

Bosnia and Herzegovina

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

In 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government's Daily Centers identified 130 children as potential victims of human trafficking and referred them to shelters, and the number of Regional Monitoring Teams is being increased from 4 to 17. In addition, the Government of Canton Sarajevo implemented a protocol on cooperation and treatment in cases of unlawful behavior at the detriment of children, which includes protection for child beggars and sexually abused children. However, children in Bosnia and Herzegovina engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in street work. The minimum age protections in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, and Brčko District do not apply to children who are self-employed or work outside of formal employment relationships. In addition, the Anti-Trafficking Strike Force lacks coordination between prosecutors, police, and other relevant government stakeholders, and border police officers and social workers failed to properly identify unaccompanied migrant and refugee children as potential victims of human trafficking due to lack of proper protocols.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced begging, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. (2,3) Children also perform dangerous tasks in street work. (6,2,7,8) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in BiH. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	8.9 (44,017)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	83.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	10.6
Primary Completion Rate (%)		Unavailable

Primary completion rate was unavailable from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (9)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3, 2006. (10)

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
Services	Street work, including begging, vending, and washing car windows (2,11,12)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Forced begging and forced domestic work, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2,3,13-17)
	Commercial sexual exploitation as a result of human trafficking (2,3,15,17,18)
	Use in illicit activities, including for pickpocketing (2,12,15,17,18)
	Use in the production of pornography (4,12,18-21)

‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor per se under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182.

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Street begging is the most common form of child labor in BiH. (2,3,17) Organized groups sometimes traffic children to lucrative locations, both domestically and internationally, in regional and European Union countries, where they are forced to beg. (2,3,16)

Children from the largest minority group in BiH, the Roma, remain vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. (2,3,5,16,17,22,23) The Roma custom of paid and arranged marriages between families has resulted in the exploitation of some Roma girls as domestic workers. (6,2,16,24) Birth registration is required to attend school in BiH, and some Roma children lack identity documents, which may affect their access to education. (2,24-26) Children who are not attending school are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. Sources also indicate that some Roma children face discrimination by some teachers and peers, travel long distances to schools, and are unable to afford school supplies, clothing, and food. (2,12,19,22,27) In addition, research found that discrimination against some Roma children by school administrators has led to disproportionately high enrollment rates of Roma children in schools for children with intellectual disabilities. (28)

Schools in Republika Srpska (RS) deny the right for some Bosniak children to attend classes in the Bosnian language. (23,29,30) Some Bosniak children from RS travel long distances to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) to receive education in their language. (2,23,31,32) In addition, discrimination persists under the “Two Schools Under One Roof” practice between Bosniaks and Croats in FBiH. The practice creates obstacles for students to attend schools other than those which match their ethnic identity, and therefore enabling ethnic separation among students. (23,33-35) Ethnic discrimination in schools may lead to violence and class absenteeism. (33,34)




In 2018, BiH experienced an increase in migrants from Africa and the Middle East. (17) More than 23,700 refugees and migrants, including children, from Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Algeria, Bangladesh, and India were registered in the country. (17,36) From this total, 972 children participated in informal learning activities, 330 unaccompanied minors benefited from child protection support, and 17 children were enrolled in primary school. However, more than 800 refugee and migrant children from this group remain vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. (3,36)

Children with disabilities generally face barriers to accessing education, which may make them vulnerable to child labor. (24,25,37) Although the number of school programs for children with disabilities is increasing, parents of such children often receive little support from the government, and many schools are unable to provide accommodations for their disabilities. (23,37,38)

