

In 2017, the Philippines made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government passed the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act, which aims to prevent and combat the online sexual exploitation of children. The government also amended the Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 Years of Age to include more agricultural work activities. In addition, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) piloted a referral system to connect children engaged in small-scale gold mining to social services. Although the government made meaningful efforts in all relevant areas during the reporting period, it did not adequately protect children engaged in drug trafficking from inappropriate incarceration, penalties, or physical harm. In addition, the enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging, especially due to the limited number of inspectors, lack of resources for inspections, and inspectors' inability to assess penalties. Children in the Philippines engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in armed conflict, and in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture and gold mining.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in the Philippines engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in armed conflict and in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture and gold mining. (1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8) The Survey on Children indicated that 3.2 million children aged 5 to 17 years old engage in child labor, of which approximately 3 million engage in hazardous work. (9) 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 to 14	7.5 (1,549,677)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	93.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	7.8
Primary Completion Rate (%)		101.3

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2015, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2018. (10)

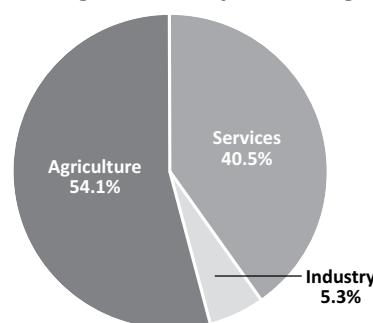
Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Survey on Children, 2011. (11)

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† (12; 2; 13; 3; 4; 14)
	Growing bananas, coconuts, corn, rice, rubber, and tobacco (2; 13; 14; 15)
	Hog farming (13; 14)
	Production of palm oil, including harvesting,† hauling,† and loading palm oil fruits (1; 2; 13)
	Deep-sea fishing† (13; 16)

Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14



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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Mining [†] and quarrying [†] , including for gold and nickel (12; 2; 16; 17; 18; 19; 7)
	Manufacturing pyrotechnics [†] (16; 20; 21)
	Construction, [†] activities unknown (22; 23)
	Production of fashion accessories (21)
Services	Child domestic work (12; 14; 24; 25)
	Street work, including scavenging, selling flowers, and begging (4; 26; 27; 28)
	Scavenging in dumpsites [‡] and in rivers (16; 29; 30)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor [‡]	Commercial sexual exploitation, including use in the production of pornography, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (31; 24; 32; 33; 28; 34)
	Forced labor, including domestic work, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (5; 24; 35)
	Forced recruitment of children by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict (6; 36; 37; 8)
	Forced begging (28; 38)
	Use in illicit activities, including in the distribution, procurement, and sale of drugs, including methamphetamine (<i>shabu</i>) (28; 38; 39; 40)

[†] 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 use of children in illicit activities, specifically in the distribution, procuring, and selling of drugs, including a cheap methamphetamine known as *shabu*, has become a cause for concern for the Philippine government. (41; 8; 28; 39; 9; 38) The government continued its anti-drug campaign, which began in 2016, and did not adequately protect children engaged in drug trafficking from inappropriate incarceration, penalties, or physical harm. (42; 43; 44; 45; 46) According to national police statistics, out of the 800,000 drug users and dealers who registered with authorities by the end of November 2017, 24,000 were identified as minors, and of those minors, 400 were classified to be trafficking drugs. (47) In 2017, the police and armed persons, allegedly associated with the police, killed a number of children suspected to be drug dealers. (48; 49; 44; 42; 46; 47; 50; 51; 52; 53) There is also a report that some children arrested for drug-related offenses were beaten and abused by police, and possibly forced to be photographed with drugs planted by police. (50) Additionally, there is a report of children being arrested for alleged involvement in drug dealing, and sent to detention centers, commonly known as *Bahay ng Pag-Asa*, or “House of Hope,” across the country. (46) It has been reported that children in these detention centers are routinely subject to physical and emotional abuse, deprived of liberty, and forced into overcrowded and unhygienic cells. (46; 54; 55; 56)




Children, primarily girls, are trafficked domestically from rural communities to urban centers and tourist destinations for the purpose of domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. (57; 34) Research indicates that the Philippines is the top global internet source of commercial sexual exploitation of children, where children are coerced into performing sex acts for live internet broadcast to paying foreigners and local Filipinos, which usually take place in small internet cafes, private homes, or windowless dungeon-like buildings commonly known as “cybersex dens.” (58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 34)

