

In 2015, Paraguay made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government raised the minimum age for employment in domestic work to 18 and introduced legislation that would create specialized child and adolescent courts. The labor inspectorate hired and trained 30 new labor inspectors and formalized an agreement with the ILO to develop child labor training modules for inspectors. The National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate the Exploitation of Children coordinated interagency meetings to draft legislation to address the worst forms of child labor and develop magistrate training to strengthen the enforcement of child labor laws. The National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents launched a national awareness-raising campaign on commercial sexual exploitation of children and opened a shelter for child and adolescent victims of human trafficking. However, children in Paraguay are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in cattle raising and domestic work. The funding and reach of existing social programs and law enforcement agencies are insufficient to fully address the worst forms of child labor, particularly in rural areas.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Paraguay are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in cattle raising and domestic work.(1-9) The 2011 National Survey of Child and Adolescent Activities found that 21 percent of all Paraguayan children are engaged in hazardous work and that approximately 91 percent of all working children perform hazardous tasks, such as carrying heavy loads or using dangerous tools.(1) A 2011 study on child labor in Paraguay’s sugarcane sector estimated that children comprise more than 25 percent of the sugarcane workforce, and about one out of four of those children suffer injuries twice a year, on average, while working.(10) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in Paraguay.

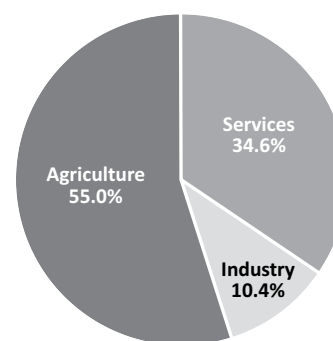
Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	10-14 yrs.	10.4 (72,036)
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	94.2
Combining Work and School (%)	10-14 yrs.	9.5
Primary Completion Rate (%)		89.1

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2012, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(11)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children’s Work Project’s analysis of statistics from Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPH), 2014.(12)

Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 10-14



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 cotton (6, 13, 14)
	Harvesting of sugarcane (3, 6, 8-10)
	Production of soy,* sesame,* wheat,* manioc,* peanuts,* beans,* and stevia* (6, 10, 15)
	Cattle raising*† and production of milk* (1, 3, 8)
	Production of charcoal* (8, 14, 16, 17)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Production of bricks (1, 3, 9, 17)
	Gold mining*† (3)
	Limestone quarrying† (1, 3, 9)
	Manufacturing soccer balls* (3)
	Construction,* activities unknown (3)
Services	Domestic work† (1, 3, 5-7, 9, 18)
	Transportation activities,* including collecting bus fare* (15)
	Street work,† including vending, shoe shining,* and begging (1, 6, 7, 9, 17, 19, 20)
	Garbage dump scavenging*† (1, 2, 21)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation sometimes as a result of human trafficking (3-6, 9, 19, 22, 23)
	Domestic servitude sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1-3, 5-7, 9, 23)
	Use in illicit activities, including smuggling* and drug trafficking* (2, 9, 13, 23, 24)
	Debt bondage in cattle raising* (3)
	Use in the production of child pornography (25-28)
	Use in armed conflict,* including to perform logistical activities for armed groups* (6, 8, 9, 23, 28, 29)

* 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.

The practice of *criadazgo*, a system whereby middle-class and wealthy families informally employ and house young domestic workers from impoverished families, is pervasive in Paraguay. NGOs have noted that domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked for sexual exploitation and reported that 60 percent of rescued trafficking victims began working as domestic servants as minors.(14, 23, 28) Children from poor rural areas, in particular the Departments of Caaguazú and Alto Paraná, are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking, in the border areas with Argentina and Brazil and in urban areas, including Asunción, Ciudad del Este, Encarnación, and Filadelfia.(4, 5, 18, 28) The Government acknowledged the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed groups, including the Paraguayan People’s Army and the Armed Peasant Association. Some children were recruited at the age of 14 or younger to serve as lookouts or to carry supplies and later were incorporated as full-time combatants.(6, 8, 9, 23, 28, 29) Children work alongside their parents in debt bondage on cattle ranches in the remote Chaco region.(3, 7)

The 2011 National Survey of Child and Adolescent Activities indicates that children who speak Guaraní exclusively are more likely to be involved in child labor and have higher rates of school absence as compared to other working children; poverty is pervasive in rural Paraguay, where Guaraní is the predominant language.(1, 30) School buses or other forms of public transportation are limited in rural areas. The Government has noted that girls from rural areas leave school at an earlier age than boys and estimated that 50 percent of children with disabilities could not attend school due to lack of access to public transportation.(6, 9)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Paraguay 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	✓

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor (cont)

Convention	Ratification
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4).

Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	14	Article 1 of Law No. 2332; Article 58 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (31, 32)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 54 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 3 of Decree No. 4951; Articles 122 and 125 of the Labor Code; Article 15 of the First Employment Law; Article 5 of Law No. 5407 on Domestic Work (31, 33-37)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations or Activities for Children	Yes		Article 54 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 2 of Decree No. 4951; Article 15 of the First Employment Law; Articles 122, 125, and 389 of the Labor Code; Article 5 of Law No. 5407 on Domestic Work (31, 33-37)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 5–7 of the Comprehensive Law Against Trafficking in Persons; Articles 125, 129, 223, and 320 of the Penal Code; Articles 10 and 54 of the Constitution (38-41)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 6 and 7 of the Comprehensive Law Against Trafficking in Persons; Articles 125, 129, and 223 of the Penal Code; Article 54 of the Constitution (38-41)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 135 and 223 of the Penal Code; Article 2.19 of Decree No. 4951; Article 31 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (31, 33, 39, 41)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 1 of Law No. 1657; Article 32 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (31, 42)
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 2 of Law No. 3360 (43)
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Yes	18	Article 2 of Law No. 3360 (43)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15	Article 2 of Law No. 4088; Article 32 of the General Education Law No. 1264 (44, 45)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 76 of the Constitution; Article 32 of the General Education Law No. 1264 (38, 44)

In 2015, the Government of Paraguay raised the minimum age for domestic work from 16 to 18 through passage of Law No. 5407 on Domestic Work.(33, 36, 46) Also in 2015, the Paraguayan Congress introduced legislation to create specialized child and adolescent courts and strengthen the ability of the Judicial Branch to address the worst forms of child labor.(8)

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

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

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MTESS)	Enforce laws related to child labor and hazardous child labor, inspect workplaces for child labor, and fine companies found in violation of labor laws. Refer cases involving criminal violation of child labor to the Public Ministry or the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents (SNNA).(3, 8)
National Police	Maintain a special unit of 33 police officers who handle complaints regarding trafficking in persons, including children, with offices in five cities.(3, 8)

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

Organization/Agency	Role
The Public Ministry (Prosecutor's Office)	Enforce criminal laws, including those related to the worst forms of child labor. Investigate and prosecute violators based on complaints, its own information, or referrals from the MTESS and other agencies, such as the SNNA and the Public Defender's Office.(3) Maintain Special Directorate to Fight the Trafficking of Persons and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children that works with local prosecutors nationwide to prosecute human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation crimes.(3)
SNNA	Maintain a unit dedicated to fighting child trafficking.(3, 8) Sponsor a hotline to report cases of human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children; provide social services to trafficking victims upon receiving referrals from law enforcement agencies.(24)
The Public Defender's Office	Maintain the Specialized Unit to Combat Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.(47)
Attorney General's Office	Investigate and prosecute cases of child labor involving human trafficking through the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit. The unit is composed of 3 specialized prosecutors based in Asunción, who work with local prosecutors nationwide, and 35 assistants.(8)
Ministry of Women's Affairs	Provide social services to female victims of human trafficking, half of whom are estimated to be children. House an office dedicated to combating trafficking of children and staffed with five dedicated personnel.(3, 8, 24)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in Paraguay 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	Unknown	Unknown (8)
Number of Labor Inspectors	26 (14)	56 (8)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (48)	Yes (48)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	N/A	Yes (8)
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Unknown	Yes
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (14)	Yes (8)
Number of Labor Inspections	Unknown	308 (49)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	30 (14)	Unknown
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	0 (14)	7 (8)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown	5 (8)
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	Unknown	2 (50)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (14)	Yes (8)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (14)	Yes (8)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (8)	Yes (8)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (8)	Yes (8)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (8)	Yes (8)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (8)	Yes (8)

According to the ILO's recommendation of one inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, Paraguay should employ roughly 216 inspectors in order to adequately enforce labor laws throughout the country.(51-53)