II. Legal Framework for Child Labor

BiH 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	✓

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BiH is a democratic republic with a bicameral parliament. Governmental responsibility lies within the entities of BiH, FBiH, RS, and the self-governing Brčko District (BD). (25) The Government of BiH has established laws and regulations related to child labor, at the state, entity, and district levels (Table 4). However, gaps exist in BiH's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the minimum age for work and the prohibition of military recruitment by non-state armed groups.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Related Entity	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH)	No	15	Article 20 of the Labor Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (39)
	Republika Srpska (RS)	No	15	Articles 26–27 of the Labor Law of Republika Srpska (40)
	Brčko District (BD)	No	15	Article 10 of the Labor Law of Brčko District (41)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	FBiH	Yes	18	Article 57 of the Labor Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (39)
	RS	Yes	18	Articles 103 and 264 of the Labor Law of Republika Srpska (40)
	BD	Yes	18	Article 41 of the Labor Law of Brčko District (41)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	FBiH	Yes		Articles 42, 57, and 171 of the Labor Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (39)
	RS	Yes		Articles 70, 72, 103, and 264 of the Labor Law of Republika Srpska (40)
	BD	Yes		Articles 28, 41, and 111 of the Labor Law of Brčko District (41)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	BiH	Yes		Articles 185–186a of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Article II of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (42,43)
	FBiH	No		Articles 210a (2–3) of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. (44)
	RS	Yes		Article 198b of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (45)
	BD	Yes		Article 207 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (46)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	BiH	Yes		Articles 185–186a of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (43)
	FBiH	Yes		Articles 210a–210b of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (44)
	RS	Yes		Article 198b of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (45)
	BD	Yes		Article 207 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (46)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	BiH	Yes		Articles 186–187 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (43)
	FBiH	Yes		Articles 210 and 211 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (47)
	RS	Yes		Articles 198 and 198b–200 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (45)
	BD	Yes		Articles 186 and 207–209 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (46)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	BiH	No		Article 195 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (43)
	FBiH	Yes		Article 219 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (47)
	RS	Yes		Articles 198b and 224 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (45)
	BD	Yes		Article 216 of the Criminal Code of Brčko District (46)

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Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor (Cont.)

Standard	Related Entity	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	BiH, FBiH, RS, BD	Yes	18	Article 9 of the Law on the Service in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (48)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	BiH, FBiH, RS, BD	N/A*		Article 9 of the Law on the Service in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (48)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	BiH, FBiH, RS, BD	No		Article 173(e) of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina (43)
Compulsory Education Age	FBiH	Yes	15‡	Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (49)
	RS	Yes	15	Article 2 of the Law on Primary Education of Republika Srpska; Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (49,50)
	BD	Yes	15	Article 55 of the Law on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools in the Brčko District; Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (49,51)
Free Public Education	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes		Article 16 of the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (49)

* No conscription (48)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (49)

The Criminal Code in FBiH criminalizes trafficking for forced labor but fails to specifically outlaw forced labor, debt bondage, and slavery independent of each other. (2,44,47)

Laws related to illicit activities in BiH are not sufficient because using, procuring, and offering children for the production and trafficking of drugs is not criminally prohibited. (43) Also, minimum age protections in the FBiH, RS, and BD labor codes do not apply to children who are self-employed or working outside of formal employment relationships. (39-41) Therefore, most children engaged in street work, the most common form of child labor, are not protected by the law due to law enforcement practices and legal interpretations of the laws. (4-8,39-41,52,53) In addition, BiH, FBiH, RS, and BD do not have laws that prohibit the recruitment of children by non-state armed groups. (11,43,45-47) Finally, the types of hazardous work prohibited for children do not include begging, an area of work in which there is evidence of associated dangers. (54-56)

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 Ministries of Labor for FBiH, RS, and BD that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Related Entity	Role
FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy Federal Inspection Agency and Cantonal-Level Labor Inspectorates	FBiH	Enforces labor laws, including those on child labor, in FBiH. (2,8)
RS Ministry of Labor and Veterans Labor Inspectorate	RS	Enforces labor laws, including those on child labor, in RS. (2,8)
BD Administrative Support Department	BD	Enforces labor laws, including those on child labor, in BD. (8)
Entity and Cantonal-Level Police	BD, FBiH, RS	Enforces criminal laws against human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution, and begging. (57)

