

*In 2015, Cameroon made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government convicted two individuals under Law N° 2011/024 Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery, updated its National Plan of Action to Combat Child Labor and Trafficking in Children to include a protective policy framework on child labor in domestic work, and announced a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Cameroon with combatting child trafficking as a major focus. However, children in Cameroon are engaged in child labor, including in the production of cocoa, and in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation. The Government has not ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, nor has it prohibited the use of children in illicit activities, including the production and trafficking of drugs.*



## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Cameroon are engaged in child labor, including in the production of cocoa. Children are also engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation. (1-7) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Cameroon.

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

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	56.2
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	79.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	52.7
Primary Completion Rate (%)		72.2

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2014, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2015.(8)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples, 2011.(9)

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 cocoa, bananas,* coffee,* onions,* palm oil,* rubber,* and tea,* including handling pesticides,* machetes,* clearing fields,* and lifting heavy loads* (1, 4-7, 10-14)
	Hunting* and raising livestock* (1, 7)
	Fishing, including smoking* or selling* fish (1, 7, 15)
Industry	Working in artisanal gold mines† and gravel quarries,*† transporting heavy loads of sand or gravel,* breaking stones,* and digging or standing in stagnant water to extract minerals* (1, 13, 15, 16)
	Construction,* including carrying heavy loads of water,* concrete,* cement* and bricks* (1, 13)
Services	Domestic work (1, 7, 13)
	Working in transportation* (1, 13)
	Street work, including carrying heavy luggage,* vending, and begging* (1, 12, 13, 17-19)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation,* sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1-3, 5, 18, 20-23)
	Use in armed conflict, sometimes as a result of forced recruitment, including as suicide bombers (21, 24-32)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor†	Forced labor in agriculture in the production of cocoa, tea, cotton, and onions, fishing, livestock raising, domestic work, in artisanal gold mines and gravel quarries, street vending, and construction, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking* (1, 2, 5, 21, 23)
	Forced begging* (4, 18, 21, 33)

\* 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

Cameroon is a source, transit, and destination country for child trafficking from neighboring countries in Central and West Africa, and it is increasingly becoming a source country for human trafficking victims sent to Persian Gulf countries.(1, 13, 21, 34) Improved public awareness about child trafficking has reduced the number of parents who willingly give their children to intermediaries promising education or a better life in urban cities. As a result, reports of children being kidnapped for human trafficking purposes have increased, including in Yaoundé.(21, 35) Enforcement officials are becoming more vigilant about requiring parental authorization for children travelling without their parents. Immigration points at land borders, seaports, and airports are also increasingly well monitored, particularly at the borders of Nigeria and the Central African Republic.(21) Child trafficking also occurs internally for the purposes of hereditary slavery in the Northwest Region and three northern regions, though this practice has declined.(2, 5, 21, 36) In the three northern regions, it is a tradition to send boys, or *talibés*, to Koranic teachers to receive education. While some *talibés* receive lessons, others are forced by their teachers to beg or perform other work and to surrender the money that they earn.(4, 13, 33, 37) Additionally, the traditional practice of *confiage*, which involves sending a child to a relative or friend to attend school in a larger town or city, may place children at risk of exploitation by internal human trafficking.(21, 23, 35, 38)




Decree N° 2001/041 on the Organization of Public Schools guarantees free education in Cameroon and the Government has called on schools to stop collecting parent-teacher association fees in accordance with this law.(39, 40) However, due to the late or inadequate disbursement of government funds to schools, families were required to pay for uniforms, books, and other school-related fees.(12, 35, 40-43) During the reporting period, the Government implemented a series of actions to improve access to education, including building schools and classrooms, and recruiting teachers.(35, 40) Girls were also subject to sexual harassment at schools and often dropped out due to early pregnancy or domestic responsibilities.(37) A lack of schools in rural areas and birth registration requirements further hindered access to education as many children are not born in formal health facilities, which issue the declarations necessary to obtain birth certificates.(17, 21, 35, 41) This is particularly true in the Extreme North Region, where UNICEF estimates that approximately 65 percent of children do not have birth certificates.(44) Additionally, children in refugee camps in eastern Cameroon have difficulty accessing education due to a lack of schooling, teachers, and resources to pay for school-related expenses.(26, 45, 46)