Child soldiering also remains a concern among non-government militias and terrorist organizations, predominately in the southern island of Mindanao. (8) In Marawi City, many children as young as age 7 were recruited, paid, and trained as fighters by the Maute Group, a terrorist organization linked to ISIS. Reports indicate that these children aided the Maute Group, including as fighters, during the Marawi City crisis in 2017, when ISIS-affiliated terrorists took over the city and captured civilian hostages, resulting in a battle with government forces for the city’s control. (36; 63; 37; 64) In addition, research suggests that the Abu Sayyaf Group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, the Moro National Liberation Front, and the New People’s Army continue to recruit children in schools for use as human shields, cooks, and fighters. (6; 65; 66)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR 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's laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4.)

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 139 of the Labor Code; Section 16 of the Act Instituting Policies for the Protection and Welfare of Domestic Workers (67; 68)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 139 of the Labor Code (68)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Department Order 149 on Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 Years of Age; Department Order 149A on Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 Years of Age; Sections 12-D and 16 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (69; 70; 71)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Sections 4-5 of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; Sections 12-D and 16 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (69; 72)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Sections 12-D and 16 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Sections 4-5 of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (69; 72)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Sections 12-D and 16 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; (69; 73; 74)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Sections 12-D and 16 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act; Sections 5 and 8 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act (69; 75)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes*	18	Section 14 in the Providing for the Development, Administration, Organization, Training and Maintenance and Utilization of the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines, and for Other Purposes Act (76)
State Voluntary	Yes	18	Section 12 in the Providing for the Development, Administration, Organization, Training and Maintenance and Utilization of the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines, and for Other Purposes Act (76)
Non-state	Yes	18	Sections 12-D and 16 in the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act (69)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18‡	Section 4 of the Enhanced Basic Education Act (77)
Free Public Education	Yes		Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution (78)

* No conscription (76)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (77)

In August 2017, the government signed into law the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act, which requires the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to develop rules and guidelines to prevent and combat the online

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sexual exploitation of children pursuant to existing laws. The DICT will coordinate with the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography and consult with telecommunications companies and civil society organizations to fulfill this mandate. (79; 80) In January 2017, the National Telecommunications Commission ordered internet service providers in the Philippines to block commonly accessed websites that feature child pornography and violate the Anti-Child Pornography Act. (81; 73)

During the reporting period, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) also amended its Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 Years of Age to clarify that children are prohibited from most work activities that involve planting, plowing, harvesting, handling pesticides and fertilizers, work in slaughterhouses, and animal rearing. (8; 70)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Department of Labor and Employment that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

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 the formal sector. (82) Register DOLE enforcement activities using the Labor Law Compliance System Management Information System. (83)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	Rehabilitate and reintegrate child laborers. (84) 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, as well as social media accounts, to address cases of child abuse and support child abuse victims, including children exploited in hazardous labor. (16; 38)
Philippine National Police (PNP)	Investigate and prosecute cases related to the worst forms of child labor. (35; 85) In the case of the Women and Children’s Protection Center, enforces laws on child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. (12) Oversee the Internet Crimes Against Children office within its Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, which aims to combat the online sexual exploitation of children. (86)
Rescue the Child Laborers Quick Action Teams (<i>Sagip Batang Manggagawa</i> – SBM QAT)	Lead the regional mechanism for rescuing children who work in exploitative situations. (87) Detect, monitor, and respond to incidents of child labor using a cooperative and interagency approach. Permitted to conduct unannounced compliance visits in video karaoke bars, massage parlors, sauna/bath houses, and farms when a child labor complaint is made. (38; 87) Chaired by DOLE. (87)
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)	Investigate and prosecute child labor cases. (35; 85) Operate a national Trafficking in Persons Task Force, as well as a Task Force on the Protection of Children from Exploitation and Abuse. (88; 89)
Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	Enforce the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act. Maintain a national hotline for reporting cases of children used in illicit activities. (84) Coordinate with the DSWD to assist during rescue operations. (12)
National Telecommunications Commission	Enforce the Anti-Child Pornography Law. Coordinate with Internet Service Providers to block websites containing child pornographic material. (81; 73)

