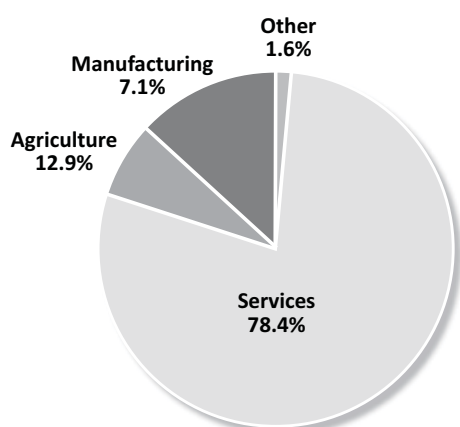


In 2011, Argentina made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. During the reporting period, the Government developed and began implementing a National Plan to Combat Child Labor (2011-2015). The Government also continued to administer social programs for vulnerable and unemployed populations, aimed at improving the employability of caregivers and expanding education opportunities for children. In addition, the Government launched an awareness-raising campaign for companies that form part of the Network of Businesses against Child Labor. However, gaps in legislation remain and programs could be expanded to cover more children working in dangerous activities in agriculture and more sectors, such as the urban informal sector.

Statistics on Working Children and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	11.0 (366,235)
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	97.2
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	12.3
Primary Completion Rate		106

Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14



Sources:

Primary completion rate: Data from 2009, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.(1)

All other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from EANNA Survey, 2004.(2)



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Argentina engage in the worst forms of child labor, some of them in dangerous activities in the agriculture and urban informal sectors. In rural areas, some children work on farms harvesting blueberries, cotton, garlic, grapes, olives, strawberries, tobacco, tomatoes and yerba mate.(3) Some may handle pesticides without proper protection.(4-10) Although evidence is limited, past reports indicate that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of flowers, jojoba, lemons, onions, potatoes, raspberries and sugarcane.(10, 11) Children working in the production of sugarcane are exposed to pesticides, smoke inhalation and insect bites, among others.(12, 13) In the agriculture sector, they may work long hours, perform arduous tasks and be exposed to dangerous situations.(9, 12, 14, 15) In urban areas, some children engage in domestic service isolated in private homes, which makes them vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.(10, 16, 17) They also work in the informal sector as street vendors, taking care of cars and cleaning car windows, recycling trash and begging and

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in the production of bricks.(3, 10, 18) This street work exposes them to severe weather, road accidents and crime.(14, 16, 19) Bolivian children have reportedly been victims of forced labor in the production of garments in Argentina.(20-22)

Children also face commercial sexual exploitation.(18, 23) Paraguayan children have reportedly been trafficked to Argentina for the purpose of sexual exploitation.(24-26) The Government of Argentina and other sources have found that child pornography is a problem.(14) Incidents of child sex tourism have occurred, particularly in Buenos Aires and on the tri-border area with Brazil and Paraguay.(24)

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Argentina’s Law 26.390 establishes the legal minimum age for employment at age 16.(27) The Law specifically prohibits the employment of children under age 16 in domestic service, and prohibits children ages 16 to 18 from working between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.(27) However, work in manufacturing is authorized until 10 p.m., exposing children ages 16 to 18 to the risks involved in night work.(27) Furthermore, Argentina has not adopted a comprehensive list of hazardous work prohibited for children.(28)

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	18
	Free Public Education	Yes

Argentine Law 26.364 prohibits forced or compulsory labor.(29) Argentine law sets the minimum age for volunteering for the Argentine Armed Forces at age 18, and there is no compulsory recruitment.(30) Law 26.364 prohibits

trafficking in persons both domestically and internationally for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation.(31)

The Penal Code criminalizes facilitating, promoting, or benefitting economically from child prostitution.(32, 33) The Penal Code also prohibits the use of children in pornographic shows and in the production, publication, and distribution of child pornography. However, it does not criminalize the possession of child pornography for personal use.(25, 26, 31) Argentine Law 23.727 prohibits the use of children in illicit activities.(34) Education is compulsory and free until the end of secondary school, at approximately age 18.(35)

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Government of Argentina has established both national and provincial mechanisms for monitoring child labor issues. The Ministry of Labor chairs the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI), which is responsible for national-level coordination on child labor. CONAETI is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Education, among others.(36, 37) Provincial governments operate Provincial Commissions for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETI) in 23 out of the 24 jurisdictions in the country.(36, 38, 39) In addition, the Office for Rescue and Caring of Victims of Trafficking, within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, coordinates government efforts to combat trafficking of adults and children.(40)

The national Ministry of Labor and provincial labor ministries are responsible for enforcing child labor laws.(36, 41) During the reporting period, CONAETI trained provincial labor authorities on child labor.(41) Child labor complaints can be registered through the CONAETI Web site.(36) Information was not available on the number of inspectors employed or the total number of inspections carried out, the sectors in which they were carried out, or sanctions imposed as a result.