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

Organization/Agency	Related Entity	Role
Ministry of Security (MOS)	BiH	Enforces a national policy to prevent the worst forms of child labor. Collects data on human trafficking. (58) Ensures that victims are placed in government-approved shelters. (58)
State Investigative and Protection Agency (SIPA) and State Border Police (SBP)	BiH	Investigates human trafficking crimes and enforces anti-trafficking laws across the entire country (SIPA). Identifies victims of human trafficking at the border (SBP). (57,58)
State, Entity, and FBiH Cantonal-Level Prosecutors' Offices	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Prosecutes human trafficking, forced labor, enticement to prostitution, and forced begging cases at their respective levels, based on applicable laws. (57,58)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in BiH took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Ministries of Labor for FBiH, RS, and BD that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including labor inspector training.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	Related Entity	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown (12)	Unknown (2)
Number of Labor Inspectors	FBiH	78 (12)	83 (2)
	RS	36 (12)	43 (2)
	BD	7 (12)	7 (2)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	FBiH/RS/BD	No (12)	No (2)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	FBiH/RS/BD	No (12)	No (2)
Refresher Courses Provided	FBiH/RS/BD	No (12)	No (2)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown (12)	Unknown (2)
Number Conducted at Worksite	FBiH/RS/BD	Unknown (12)	Unknown (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	FBiH/RS/BD	0 (12)	0 (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	FBiH/RS/BD	0 (12)	0 (2)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	FBiH/RS/BD	0 (12)	0 (2)
Routine Inspections Conducted	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Routine Inspections Targeted	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)

Inspectors in all entities are not trained on detecting child labor in agriculture, including handling agricultural chemicals. (2,59) However, labor inspectors have a quarterly plan for inspections. (60) A complaint mechanism exists in all entities, and each entity inspectorate has a mechanism for receiving online complaints. (53,60) All three labor inspectorates are authorized to inspect any formal sector site without receiving prior approval. (2) Inspectors who find violations of the child labor law are permitted to assess administrative penalties or issue fines. (2) As in previous years, forced begging cases are pursued by entity-level police and state-level prosecutors; however, labor inspectors do not have jurisdiction to investigate such cases. (12) In addition, research found that BiH does not have an official system for referring children found during labor inspections to appropriate social services, unless they are victims or potential victims of human trafficking. (2)

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In 2018, officials in each entity reported that labor inspectors had sufficient resources to carry out inspections. (2) However, labor officers who monitor fraudulent job offers had limited resources, including a lack of funding. (17)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in BiH took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including prosecution planning.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	Related Entity	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Refresher Courses Provided	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)
Number of Investigations	BiH	4 (20)	Unknown (2)
	FBiH/RS/BD	318 (20)	12 (37)
Number of Violations Found	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	72 (21)	11 (37)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	BiH	6 (21)	Unknown (2)
	FBiH/RS/BD	66 (21)	7 (37)
Number of Convictions	BiH	6 (21)	Unknown (2)
	FBiH/RS/BD	27 (21)	3 (37)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	4 (21)	1 (37)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	BiH/FBiH/RS/BD	Yes (12)	Yes (2)

During the reporting period, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) supported trainings for judges and prosecutors on differentiating between human trafficking and child negligence. Human trafficking topics were also taught at police academies for classes of new officers. (17)

Police refer children detained for begging to appropriate social services providers. (2) NGOs receive funding from either the Ministry of Security or the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees to provide shelter to these children. (8,17) However, law enforcement personnel and prosecutors are often unwilling to pursue investigations and prosecutions against parents involved in the trafficking of their children, particularly for forced labor, and the shelters subsequently return the children to the parents who trafficked them. (2,12,53) In addition, law enforcement officials sometimes penalize child victims of begging by issuing fines against the children. (37)