In 2015, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MTESS) hired 30 additional labor inspectors, of whom 12 will be assigned to regional offices, and formalized an agreement with the ILO to develop child labor training modules for inspectors. However, government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and labor organizations agree that the funding for the labor inspectorate and the total number of labor inspectors remain inadequate to address child labor in Paraguay, particularly in the informal sector.(8, 14) The inspectorate is particularly limited by the lack of dedicated vehicles or travel funds.(8, 14) An additional constraint to labor law enforcement is the legal requirement that the Public Ministry and the MTESS secure a search warrant from a judge if an employer does not permit their entrance for a workplace inspection. There is a lack of efficient and timely cooperation

by judicial authorities in granting workplace inspection search warrants, as the system is paper-based and orders routinely take more than 3 months to arrive.(3, 8, 14, 54) In 2015, the MTESS continued negotiations with the Supreme Court to create an electronic filing and communication system, allowing judges to submit and receive legal orders and information requests more quickly.(8, 14)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in Paraguay 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 (48)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (48)
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (28)	Yes (48)
Number of Investigations	Unknown	68 (48)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	28 (28)	60 (48)
Number of Convictions	16 (28)	35 (48)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (8)	Yes (8)

In 2015, the MTESS referred three child labor cases to the Attorney General’s Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit.(8) During the reporting period, members of a joint task force, composed of military personnel, national police, and the national anti-drug secretariat, coordinated to identify and detain three child soldiers in the San Pedro and Amambay Departments.(8) The Government placed the children, between the ages of 13 and 15, in juvenile detention facilities and assigned them a specialized public defender in children’s rights. Government representatives from several human rights units agreed to charge them. (48)

Government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and labor organizations have observed that more specialized prosecutors are needed to support local prosecutors nationwide and to increase the Public Ministry’s ability to investigate and prosecute child labor cases involving human trafficking.(8, 14) The Special Directorate to Fight the Trafficking of Persons and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children has insufficient resources, including vehicles, fuel, and logistical support, to carry out investigations, particularly in remote areas, such as the Chaco region, where the worst forms of child labor, human trafficking, and debt bondage are most prevalent. Overall, Paraguay’s law enforcement agencies lack resources, including staff and training, to sufficiently identify, investigate, and prosecute cases of the worst forms of child labor; as a result, the number of convictions of crimes related to the worst forms of child labor is insufficient, and the existing penalties are inadequate deterrents.(3, 8, 14, 55) Furthermore, there is a lack of formal referral mechanisms for agencies that receive complaints related to the worst forms of child labor, such as the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, to refer cases to prosecutors in the Attorney General’s Office.(3)

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

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

Table 8. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate the Exploitation of Children (CONAETI)	Lead government efforts against child labor and include representatives from the MTESS, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the SNNA, and other government agencies, as well as labor union representatives, industry associations, and NGOs.(3, 56) In 2015, CONAETI and the MTESS met with Congressional representatives, the Attorney General’s office, and the Human Rights office of the Supreme Court to draft legislation that prohibits and establishes specific penalties for criadazgo. CONAETI also organized eight workshops for the Judicial branch and the SNNA to update the magistrate training curriculum to include legal courses related to the enforcement of child labor laws.(8, 48)
National Council for Children and Adolescents (National Council)	Establish policies to protect children’s rights and approve specific programs aimed at children and adolescents.(3, 56)
Inter-Institutional Working Group on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking	Coordinate interagency efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in persons, including child trafficking. Headed by the Ministry of Foreign Relations.(3, 18, 56)

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Table 8. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor (cont)

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Defense Councils for the Rights of Children and Adolescents	Coordinate government efforts to protect children's rights at the municipal level, including by maintaining a registry of children and youth involved in economic activities and coordinating with vocational training programs for adolescent workers.(3, 31)
National Commission of Fundamental Labor Rights and Prevention of Forced Labor	Include representatives of employers, unions, and government agencies, such as the MTESS.(14)