Ongoing insecurity along Cameroon’s borders with the Central African Republic and Nigeria has displaced many Cameroonians and strained the Government’s resources for addressing child labor.(21, 43, 47, 48) *Boko Haram* has attacked numerous villages around the Lake Chad region, burning buildings, killing villagers, and kidnapping children.(24, 31, 32, 49) *Boko Haram* has repeatedly used children as soldiers and suicide bombers in these attacks, including children as young as age 13.(21, 31, 32) These attacks have forced an estimated 1,100 schools to close in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. At least 170 of these schools are in Cameroon, affecting approximately 70,000 students, and putting an estimated 29,000 students at risk of losing an entire school year.(26, 28, 31, 32, 45, 47, 49-53) Teachers have left their posts as a result of the conflict and displaced students place an additional strain on existing schools.(19, 26, 45) Refugees and internally displaced children are particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, including child trafficking.(5, 21, 25, 50, 54)

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

Cameroon has ratified most 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	14	Section 86 of the Labor Code (55)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Articles 9–23 of Order N° 017 on Child Labor; Section 86 of the Labor Code (55, 56)
Prohibition of Hazardous Occupations and/or Activities for Children	Yes		Articles 9–23 of the Order on Child Labor (56)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Sections 1–6 of the Law Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery; Articles 11, 292, 293, 342, 352, and 353 of the Penal Code; Section 2 of the Labor Code (55, 57, 58)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Sections 1–6 of the Law Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery; Articles 11, 352, and 353 of the Penal Code (57, 58)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 265 and 343–347 of the Penal Code; Articles 76, 81, and 82 of the Law on Cybersecurity and Cybercriminality (57, 59)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	Yes	18	Article 2 of the Decree Fixing the Conditions and Recruitment and Admission to Military Schools (60)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	12‡	Preamble of the Constitution; Articles 9 and 16 of the Law Orienting the Education System (35, 38, 61, 62)
Free Public Education	Yes		Articles 46 (2), 47, and 48 of the Decree on the Organization of Public Schools (39)

\* No conscription (60, 63)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (40)

Articles 20 and 21 of the Order on Child Labor prohibit hazardous activities for children under age 18, with two exceptions for those age 16 and over. This means that children ages 16 and 17 can legally be employed in hazardous tasks such as operating horizontal winches or pulleys, servicing steam valves, and working on scaffolding without receiving adequate training or ensuring their health, safety, and morals are protected.<sup>(56)</sup> The Government has acknowledged the need to update the hazardous work prohibitions and is planning to incorporate updates into a revision of the Labor Code.<sup>(12)</sup> As part of this effort, the National Labor Advisory Commission met in 2015 in order to review and update the list of hazardous activities prohibited to children.<sup>(40)</sup> Additionally, the prohibitions against child trafficking are insufficient because they require threats, the use of force, or coercion to be established for the crime of child trafficking. In addition, the Law Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery doubles the penalty if the victim is under 15; thus children ages 16 to 18 are not adequately protected under the law.<sup>(57, 58)</sup> The Government, with the help of an NGO, national, and international experts, drafted amendments to the Law Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery in 2012 to bring the law into conformity with international standards. However, the draft is still under consideration.<sup>(14)</sup>

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The Law Orienting the Education System makes education compulsory through primary school, but it does not specifically establish a compulsory education age.(38) Children typically begin education at age 6 and most students complete primary education at age 12.(40) The lack of a clear compulsory education age makes children ages 12 and 13 particularly vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, as they are not required to be in school and are below the minimum age for work.(35, 38, 55)