NGOs acknowledged that, although judges and prosecutors receive some basic education on human trafficking through the Agency for Education and Training, additional instruction is needed on identifying children used for forced labor and begging. (16,17,61,62) Prosecutors, police, and social workers continuously fail to identify cases of forced begging as trafficking and instead classify them as child negligence or Roma custom, impose sentences under the legal minimum, decrease the severity of the sentences, or dismiss the charges against the perpetrators altogether. (2,16,17,53)

During the reporting period, border police officers and social workers failed to properly identify unaccompanied migrant and refugee children as potential victims of human trafficking, due to the lack of proper government protocols and awareness of mechanisms in place to assist them. (37,63)

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 adequate coordination of efforts to address child labor, including the inclusion of all relevant agencies.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Department of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons (State Coordinator) within the MOS	Coordinates human trafficking victim protection efforts among relevant ministries at the entity level and among prosecutors at the state, entity, and local levels, as well as with NGOs. (2,15,17,37,64) Oversees the human trafficking database, which includes data from NGOs, SIPA, SBP, and police agencies and prosecutors' offices at all levels. (17,37,57) Publishes data from this database in its annual report on human trafficking. (15) Oversees shelter management and monitors NGO compliance with the agreed-upon provisions on victims' assistance. (37,57)
Strike Force for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Organized Illegal Migration (Anti-Trafficking Strike Force)	Coordinates human trafficking investigations across government agencies. (15,37) Convenes monthly, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. (11,14,17,62) Chaired by the Chief State Prosecutor, includes BiH, FBiH, RS, and BD ministries and agencies. (2,15) Met four times in 2018. (17)
Inter-Ministerial Working Group	Monitors implementation of the National Action Plan to Counter Trafficking, the corresponding Action Plan, and the National Referral Mechanism. (2,15,37,65) Comprises appointed representatives from the state and entity governments, including labor inspectors and elected representatives from NGOs. (4) Met once in 2018. (37)
Regional Monitoring Teams	Facilitates anti-human trafficking coordination among state, entity, and cantonal-level institutions, as well as between NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. (15,66) Includes labor inspectors. (18) In 2018, a new structure of 17 teams instead of 4 was agreed upon and is expected to be completed next year. (17) In addition, representatives from daily Centers were included in Regional Monitoring Teams. (17)
Council for Children	Coordinates children's issues among state-level agencies and institutions under the Action Plan for Children of BiH. (37,67,68) Met in 2018. (37)

Labor inspectors are included in the National Referral Mechanism, which allows them to determine how a child became part of a begging ring. However, labor inspectors are not part of the Anti-Trafficking Strike Force. (2,12)

During the reporting period, research found that the Regional Monitoring Teams would benefit from training on human trafficking issues. (17,37) The Anti-Trafficking Strike Force also lacked funding for a second consecutive year due to political disagreements. (37) In addition, the Strike Force's coordination between ministries remained low across all levels of government. Although it met in 2018, meetings tapered off, and the Strike Force faced additional challenges, including a lack of records of active cases; the BiH Prosecutor's Office has not assigned a permanent new representative, FBiH has not appointed additional members, and the State Investigative and Protection Agency rarely participated in the meetings. (17,37)

Although the Inter-Ministerial Working Group met once in 2018 to review the Annual Report of the National Coordinator's Office for Combating Trafficking, it failed to continuously monitor human trafficking initiatives or activities. (37)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established policies related to child labor (Table 9). However, policy gaps exist that hinder efforts to address child labor, including covering all worst forms of child labor.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Action Plan for Children of BiH (2015–2018)	Outlined a multidisciplinary approach to continue improving the government's efforts to protect children's rights. (69) In 2018, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees completed its report on the Plan's implementation. (37)

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Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor (Cont.)

