2015)	Lays out a blueprint for reducing the prevalence of child labor by 75 percent.(29, 78, 79) Objectives include improving access for children and their families to appropriate services to help prevent incidences of child labor and to reintegrate former child laborers.(29, 80) Includes the Convergence Action Plan (HELP ME.: health, education, livelihood, prevention, protection and prosecution, monitoring, and evaluation), which aims to reduce the worst forms of child labor by 2016 and to remove 893,000 children from hazardous child labor across 15,568 target barangays (districts).(79, 81) Has been allocated \$220 million for implementation over 4 years.(81, 82) In August 2015, the NCLC began updating the PPACL for the period of 2016–2020.(83) In addition, the Government finalized a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) to provide policy guidance in the implementation of the HELP ME program.(18) Specifically, the JMC clarifies the target beneficiaries and geographical coverage of the program, defines the roles and responsibilities of the government agencies involved, establishes a framework for interagency collaboration, and specifies the requirements for reporting, monitoring, and evaluation.(84)
National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2012–2016)	Contains specific provisions on preventing trafficking of children, including raising awareness and creating local programs to prevent children from being lured by traffickers.(3, 19)
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography Three-Year Strategic Plan†	Aims to eradicate child pornography in the Philippines by focusing efforts in five strategic areas: (1) advocacy and prevention; (2) law enforcement and prosecution; (3) protection, recovery, and reintegration; (4) research, monitoring, and management of information systems; and (5) partnerships and networking.(85)

**Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor (cont)**

Policy	Description
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) (2015)†	Establishes a regional anti-human trafficking framework among 10 ASEAN Member States, including the Philippines, to improve coordination on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases and to enhance assistance for victims. Unanimously adopted in June 2015, the Convention was signed by the relevant heads of state on November 21, 2015.(86, 87)
Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2011–2016)	Aims to strengthen monitoring mechanisms for child protection laws, develop strategies for responding to child trafficking and pornography concerns, and implement an enhanced program for preventing the engagement of children in armed conflict.(19)
Philippine Labor and Employment Plan (2011–2016)	Operates within the framework of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and includes the goal of reducing exploitive child labor.(3, 19, 88)
National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children (Child 21) (2000–2025)	Sets out broad goals for national government agencies, local governments, and NGOs to achieve improved quality of life for Filipino children by 2025.(29, 66, 89) Addresses concerns related to the worst forms of child labor under the section on children in need of special protection.(18)
National Plan of Action for Children (2011–2016)	Serves as an agenda for implementation of Child 21.(66) Child labor elimination and prevention strategies are mainstreamed throughout the document, particularly in goal two on child protection, which specifies that children should be free from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.(18)
UNDAF for the Pacific Region (2012–2018)	Identifies major development priorities, including reducing and eliminating child labor.(90)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In 2015, the Department of Education developed a draft policy on child labor, which establishes a system to identify and refer in-school child laborers to appropriate service providers through the Government’s HELP ME Convergence Program. Currently, the draft policy is awaiting stakeholder validation and finalization.(83)

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of the Philippines 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
Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program†	DOLE program that implements local awareness-raising campaigns, institutes child labor-monitoring mechanisms, and requires <i>barangays</i> to develop child labor elimination plans.(91)
Campaign for Child-Labor Free <i>Barangays</i> †	DOLE program to eliminate child labor in villages through community awareness-raising on child labor and anti-human trafficking laws, and through government livelihood programs and guidelines.(3, 31, 92) Between January and November 2015, DOLE declared 106 <i>barangays</i> child labor-free, bringing the total number to 159 since 2014.(93) DOLE regional offices awarded Child Labor-Free Establishment Certificates to 58 establishments, bringing the total number of certified establishments up to 163 nationwide.(93)
Livelihood for Parents of Child Laborers ( <i>Kasama</i> Program)†	DOLE program that provides livelihood assistance to parents, guardians or other family members of child laborers. (65, 92, 93) In 2015, 5,084 parents received services. (94)
Project Angel Tree†	DOLE program that distributes donated shoes, school bags, and other supplies to children at risk of, or engaged in, child labor.(29, 65, 92) In 2015, a total of 2,905 child laborers or children at risk for child labor received supplies.(94)
Convening Stakeholders to Develop and Implement Strategies to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Working Conditions in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (COSTREC-ASGM) (2015–2019)*	\$5 million USDOL-funded, 3.5-year project implemented by the ILO that aims to support efforts to reduce child labor and improve working conditions in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Ghana and the Philippines. The project supports efforts to (1) implement laws, policies, and action plans to address child labor and working conditions in ASGM; (2) increase access of ASGM communities to livelihood and social protection programs; and (3) develop tools to increase transparency and monitoring of child labor and working conditions in gold mining supply chains.(95)
Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons†	DSWD and IACAT program that provides recovery and reintegration services to victims of human trafficking and raises awareness in vulnerable communities.(42) Includes the National Referral System, which strengthens coordination among agencies providing services to human trafficking victims through the use of standard referral and reporting forms.(42) There are 149 referral networks established in 16 regions.(41) In 2015, received a budget of \$483,662.(18)