### 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 and Social Security (MINTSS)	Lead efforts to enforce child labor laws, promote decent working conditions, and fight against child trafficking in cooperation with other government bodies, including the ministries of Social Affairs, Employment and Vocational Training, Justice, Women's Empowerment and Family, Territorial Administration and Decentralization, and Tourism.(12, 21) Primarily concerned with the welfare of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and indigenous groups. Advocate on behalf of victims, present complaints to court, and provide social services to victims of child labor.(43)
Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	Contribute to investigations through police and gendarmes, and through the prosecution of offenders as appropriate.(43, 64)
Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS)	Lead Government efforts to combat human trafficking, including by raising awareness.(21) Provide social services and protection to victims of child trafficking, including education, vocational training, and shelter.(12, 65, 66) Maintain a hotline for reporting child trafficking cases or child labor complaints as part of the National Referral System.(40) Coordinate repatriation for victims of human trafficking in cooperation with the Ministry of External Relations.(44) In the case of the Directorate of Social Protection of the Child, oversee 10 regional delegations; the Operational Technical Unit provides social services and maintains Centers for Social Action.(65) In the case of the Minors Brigade, work within the public security sections of local police stations to investigate reports of child trafficking and the use of children in hazardous work.(4, 64, 67)
Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Family (MINPROFF)	Enforce criminal laws against forced child labor, commercial sexual exploitation, and the use of children in illicit activities. Promote the protection of children's rights.(12, 67)
Ministry of Defense's National Gendarmerie (SED)	Enforce criminal laws against child trafficking and investigate violations of child labor laws throughout the country in both rural and urban areas.(1, 43)
General Delegate for National Security (DGSN)	Enforce laws against the worst forms of child labor and investigate violations in urban areas.(1, 43) In the case of the DGSN's Special Vice Squad, a technical department within INTERPOL's National Central Bureau, investigate cases of human trafficking, child soldiering, and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children through regional and international police cooperation. Refer cases to the MOJ or the Ministry of Defense for further investigation or prosecution.(1)
Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization	Enforce child labor laws at the regional level. Local representatives may settle child labor disputes amicably or refer the case to the SED, DGSN, or MOJ for further investigation and prosecution.(43)
National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms	Promote and protect human rights and investigate human rights abuses.(64, 67) Report wrongdoing, advocate for victims, and assist victims of human trafficking with settling lawsuits.(43)
Joint Mobile Brigade	Work to prevent and combat the phenomenon of street children in Yaoundé and Douala by identifying street children, providing temporary shelter, reintegrating them into their families, and educating families whose children have returned home on the root causes of the phenomenon to prevent these children from returning to the streets.(4, 43, 68)
Ministry of External Relations	Provide assistance in repatriating victims of child trafficking in cooperation with MINAS.(43)

#### *Labor Law Enforcement*

In 2015, labor law enforcement agencies in Cameroon 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* (67)	Unknown* (1)
Number of Labor Inspectors	74 (67)	79 (1)

**Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (cont)**

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2014	2015
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (55)	Yes (55)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
■ Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (67)	Yes (1)
■ Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	N/A
■ Refresher Courses Provided	No (67)	No (1)
Number of Labor Inspections	Unknown* (67)	Unknown* (1)
■ Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown* (67)	Unknown* (1)
■ Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown* (67)	Unknown* (1)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown* (67)	Unknown* (1)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown* (67)	Unknown* (1)
■ Number of Penalties Imposed That Were Collected	Unknown* (67)	Unknown* (1)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Unknown* (67)	Yes (1)
■ Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown* (67)	No (1)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (55)	Yes (55)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (67)	Yes (1)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	No (67)	Yes (1, 40)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (69, 70)	Yes (40, 69)

\*The Government does not make this information publicly available.

According to the ILO's recommendation of 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, Cameroon should employ roughly 607 inspectors in order to adequately enforce labor laws throughout the country.(71, 72) Moreover, some reports indicate that funding for labor inspectorates throughout the country was not equal. Most labor brigades reported having inadequate resources to conduct inspections as these are funded from the agency's general appropriations rather than a dedicated budget line item.(1, 73) In addition, because existing legislation does not explicitly extend to the informal sector, inspections are generally limited to the formal sector.(1, 73) The ILO CEACR has also expressed concern that the inspectors are not sufficiently familiar with labor laws.(74)