Policy	Description
National Action Plan to Counter Trafficking (2016–2019)	Mandates that the government provide assistance to human trafficking victims, efficiently prosecute trafficking crimes, work to prevent human trafficking, and strengthen collaboration and coordination among stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking in BiH. (12,15,70) In 2018, the government reported that 63 out of 80 planned activities for 2018 were completed. (17)
Guidelines for Work of Regional Monitoring Teams†	Enhances the cooperation of monitoring team members and the national referral mechanisms. (17,71) Includes a section on mixed migration flows, in which unaccompanied migrant children and victims of human trafficking are addressed. (17)
Protocol on Cooperation and Treatment in Cases of Unlawful Behavior at the Detriment of Children in Canton Sarajevo‡	Prevents begging, exploitation of children, and abuse of children in Canton Sarajevo. (72,73) Sets rules on state cooperation on victim protection and mandates the provision of physical, psychological, health, and social protection for children. (73)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (74)

Although the Government of BiH has adopted the National Action Plan to Counter Trafficking and the Action Plan for Children, research found no evidence of a policy on other forms of child labor, including forced labor or illicit activities. (2,4,12,75) Sources indicated that the government has not allocated enough financial resources for adequate implementation of inclusive education initiatives. (37,38,76,77)

In addition, Roma organizations and government agencies have expressed intentions to develop an action plan to combat child begging; however, the plan has not been completed. (37)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2018, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including in funding.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Registration Project	UNHCR-funded project, implemented by NGO <i>Vaša Prava</i> , which promotes the registration of Roma people to increase their access to social benefits and schools. (15,58) Helped 1,300 Roma individuals register for citizenship and enabled 19,000 individuals to apply for social inclusion programs from 2009 to 2016. (16,67,78) In 2018, provided legal assistance to foreign victims of human trafficking. (17)
Daily Centers†	Center for Social Welfare-supported and NGO-operated drop-in centers in seven locations across the country for vulnerable children, especially street children. (2,16,17) Provides direct assistance for children, including educational activities, counseling, food, and hygiene. (7) In 2018, 130 children were identified as potential victims of human trafficking, and of these, 55 had received assistance at the centers previously. (2)
Assistance for Trafficking Victims†	Government program that allocates small grants to local NGOs for the provision of shelter and social services to victims of human trafficking, including counseling, educational assistance and job training for domestic victims, and visa and legal services for foreign victims of human trafficking. (61) In 2018, MOS and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees allocated \$76,200 for shelters and \$5,860 for the European Anti-Trafficking Day. (17,30)
United Nations Program and Common Budgetary Framework (2015–2019)	UN-funded project implemented by UN-affiliated implementing partners. Aims to provide inclusive education for Roma children and children with disabilities, as well as social protection for vulnerable individuals. (80)

† Program is funded by the Government of BiH.

Because labor inspectors do not have a mandate to inspect informal work on the streets, staff from Daily Centers are often the first to identify children engaged in hazardous street work. Sarajevo's Center for Social Welfare's Mobile Team engages in daily outreach to children on the streets and to families in vulnerable communities. (14,37) The Mobile Team staff stated, however, that they lack sufficient resources for their work, especially reliable transportation. (7,37,53) Government support for outreach to street children in areas outside of Sarajevo varies significantly. Although most Daily Centers collaborate with local Centers for Social Welfare,

Daily Centers are not institutionalized and, therefore, lack consistent financial and technical support. (37,53,81) This may limit the ability of Daily Centers to identify and assist children working on the streets. Although the government provides some social services for low-income families through the Center for Social Welfare, many families do not receive enough assistance to reduce their reliance on child labor, especially begging. (7,37,53)

Some organizations that provide services to victims of domestic human trafficking lack financial resources. (4,14,28,68) During the reporting period, research found that most NGOs that provide social services rely exclusively on grant funding from foreign donors. Their capacities have diminished as foreign assistance to NGOs has decreased, creating obstacles for continued implementation of their programs. (17) In addition, many domestic victims were left without assistance because unused funds allocated for human trafficking victims are returned to the state treasury. (17)

Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the UN Program and Common Budgetary Framework during the reporting period. (37)