Although the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate the Exploitation of Children organized several interagency efforts on child labor in 2015, in general, government coordination—including between the Ministries of Education and Health—is done on an informal basis and remains insufficient to combat child labor, including its worst forms.(3, 5, 8)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Strategy for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of Working Adolescents (2010–2015)	Provides access to free, quality education for child laborers and livelihood alternatives for their families. Raises public awareness of child labor and improves enforcement of child labor laws.(3, 56)
National Plan for Development (2014–2030)	Includes goals for reducing child labor as part of broader efforts to reduce social exclusion and poverty. Includes the Embrace Program, which specifically aims to reduce the worst forms of child labor.(14, 57)
National Plan on Human Rights	Includes components on child labor, forced labor, and indigenous child labor. Was established in 2012 and has no expiration date.(3)
Inter-Institutional Agreement on Government Procurement	Seeks to ensure that any goods or services procured by the Government are not produced through child labor. Was established between SNNA and the National Bureau for Public Contracts.(58)
MERCOSUR Social Labor Declaration of 2015†	Aims to promote decent work and sustainable development in the five member states of MERCOSUR, in part through commitments to uphold core labor standards, including the elimination of forced labor, the prevention and elimination of child labor, and the protection of adolescent work. Signed in Brasilia, Brazil in July 2015.(59, 60)
MERCOSUR United Against Child Labor Campaign	Develops public awareness about the need to combat child labor in MERCOSUR. Addresses child labor in agriculture, domestic work, and sexual exploitation, with particular emphasis on communities along country borders.(61)
Second Presidential Declaration on the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor in MERCOSUR	Promotes greater coordination between governmental agencies, levels of government, and with civil society among MERCOSUR members.(62, 63)
MERCOSUR Southern Child Initiative	Aims to defend the rights of children and adolescents in the region by raising awareness and seeking coordination among member states regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children, child trafficking and pornography, child labor, and migrant labor; by improving country legal frameworks to harmonize them with international conventions affecting children; and by exchanging best practices.(64)
Declaration of the Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor (2014–2020)	Aims to increase regional cooperation on eradicating child labor by 2020 through signatories' efforts to strengthen monitoring and coordination mechanisms, government programs, and South-South exchanges. Reaffirms commitments made in the Brasilia Declaration from the Third Global Conference on Child Labor (October 2013), and signed by Paraguay at the ILO's 18th Regional Meeting of the Americas in Lima, Peru, in October 2014.(65, 66)
Declaration of Cancún and Plan of Action (2015)†	In 2015, the Government of Paraguay participated in the XIX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor to promote decent work with social inclusion throughout the Americas, held in Cancún, Mexico. Participating countries adopted the declaration, which aims in part to foster policies to eliminate labor exploitation, including child labor, and to promote education and vocational training for youth.(67, 68) Participating countries also adopted the Plan of Action, which prioritizes the elimination of child labor, including through data collection, enforcement of labor laws, and the development of social protection policies for children and families.(67, 69)

†Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In November 2015, USDOL and the MTESS signed a letter of understanding, noting their intent to collaborate on efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labor, increase educational and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable children and their families, and improve labor law enforcement and working conditions in Paraguay, with a particular focus on the Department of Guairá.(70, 71)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of Paraguay 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
Global Program on the Eradication of Child Labor	\$4.5 million Government of Spain–funded, 3-year project implemented by the ILO-IPEC to combat child labor.(72)
Partnership Program to Eliminate Child Labor	\$2.3 million Government of Brazil–funded, 4-year project implemented by the ILO-IPEC to combat child labor.(72)
Shout Program	Ministry of Education and Culture/ILO program to raise awareness about child labor among students and teachers to help school administrators identify child laborers and prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labor.(14, 56)
Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (2013–2017)	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; and enhance the implementation of national and local policies and programs aimed at the reduction and prevention of child labor in Paraguay.(73)
Global Research on Child Labor Measurement and Policy Development (2013–2017)	USDOL-funded research project implemented by the ILO in 10 countries to increase the knowledge base around child labor by collecting new data, analyzing existing data, and building capacity of the Government to conduct research in this area. In 2015, Paraguay’s Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses trained enumerators and implemented the first stage of the pilot survey in two departments. (74, 75)
Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues (2011–2017)	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 capacity of the Government and develop strategic policies to address the elimination of child labor and forced labor in Paraguay.(76)
Paraguay Okakuaa (Paraguay Progresses) (2015–2019)*	\$6 million USDOL-funded, 4-year project implemented by Partners of the Americas to combat child labor, improve labor law enforcement, and improve working conditions in Paraguay, with a focus on the Department of Guairá and a particular emphasis on providing opportunities to adolescent girls. Aims to improve data systems on labor law enforcement, increase interagency collaboration, and implement education and training programs that will benefit approximately 1,650 children and 1,350 families.(71)
Regional Action Group for the Americas (<i>Grupo de Acción Regional para las Américas</i>)	Regional initiative to conduct prevention and awareness-raising campaigns to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Latin America. Members include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.(77)
Southern Child Initiative (<i>Niñ@sur</i>)	Regional initiative to carry out public campaigns against commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and child labor. Also, facilitates technical assistance to improve domestic legal frameworks to comply with international standards on those issues and supports the exchange of best practices related to victim protection and assistance.(78, 79)
Trafficking in Persons Shelter*†	Joint SNNA and religious organization program to provide housing, food, and psychological and educational assistance for up to 12 child and adolescent victims of human trafficking.(5) SNNA staff include three educators, a psychologist, and a pedagogy specialist living onsite and working with victims. Inaugurated in October 2015 and currently serving 10 victims.(5)
Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls, Boys and Adolescents in Trips and Tourism*†	National campaign of the National Secretariat for Tourism and the Association of Female Tourism Executives to raise awareness on protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation. In 2015, provided awareness-raising materials for Asunción taxis and ran a series of public outreach events in the cities of Asunción, Salto de Guairá, and Curuguaty.(5)