Although there are no comprehensive statistics on child labor law violations, human rights organizations reported that at least five cases were resolved outside the court system during the reporting period, with perpetrators providing some compensation to victims.(1, 14) There is no formal referral mechanism; however, authorities worked together to ensure that victims of child labor received social services.(40)

### ***Criminal Law Enforcement***

In 2015, criminal law enforcement agencies in Cameroon 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 (67)	Yes (1)
■ Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A
■ Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (44)	No (1, 21)
Number of Investigations	Unknown* (67)	17 (21, 40)
Number of Violations Found	25 (44, 67)	Unknown* (1)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	11 (44, 67)	20 (5, 21, 40)
Number of Convictions	8 (44, 67)	2 (21)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (70)	Yes (1, 18, 23)

\*The Government does not make this information publicly available.

It is unclear how many investigators the Government employed in 2015, although officers from the National Police and National Gendarmerie, Special Vice Squad, and Cameroon Border Police all worked to enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of

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child labor. In general, agencies do not receive adequate funding to investigate the worst forms of child labor.(1, 21) The Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), the police, and INTERPOL each maintain a hotline where individuals can report cases of child labor violations or other worst forms of child labor, including child trafficking. However, it is not known how many cases of child labor were identified as a result of complaints made to these lines.(40) Two NGOs provided assistance to at least 43 victims of child trafficking during the reporting period.(21) There are also some reports that the Government holds young boys in detention for prolonged periods due to suspicion of being affiliated with *Boko Haram* elements.(31, 32, 54)

Although there are no comprehensive statistics on criminal child labor law violations, at least 20 prosecutions were initiated and an unknown number of victims received remediation and restitution from trafficking offenders outside the judicial system.(5, 21, 40) Of the 20 prosecutions, 2 individuals were convicted under the Law Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery.(21) The offenders reportedly gave money to the parents of the child trafficking victims in order to avoid a legal case. As a result, the parents did not cooperate with the authorities and each perpetrator received a sentence significantly below the maximum allowed by law.(21)

### 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 Committee to Combat Child Labor (CNLCTE)	Coordinate government efforts to combat child labor, propose measures to harmonize Cameroon's legal framework to international standards, and implement the National Plan of Action to Combat Child Labor and Trafficking in Children (PANETEC).(1, 15, 75, 76) Led by MINTSS.(75) In 2015, updated statistical data on child labor with the National Institute of Statistics, reviewed proposed hazardous work list revisions, drafted a media plan in coordination with the Ministry of Communication, and revised PANETEC to include the protective policy framework on child labor in domestic work.(1, 11, 77, 78)
Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)	Coordinate government efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by training stakeholders, proposing legislation, and ratifying international instruments. The Secretary General of the Office of the Prime Minister chairs the Committee, which includes members of eight ministries, law enforcement personnel, civil society organizations, and NGOs active in anti-trafficking work.(21, 69) Oversee three Regional Taskforces on Trafficking in Persons that carry out the Government's anti-trafficking efforts at the local level in Northwest, Southwest, and Littoral provinces.(14, 44) In 2015, only the Southwest and Northwest Regional Taskforces were active, raising awareness of child trafficking issues through radio broadcasts.(14, 21)

In 2015, the Prime Minister issued Order N° 083/PM to amend the membership of the National Committee to Combat Child Labor extending membership to additional stakeholders and adding representatives from MINAS and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training as Deputy Chairpersons.(1) The Inter-Ministerial Committee did not carry out any meaningful activities in 2015 and its ability to coordinate among stakeholders and provide oversight to the Regional Taskforces on Trafficking in Persons was limited.(40, 43) In addition, a lack of resources and a clear mandate limited the effectiveness of the Taskforces.(21)

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

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

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

Policy	Description
PANETEC (2014–2016)	Aims to eradicate the worst forms of child labor by 2016 while reinforcing a long-term institutional framework for the abolition of child labor. Aims to harmonize national laws with international standards, provide quality universal primary education, and allocate additional resources to the labor inspectorate.(1, 12, 23, 73, 79) Establishes responsible agencies, actions to be taken, timelines, and concrete measures related to preventing child labor and child trafficking.(44) In 2015, assisted member institutions with developing individual action plans in support of PANETEC and launched an initiative to recruit 385 jobless youth in the Far North Region as an attempt to prevent youth from enlisting in <i>Boko Haram</i> .(21, 77)