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 BiH (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Related Entity	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	BD, FBiH, RS	Ensure that all children are protected by labor law, including those who work in the informal sector, such as children engaged in street work.	2015 – 2018
	FBiH	Criminalize forced labor, debt bondage, and slavery separately from human trafficking in FBiH's laws.	2018
	BiH	Ensure that BiH law prohibits the use of children in illicit activities, including using, procuring, and offering children for the production and trafficking of drugs.	2015 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Ensure that the laws criminally prohibit the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups and that children are not punished for engagement in non-state armed groups.	2016 – 2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Include child begging in the list of hazardous occupations prohibited for children for all entities.	2016 – 2018
Enforcement	BD, FBiH, RS	Collect and publish information on labor law enforcement efforts, including labor inspectorate funding and number of labor inspections conducted.	2015 – 2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Ensure that labor inspectors receive training on sectors in which child labor is known to occur, enable them to inspect for child labor in agriculture and child begging, and provide training for new employees and refresher courses for all labor inspectors.	2017 – 2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Create an official referral system for referring children found during labor inspections who are not victims of human trafficking.	2018
	BiH	Collect and publish information on criminal law enforcement efforts, including number of investigations, prosecutions initiated, and convictions.	2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Enable labor inspectors to pursue forced child begging cases, hold parents legally accountable for child trafficking, and do not penalize the children.	2017 – 2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Increase funding for labor officers who monitor fraudulent job offers so job seekers do not engage in forced labor.	2018
Enforcement	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Increase training for law enforcement prosecutors and judges on how to properly apply criminal law in cases of child labor trafficking, forced labor, and forced begging, rather than classifying cases as Roma custom or decreasing the severity of sentences.	2014 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Train border police and social workers to properly identify migrant children vulnerable to human trafficking and implement proper referral mechanisms.	2018

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Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor (Cont.)

Area	Related Entity	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Coordination	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Include labor inspectors in the Anti-Trafficking Strike Force, properly fund the Strike Force, and ensure that the Strike Force fulfills its coordinating mandate with the inclusion of all relevant government entities and law enforcement.	2017 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Provide additional training to the regional monitoring teams on the referral and protection of human trafficking victims.	2016 – 2018
	BiH	Ensure that the Inter-Ministerial Working Group meets regularly to actively monitor human trafficking initiatives and activities.	2018
Government Policies	BiH	Adopt a policy designed to address child labor and its worst forms, other than child trafficking, including for forced labor and illicit activities.	2015 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Ensure that inclusive education initiatives receive adequate funding.	2017 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Create an action plan to address forced begging for the children of the Roma population.	2017 – 2018
Social Programs	BiH	Collect data on children involved in the worst forms of child labor to enhance policymakers' ability to identify problems more accurately and address them more adequately.	2009 – 2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Promote inclusive education for minority children, including Roma, by assisting parents in registering their children for birth and identity documentation that entitles them to access school, expanding efforts to reduce discrimination in schools, and mitigating the costs to families associated with education.	2011 – 2018
	FBiH, RS	Allow all Bosniak children in RS to access education in the Bosniak language and remove the "Two Schools Under One Roof" practice to eliminate discrimination in schools based on ethnicity in FBiH.	2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Ensure that unaccompanied minors who are vulnerable to human trafficking receive proper social services and education.	2018
	BD, FBiH, RS	Remove barriers to education for children with disabilities by ensuring that schools have adequate resources to provide the necessary accommodations, enabling children to attend school and not be vulnerable to engage in child labor.	2015 – 2018
	BiH	Institutionalize and provide sufficient funding for Daily Centers to ensure that they have the resources and technical support necessary to assist children involved in child labor and those who are at risk of involvement.	2014 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Strengthen social protection programs that provide support to economically vulnerable families, reducing their reliance on child labor.	2014 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Ensure that resources for human trafficking victims are sufficient to meet the needs of domestic victims.	2014 – 2018
	BiH, BD, FBiH, RS	Increase funding for programs that provide social services, including housing, for child trafficking victims.	2015 – 2018
	BiH	Ensure that the UN Program and Common Budgetary Framework is active and completes its mandate.	2018

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