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

Program	Description
Special Social Services for Children in Armed Conflict†	DSWD program that provides special services to protect and rehabilitate children after direct or indirect involvement in armed conflict.(96) Includes services such as emergency evacuation and rescue; family reunification; provision of food, clothing, and shelter; and psychosocial rehabilitation.(65)
Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues	USDOL-funded project implemented by the ILO in approximately 40 countries to support the priorities of the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor by 2016, established by The Hague Global Child Labor Conference in 2010. Aims to build the capacity of the national government and develop strategic policies to address the elimination of child labor and forced labor, improve the evidence base on child labor and forced labor through data collection and research, and strengthen legal protections and social services delivery for child domestic workers in the Philippines.(97) In 2015, organized a workshop to discuss adoption of the Roadmap to Eliminate Child Labor in Domestic Work in the Philippines.(64, 98) The Roadmap has been submitted to the National Child Labor Committee for endorsement.(98, 99)
Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce (CLEAR) Child Labor	USDOL-funded capacity building project implemented by the ILO in at least 10 countries to build local and national capacity of the Government to address child labor. Aims to improve legislation addressing child labor issues, including by bringing local or national laws into compliance with international standards, improve monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to child labor, implement a National Action Plan on the elimination of child labor, and enhance the implementation of national and local policies and programs aimed at the reduction and prevention of child labor in the Philippines.(83) In 2015, facilitated the finalization of the Case Flow Management Protocol, a comprehensive plan detailing the management process for dealing with child labor cases, from identification and reporting, to prosecution of criminal actions and imposition of administrative sanctions. Currently, the National Child Labor Committee has approved the Protocol and the official adoption process is underway.(76, 83)
Philippines ABK3 LEAP—Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane (2011–2016)	\$16.5 million USDOL-funded, 4-year and 11-month project implemented by World Vision to reduce child labor in sugar-producing areas in 11 provinces of the Philippines.(100) Seeks to provide education services to 54,000 children engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, the worst forms of child labor, and to provide livelihood assistance to 28,090 households of targeted children. Engages the sugar industry in raising awareness of child labor among sugar workers and their families.(100, 101) In 2015, supported 45 <i>barangays</i> to pass and approve policies aimed at reducing child labor.(97)
Social Amelioration Program (SAP)†	DOLE, National Tripartite Council, and Sugar Industry program that provides a cash bonus to sugar workers and funds social protection, livelihood, and education programs for sugar workers and their families through a tax imposed on refined sugar.(102, 103) In 2015, the Sugar Industry Foundation Incorporated conducted a study analyzing the implementation and replicability of SAP. Recommendations for policy makers and industry leaders include raising awareness about SAP in order to reach more beneficiaries and revisiting the legal mandate for the program to ensure that the amount of money distributed to sugar workers is sufficient to meet their present needs.(104)
Conditional Cash Transfer Program ( <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> )†	DSWD and Local Government Unit social assistance and development program that provides conditional grants to poor families with children to improve their access to health care, adequate nutrition, and education.(91, 105, 106) Covers 1,627 cities and municipalities in 79 provinces and all 17 regions.(41) Targets households of child laborers and includes a condition prohibiting hazardous child labor as a program requirement.(82, 107) In 2015, more than 300,000 beneficiaries graduated from high school.(108) Program budget for 2015 was \$1.31 billion, targeted to provide grants to 4.4 million households.(68)
Alternative Learning System Program†	Department of Education program that offers non-formal education to out-of-school children, including child laborers, as well as opportunities to attain a certificate of education equivalency.(46, 109) Has limited resources, represents approximately 1 percent of the Department of Education's budget, and has only 1 teacher for every 24 communities, so it cannot reach many out-of-school youth.(46, 68, 92)

\* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of the Philippines.

## 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 the Philippines (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Authorize the labor inspectorate to assess penalties.	2015
	Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for enforcing laws related to child labor and resources available in order to provide adequate coverage of the workforce.	2014 – 2015



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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Authorize SBM QATs to conduct compliance visits in private homes to search for underage child domestic workers.	2014 – 2015
	Make information publicly available on the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites, the number conducted by desk review, and the number of child labor law violations found; and ensure that the total number of criminal investigations, violations, prosecutions, and convictions related to the worst forms of child labor are disaggregated by age.	2015
	Dedicate law enforcement agents to child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children issues so they may effectively investigate and prosecute those issues.	2013 – 2015
Coordination	Ensure that the National Child Labor Committee has the legal mandate and resources necessary to effectively coordinate national efforts to combat child labor, including its worst forms.	2015
Social Programs	Ensure that all children are able to safely access and attend school and do not face prohibitive costs for education-related expenses.	2010 – 2015
	Provide necessary resources to help more out-of-school youth access the Alternative Learning System program so they can complete their basic education.	2011 – 2015

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- is sufficient but in many countries the available data sources are weak. The number of inspectors per worker is currently the only internationally comparable indicator available. In its policy and technical advisory services, the ILO has taken as reasonable benchmarks that the number of labor inspectors in relation to workers should approach: 1/10,000 in industrial market economies; 1/15,000 in industrializing economies; 1/20,000 in transition economies; and 1/40,000 in less developed countries.
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