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

Program	Description
Embrace Program (<i>Programa Abrazo</i>)†	SNNA program to assist children engaged in exploitative work by providing them and their families with health and education services, food deliveries, and cash transfers conditioned on children's school attendance and withdrawal from work.(56) Works closely with NGO Fortalecer in the implementation of ILO-IPEC programs and with the Sugarcane Growers' Association, Ministry of Education and Culture, and CONAETI to set up programs tailored to at-risk children who work during the sugarcane harvesting season.(3) As of October 2015, operates in 27 districts in 11 departments, providing support to 11,288 children.(8)
Well-Being Conditional Cash Transfer Program (<i>Tekoporã</i>)†	Government-administered program through the Secretariat for Social Action. Provides conditional cash transfers to families in rural communities in the departments of Concepción, San Pedro, Canindeyú, Caaguazú, Caazapá, Alto Paraguay, and Presidente Hayes.(8) Incorporates aspects of the Embrace Program, such as the family monitoring methodology, to ensure beneficiary families do not allow their children to engage in child labor.(3)
Comprehensive Attention Program for Street Children and Adolescents (<i>Programa PAINAC</i>)†	SNNA program to provide assistance and services to children living on the streets. Program's goal is to assist approximately 200 children.(8, 56)
Youth Apprenticeship Program	National Service of Vocational Promotion program to provide free technical training to youth between ages 15 and 29 who have completed the ninth grade in fields such as graphic arts, metalworking, and auto mechanics.(80)
Teen Apprentice Program*	Public-private partnership between the MTESS, the Social Security Institute, the National Service of Vocational Promotion, and the Chamber of Supermarkets to provide apprenticeships to youth between the ages of 15 and 18.(48, 81)
National Employment Training System	National employment training system funded through the Social Security Institute to provide free job training opportunities throughout the country for youth and adults.(82, 83)
Paraguay Youth Republic Forums	National Secretariat of Youth program to promote social dialog and youth participation in the formation of public policies regarding youth health, education, labor, and other areas.(84)

* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Paraguay.

The 2012 Law Against Trafficking in Persons requires the Ministry of Women's Affairs to provide compensation and financial assistance to victims of sexual and labor trafficking, including minors. However, the Government has not allocated funding for the Ministry of Women's Affairs to implement such a program, and most victims did not have access to comprehensive care.(8, 14, 40, 85) Although Paraguay has programs that target child labor, the scope and funding level of these programs is insufficient to fully address the extent of the problem, and programs are limited by the absence of government education and health services in rural areas. Additional programs are needed to reach the large numbers of working children, especially in agriculture and domestic service.(8, 14) NGOs have also called for the establishment of a program to rehabilitate child soldiers.(8)

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 Paraguay (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Make publicly available information on the labor inspectorate's funding levels and the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites and by desk review.	2015
	Hire a sufficient number of labor inspectors to effectively enforce laws related to child labor and increase the funding and resources available to the labor inspectorate, including dedicated vehicles and travel funds, to provide adequate coverage of the workforce.	2009 – 2015
	Build enforcement capacity to address children's work in the informal sector.	2014 – 2015
	Improve the cooperation mechanisms among judicial authorities and labor enforcement officials to grant search warrants for workplace inspections in a more efficient and timely manner.	2013 – 2015
	Cease the incarceration of children associated with armed groups and ensure these children are referred to appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration programs.	2015

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Increase efforts to prosecute crimes related to the exploitation of children in the worst forms of child labor, including by hiring and training more specialized prosecutors; providing resources, such as vehicles and fuel, to enable investigations in remote areas, such as the Chaco; developing coordination and referral mechanisms for government agencies to refer relevant cases to the Public Ministry; and increasing penalties for crimes.	2012 – 2015
Coordination	Strengthen interagency coordinating mechanisms, with particular focus on the communication between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, to combat child labor, including its worst forms.	2013 – 2015
Social Programs	Increase access to education for children living in rural and indigenous communities, including in the Chaco region, and for children with disabilities.	2014 – 2015
	Further expand government programs to assist more families and children affected by the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture, domestic servitude, and human trafficking.	2010 – 2015
	Implement disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs for children associated with armed groups and ensure these children receive sufficient rehabilitation services.	2015

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