During the reporting period, the Department of Social Welfare and Development piloted a referral system in Camarines Norte to refer children engaged in small-scale gold mining to social services to withdraw them from work and place them into education programs. (90)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2017, labor law enforcement agencies in the Philippines took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Department of Labor and Employment that may hinder adequate child labor enforcement, including penalty assessment authorization.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$3,385,649 (91)	\$3,450,260 (8)
Number of Labor Inspectors	574 (38)	574 (8)

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (38)	No (8)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (91)	Yes (8)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (38)	Yes (8)
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Yes (8)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	60,374 (38)	60,732 (92)
Number Conducted at Worksites	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	22 (38)	52 (8)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties were Imposed	Unknown	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that were Collected	Unknown	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (38)	Yes (8)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (38)	Yes (8)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (38)	Yes (8)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (38)	Yes (8)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (38)	Yes (8)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (38)	Yes (8)

Enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging due to the lack of resources for inspections and the limited number of inspectors. (16; 38; 83) The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of the Philippines's workforce, which includes approximately 42 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, the Philippines would employ roughly 2,783 labor inspectors. (38; 93; 94; 95) While the government slightly increased funding for the labor inspectorate in 2017, research indicates that this funding was insufficient to adequately enforce child labor laws across the country's 16 regions, and particularly in rural areas where child labor is prevalent. (8; 96; 97)

In addition, enforcement of child labor protections is not adequate for children employed in the informal sector and small- and medium-size enterprises, particularly in agriculture, due to DOLE's lack of capacity and resources. (98; 49) While the Rescue the Child Laborers Quick Action Teams 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. (83)

In 2017, Rescue the Children Quick Action Teams conducted 16 rescue operations and removed 43 child laborers from hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2017, criminal law enforcement agencies in the Philippines took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of criminal law enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including training of investigators. In addition, the government continued its anti-drug campaign, which began in 2016, and did not ensure that children in the worst forms of child labor were protected from inappropriate incarceration, penalties, or physical harm. (48; 53; 49; 44; 42)

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (38)	No (8)
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown	Yes (99)

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Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (cont)

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2016	2017
Number of Investigations	Unknown	75 (8)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	25 (8)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	54 (38)	25 (8)
Number of Convictions	38 (38)	3 (8)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (38)	Yes (8)

Police and armed persons killed children who were suspected to be involved in drug dealing. (8; 50; 52; 51) Though information on specific cases was limited, there were at least three reported instances of suspected children engaged in drug trafficking being killed in 2017 by law enforcement in connection with the government-directed campaign against illegal drugs, as well as several other instances of children reportedly killed by vigilantes allegedly tied to the police. (50) In addition, there were collateral deaths of children caught in the crossfire during police operations connected to the drug war. (53; 51; 50; 47) Some high-level government officials at times suggested that killing suspected drug traffickers and users was necessary to wipe out drug-related crime, increasing the vulnerability of children being used in the drug trade. (53; 50; 43; 100; 101; 102)

A small number of police officers implicated in a killing of a minor associated with the drug war have been charged with murder; the case was ongoing at the end of the reporting period. (100; 101; 102; 50; 53; 42) In 2017, cases in which children were killed by law enforcement officers and armed civilians, perpetrators were most often not held criminally accountable, including for deaths allegedly connected to the anti-drug campaign. The Philippine National Police (PNP) refer children involved in drug trafficking to the DSWD to receive shelter or rehabilitation programs. (40)

In 2017, the Philippine National Police's Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) investigated 35 cases of child trafficking, which resulted in the rescue of 355 children. The government reported the conviction of 36 trafficking offenders in 22 trafficking cases involving 57 minors. (92) In 19 of these convictions involving online sexual exploitation of children, the government offered the defendant a plea agreement to avoid re-traumatization of child victims who would otherwise have had to serve as witnesses during the trial. (92) With the support of NGO and foreign government donors, the PNP-WCPC personnel participated in numerous training programs to enhance PNP personnel's investigative skills in combatting the online sexual exploitation of children and other forms of child trafficking. (99; 92)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including the structure, functions, and funding of the National Child Labor Committee.