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

Policy	Description
Trafficking in Persons Action Plan	Outlines efforts to prosecute and convict human trafficking offenders, educate law enforcement personnel and social workers, develop and enact legislation prohibiting the trafficking of adults, and train enforcement personnel on how to use the human trafficking database.(80)
National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Cameroon (2015–2019)†	Addresses all forms of human rights, including children's rights. Aims to combat child trafficking by disseminating standard operating procedures for the National Referral System, raises awareness about how to identify and report cases of child trafficking, establishes a collaboration mechanism on human trafficking, increases punishments for offenders, builds the capacity of labor inspectors, and accelerates the ratification of relevant ILO conventions.(1, 21) Additionally, addresses gaps in the education sector, including the shortage of teachers and classrooms, a lack of legal framework to regulate parent-teacher associations, and a low rate of educational attainment for girls.(1)
Decent Work Country Program (2014–2017)	Incorporates child labor concerns into the strategy for work.(6)
PRSP (2010–2020)*	Includes the overall goals of poverty reduction; increased access to health and social services; and improved infrastructures, such as education.(81)
Country Program Action Plan (2013–2017)*	UNICEF and government-implemented program that addresses the full development of young children and builds on the previous Country Program Action Plan. Aims to improve access to quality education, expand employment opportunities, and promote active participation of youth in society.(4, 43, 69)
National Gender Policy Document (2011–2020)*†	Coordinated and managed by the IMC, aims to promote access to education for girls, increase access to training for adults and youth, improve access to health services, and strengthen the institutional framework for gender promotion.(1, 21, 82, 83) Specifies responsible agencies and actions to be taken within the timeframe.(83)

\* Child labor elimination and prevention strategies do not appear to have been integrated into this policy.

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

Although the National Plan of Action to Combat Child Labor and Trafficking in Children (PANETEC) was endorsed by stakeholders in 2014, it has yet to be formally endorsed by the Government.(40, 78) However, the Government of Cameroon, with support from the ILO, provided trainings and held a series of consultations for PANETEC stakeholders during the reporting period, with the goal of effectively implementing PANETEC. As a result, many agencies included funding for activities in support of PANETEC in their 2016 budgets, including the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MINTSS), which budgeted approximately \$46,000 for an extensive awareness-raising campaign.(1, 78) The Government also officially released the National Gender Policy Document in 2015, which had been in draft form since 2011.(1, 40)

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2015, the Government of Cameroon 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 Action Program on Child Labor Issues (GAP)	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. In Cameroon, aims to build the capacity of the National Government to develop strategic policies to address the elimination of child labor and forced labor, and to strengthen legal protections and social services delivery for child domestic workers.(77, 84) In 2015, included a protective policy framework document on the elimination of child labor in domestic work and the protection of domestic workers of legal age in a revised PANETEC.(77, 78)
National Referral System†	MINAS project with IOM support that implemented standard operating procedures to provide assistance to vulnerable children and victims of exploitation. Provides shelter, medical care, psychological support, and reintegration services.(5, 21) In 2015, removed at least 20 children from living on the street and placed them in government-funded shelters.(1)
Project to Fight the Phenomenon of Street Children†	MINAS-funded program that gathers information on street children and offers health care, education, and psychosocial care. In 2015, identified 120 street children and reunited 72 of them with their families.(1)