The Special Unit for the Eradication of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights enforces laws against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.(42) The Special Prosecutors’ Office for Investigation of Kidnapping and Trafficking in Persons Crimes coordinates trafficking investigations nationally.(36) A 24-hour hotline is available to report human trafficking and the city of Buenos Aires operates a hotline to report cases of forced labor and labor exploitation.(23) In addition, the National Institute

against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism maintains a hotline to report sexual or labor exploitation.(36, 43)

During the reporting period, 77 minors had been rescued as a result of trafficking raids. The Argentine Government reported that victims were provided with services through the Ministry of Social Development.(18)

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

CONAETI is implementing Argentina's National Plan to Combat Child Labor, 2011-2015, which calls for actions to address child labor, including awareness-raising, inter-institutional collaboration, stronger inspection mechanisms, and a national program for the prevention and eradication of child labor in rural and urban settings.(44) To support the plan, the Ministry of Labor has established a Child Labor Monitoring Office, with offices in the provinces, to collect statistics on child labor.(45, 46)

Argentina continued its participation in the MERCOSUR's Southern Child Initiative and the Regional Action Group for the Americas. The Southern Child Initiative aims to defend the rights of children and adolescents in the region by raising awareness about the commercial sexual exploitation of children, by improving country legal frameworks and by exchanging best practices.(47, 48) During the reporting period, MERCOSUR member countries met to exchange good practices on policies to protect children and adolescents.(49) Argentina is a member of the Joint Regional Group for the Americas, which conducts child labor prevention and awareness-raising campaigns in tourism. Other members include Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.(50)

The Government of Argentina, along with the General Workers' Confederation and the Argentine Industry Association, has a memorandum of understanding with the ILO to implement its Decent Work Initiative, which includes efforts to prevent and eradicate child labor.(51) During the reporting period, the ILO cooperated with the Government of Argentina to publish a report on the situation of youth and decent work in Argentina. The report indicates that 23.6 percent of Argentinean youth have unsafe employment.(52)

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

During the reporting period, the Government of Argentina undertook a variety of efforts to combat child labor, integrating

the issue into social programs and collaborating with private industry to create corporate social responsibility initiatives. The Ministry of Labor administered the Heads of Household and the Family Plan Programs.(51-52) These programs target vulnerable and unemployed populations, in which the family or household has at least one child under age 18. Through cash transfers and employment training, the programs seek to improve employability of the caregiver while requiring that children remain in school and have access to healthcare.(53-55) Another social program, the Universal Child Allowance Program, provides a monthly cash transfer to unemployed parents and workers in the informal economy contingent on fulfilling health and education requirements for their children. Almost 3.6 million children benefit from the Universal Child Allowance Program.(56-58) However, the impact of this program and other government programs on child labor is unknown.

In 2011, CONAETI launched an awareness-raising campaign on the prevention and eradication of child labor, targeting the 88 companies that form part of the Network of Businesses against Child Labor. This awareness campaign aimed to highlight the topic of child labor in business practices especially in regards to sourcing and their supply chains.(59) Businesses represented include agricultural and agrochemical companies, service industry companies, supermarket chains, pharmaceutical companies and soft drink companies.(59, 60)

During the reporting period, the Network of Businesses against Child Labor's Future Program continued operating Harvest Gardens, which provided ten centers for 1,500 children and adolescents in tobacco-producing zones of Salta and Jujuy.(8, 61) The Child Labor's Future Program has offered educational and recreational activities to 9,000 children since 2004.(62) The Argentine Government worked to expand the Harvest Garden Program to the provinces of Mendoza, Santa Fe and Tucuman during 2011.(18)

In June 2011, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor signed an agreement which addressed the issue of child labor in the health sector by training health professionals to detect cases of child labor and creating a database to monitor healthcare services provided to children and adolescents at risk.(63) In response to another agreement signed in 2009 with the Ministries of Labor, Health and CONAETI, the Argentinean Society of Pediatrics also developed a manual to train health professionals on child labor issues.(39, 64)

The Government also participated in projects funded by international donors. The Inter-American Development

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Bank funded a \$225,000 project for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor in Migrant Families. The project, which ended during the reporting period, targeted families engaged in garbage scavenging, providing them with services and regularizing their immigration status.(65) The IDB is also funding a \$1.15 million regional project to combat the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The project aims

to strengthen local organizations that work in prevention, detection and victim assistance.(66) In addition, the Government continued to participate in a 4-year, \$3 million regional project to eradicate child labor in Latin America, funded by the Government of Spain.(67, 68)

Despite the Government's multiple efforts to combat child labor, current social programs still do not reach many children working in the agriculture and urban informal sectors.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Argentina:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Create a list of hazardous occupations for children.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Prohibit the possession of child pornography.	2009, 2010, 2011
	Expand the prohibition on night work to children ages 16 to 18, who work in manufacturing.	2011
Coordination and Enforcement	Make information publicly available on the number of child labor inspections carried out, the sectors in which they are carried out, and the sanctions imposed as a result.	2009, 2010, 2011
Social Programs	Assess the impact that social programs, especially the cash transfer programs, may have on reducing the worst forms of child labor.	2010, 2011
	Develop programs targeted at child labor in urban informal work.	2009, 2010, 2011

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