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

Coordinating Body	Role and Description
National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)	Coordinate national efforts to combat child labor and chaired by DOLE. (84) Promote information-sharing at the national, regional, and provincial levels. (84) Composed of 16 government agencies, workers' organizations, 1 employers' group, and 1 umbrella nongovernmental organization. (103)
Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)	Coordinate, monitor, and oversee efforts to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking. Co-chaired by the Department of Justice and the DSWD. (12; 89) Composed of 24 anti-human trafficking task forces established in eight regions and seven interagency task forces in major seaports and airports. (12; 16; 83)
Inter-Agency Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	Operate a monitoring and response system to assist children engaged in armed conflict. (35)
Inter-Agency Committee on Children Involved in Armed Conflict	Advocate for protecting children and preventing the involvement of children in armed conflict. Chaired by the CWC. (83) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Children in Armed Conflict Program Framework. (12)
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography	Monitor and implement the Anti-Child Pornography Act. (104) Composed of 12 government agencies and 3 nongovernmental organizations. (103) Chaired by the DSWD. (105)
Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council	Lead community outreach and education efforts, through offices located throughout the country, to prevent the use of children in illicit activities, including drug trafficking. Manage livelihood, rehabilitation, food, and scholarship programming. (40)

In March 2017, the Department of Labor and Employment’s Secretary submitted a draft executive order to the Acting Head of the Presidential Management Staff that aims to reorganize the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC), redefine its functions, and allocate funds to support its projects and activities, which would accelerate the elimination of child labor in the Philippines. At the end of the reporting period, the Office of the President was still reviewing the draft executive order. (106; 8; 103)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Philippine Program Against Child Labor (2016-2022)	Aims to remove one million children from child labor by the year 2025. (38) Implementation led by the Department of Labor and Employment’s Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns. (107)
National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2017–2021)†	Aims to address labor trafficking and the online sexual exploitation of children. (108) In 2017, through the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, held consultations to identify gaps and challenges, establish priorities, targets, and goals, and secure commitment from stakeholders. (34)
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography Three-Year Strategic Plan (2015–2017)	Aims to eradicate child pornography in the Philippines by focusing efforts in five strategic areas: (a) advocacy and prevention; (b) law enforcement and prosecution; (c) protection, recovery, and reintegration; (d) research, monitoring, and management of information systems; and (e) partnerships and networking. (109; 2; 1; 12)
Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022)†	Aims to build the socioeconomic resilience of individuals and families by reducing their vulnerability to various risks and disasters; this includes the goal of universal social protection for all Filipinos. (8) Aims to reduce the number of children engaged in child labor by 30 percent or roughly 630,000 children. (103)
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. (89; 110) Addresses concerns related to the worst forms of child labor under the section on children in need of special protection. (16)
National Plan of Action for Children (2011–2016)	Serves as an implementation roadmap for the National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children. (89) Child labor elimination and prevention strategies are included throughout the document, particularly in goal 2 on child protection, which specifies that children should be free from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. (16)
Child Protection Compact Partnership (2017-2021)†	Aims to improve the response to child trafficking, including live streaming online of child sexual exploitation and child trafficking for labor purposes, by (1) increasing criminal investigations, prosecutions, and convictions; (2) strengthening the government’s and civil society’s capacities to identify and provide comprehensive services for victims; and (3) strengthening existing community-based mechanisms that identify and protect victims of child trafficking. (111; 112) In April 2017, the government committed approximately \$800,000 for its implementation. (92)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government has other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (113; 114; 71)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2017, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including with the provision of adequate programs to address victims of child pornography.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor‡

Program	Description
Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> Program)	DSWD program that provides conditional grants to poor families with children to improve their access to health care, adequate nutrition, and education; implements local awareness-raising campaigns; institutes child labor-monitoring mechanisms; and requires neighborhoods to develop child labor elimination plans. (115; 116) Covers 1,627 cities and municipalities in 79 provinces and all 17 regions. (83) Program will include a child labor module that will impart information on the effects of child labor to project participants and the family’s role to combat child labor. (38; 117)
Campaign for Child-Labor Free <i>Barangays</i> †	DOLE program that aims to eliminate child labor in villages by raising awareness of child labor and human trafficking laws, and through government livelihood programs and guidelines. (118) In 2017, DOLE declared 6 additional <i>neighborhoods</i> child labor free, bringing the total number to 343 since 2014. (92) By 2016, DOLE regional offices have certified 210 establishments as child labor free. (38)