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

Program	Description
Centers for Children in Need†	MINAS- and MINPROFF-operated shelters for women and children in need. MINAS-run shelters are located in four regions of Cameroon and MINPROFF operates at least one shelter in every region that provides vocational and educational training for girls and women.(18, 43, 85) Victims of child trafficking are placed in MINAS-run shelters and are given lodging, food, health care, psychological care, education, vocational training, and family tracing as appropriate.(18, 21)
Country Program Action Plan (2013–2017)†	UNICEF- and MINAS-implemented program aiming to improve social protection, ensure access to primary education, and improve preventative health care.(1, 86) Aims to improve conditions in refugee camps in the East Region by providing education, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, vaccinations, and by building child-friendly spaces.(67) In 2015, focused on the delivery of essential services in refugee camps, such as education and child protection, including the risk of recruitment into <i>Boko Haram</i> .(1)
School Feeding Program†	Programs funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture, WFP, and the Ministry of Education that provide meals to help improve the educational goals of girls in targeted geographic zones.(4, 42) Feeding programs funded by WFP and the Ministry of Education benefit an average of 55,366 girls annually in the Extreme North, North, and Adamaoua Regions.(42) The U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé and the USDA fund Food for Education, which operates in the North Region and promotes the use of school gardens to improve food security. Since the program began in 2013, it has provided breakfast and lunch to 95,867 primary school students and financed the construction of 497 school buildings and 12 wells.(40)
Direct Cash Transfer†	Government program that provides limited direct cash transfers to street children on an ad hoc basis.(42)
Emergency Fund for the Far North†	\$133 million government-funded program that will finance 94 development projects in order to alleviate unemployment and generate income in border communities that have been affected by insecurity.(25)

† Program is funded by the Government of Cameroon.

In 2013, MINTSS evaluated the programs that had been implemented to prevent and combat child labor since 2003, but the results of the study have yet to be released.(4, 43, 69) Although the Government has implemented programs to assist victims of child trafficking and children engaged in street work and in domestic work, the scope of these programs are insufficient and do not fully address the extent of the problem; funding was reduced during the reporting period.(1) Additionally, research did not find evidence of programs to specifically address child labor in agriculture, mining, and quarrying.

## 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 Cameroon (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ratify the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.	2013 – 2015
	Criminally prohibit the use of children for illicit activities, including the production and trafficking of drugs.	2014 – 2015
	Ensure that all hazardous activities are prohibited for children under age 18.	2014 – 2015
	Ensure that laws prohibiting child trafficking do not require threats, the use of force, or coercion to be considered child trafficking and that all children under age 18 are protected.	2015
	Ensure that there is not a gap between the age for compulsory education and the established minimum age for work.	2009 – 2015
Enforcement	Collect and make publicly available comprehensive statistics on enforcement efforts, including the amount of funding allocated to the labor inspectorate, the total number and type of inspections conducted, violations found, and penalties imposed.	2009 – 2015
	Ensure that labor inspectorates and criminal law enforcement agencies receive an adequate amount of funding with which to conduct inspections and investigations.	2009 – 2015
	Strengthen the labor inspectorate by initiating targeted inspections based on analysis of data related to at-risk sectors and patterns of serious incidents, including in the informal sector.	2013 – 2015
	Ensure that labor inspectors are familiar with all laws related to child labor by providing regular refresher course on child labor issues.	2013 – 2015



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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Establish a mechanism to log all calls to the child protection hotline and track cases of child labor for referral to law enforcement or social services providers.	2015
	Ensure that young boys are not held in detention without reasonable evidence of wrongdoing.	2015
Coordination	Ensure that existing coordinating mechanisms carry out their mandates.	2014 – 2015
Government Policies	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into existing policies.	2010 – 2015
Social Programs	Ensure that all children, regardless of birth registration or refugee status, have access to education by eliminating school-related fees, eliminating sexual harassment of girls, and ensuring an adequate number of schools throughout the country.	2009 – 2015
	Expand existing programs to address the scope of the child labor problem in Cameroon and institute programs to address child labor in agriculture, mining, and quarrying.	2009 – 2015

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the Committee for Development Policy. The basic criteria for inclusion require that certain thresholds be met with regard to per capita GNI, a human assets index and an economic vulnerability index. For the purposes of the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Report, “developed economies” equate to the ILO’s classification of “industrial market economies; “economies in transition” to “transition economies,” “developing countries” to “industrializing economies, and “the least developed countries” equates to “less developed countries.” For countries that appear on both “developing countries” and “least developed countries” lists, they will be considered “least developed countries” for the purpose of calculating a “sufficient number” of labor inspectors.

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