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

Program	Description
Livelihood for Parents of Child Laborers (<i>Kabuhayan para sa Magulang ng Batang Manggagawa</i>)†	DOLE program that provides livelihood assistance to parents, guardians or other family members of child laborers. (85) In 2017, 3,430 parents of child laborers received livelihood assistance. (92)
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. 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. (119) There are 149 referral networks established in 16 regions. (38)
USDOL-Funded Projects	USDOL projects in the Philippines that aim to eliminate child labor in artisanal and small-scale gold mines, and its worst forms, by improving the capacity of the national government, the implementing the National Action Plan Against Child Labor, conducting research and data collection, developing strategic policies, drafting legislation, and supporting social services delivery for child domestic workers. These projects include Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR), implemented by the ILO in at least 11 countries; Global Action Program (GAP) on Child Labor Issues, implemented by the ILO in approximately 40 countries; Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers: SafeYouth@Work implemented by the ILO with the Philippines as one of the three pilot countries; and “CARING Gold Mining Project,” Convening Stakeholders to Develop and Implement Strategies to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Working Conditions in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) (2015–2019), implemented by the ILO with the Philippines as one of the two pilot countries. (120; 121; 122; 123) In 2017, the CARING Gold Mining Project began implementing Strategic Helpdesks for Information, Education, Livelihoods and other Development Interventions, which will allow for the collection of child labor data. (90) Additional information is available on the USDOL website.
Alternative Learning System Program†	Department of Education program that offers non-formal education to out-of-school children, including child laborers and children displaced from military conflict, as well as opportunities to attain a certificate of education equivalency. Has received between \$7-15 million and has benefited 500,000 children as of 2015. (124)

† Program is funded by the Government of the Philippines.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (85; 125; 126)

Evidence suggests family members commercially exploit children sexually through live streaming and production of pornography. (58; 31; 34; 59) Although programs exist to assist victims of human trafficking, the Philippines lacked programs to rehabilitate children who have been victims of online commercial sexual exploitation in large part because this is an emerging issue within the country. (38) In addition, there are not adequate programs to provide awareness of this problem and its impact on child victims. (58; 61; 62)

Although the government has implemented programs in small-scale mining, research found no evidence that it has carried out programs specifically designed to assist children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, most notably, child pornography. (103; 8) In addition, although the DSWD works in consultation with parents and community leaders to determine how best to assist children suspected of being involved in the drug trade, the DSWD does not have programs specifically designed to increase protections for or assistance to children engaged in drug trafficking to address their heightened vulnerability.

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor in the Philippines (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Authorize the Labor Inspectorate to assess penalties.	2015 – 2017
	Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for enforcing laws related to child labor, as well as resources available in order to provide adequate coverage of the workforce, particularly in rural areas where child labor is prevalent.	2014 – 2017
	Build enforcement capacity to address child labor protections for children employed in the informal sector, including agricultural work.	2017

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Publish labor and criminal law enforcement information, including the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites, the number of child labor violations for which penalties were imposed, the number of child labor penalties imposed that were collected, and whether initial trainings were conducted for new criminal investigators.	2015 – 2017
	Enhance efforts to prevent the inappropriate incarceration of, and violence against, children suspected to be engaged in the production and trafficking of drugs.	2017
	Prosecute law enforcement officials and civilians responsible for the killing of children engaged in the drug trade.	2017
	Ensure that investigators receive training on new laws related to the worst forms of child labor.	2017
Coordination	Issue the proposed executive order to restructure the National Child Labor Committee and ensure it has the legal mandate and resources necessary to effectively coordinate national efforts to combat child labor.	2015 – 2017
Social Programs	Institute programs to address and combat the root causes of families profiting from the sexual abuse and exploitation of their children via live streaming and in the production of child pornography.	2017
	Rehabilitate children who have been victimized through sexual abuse and exploitation via live streaming and in the production of child pornography by their families.	2017
	Raise awareness of the problem of families exploiting their children for money through the production of child pornography and live streaming, and its detrimental impact on child victims.	2017
	Develop programs to increase protections for and provide assistance to children engaged in drug trafficking to address their heightened vulnerability.	2017
	Ensure that <i>Bahay ng Pag-Asa</i> child detention centers in the Philippines do not subject children to physical or emotional abuse and have adequate resources to remedy overcrowding and unhygienic conditions.	2017

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