

In 2016, the Philippines made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government released a revised and expanded list of hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children, and passed the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, which increased measures to monitor and prevent child trafficking and child labor, including its worst forms, during national disasters. The Government also established the Internet Crimes Against Children office under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division to combat the Internet-facilitated commercial sexual exploitation of children. In addition, the Government updated the Philippine Program against Child Labor, and published the Revised Rules on Labor Laws Compliance System, which prioritizes establishments and workplaces that employ children for joint labor inspections. However, children in the Philippines perform dangerous tasks in the production of sugarcane. Children also engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. Despite the existence of strong mechanisms to respond to cases of child labor, enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging due to the limited number of inspectors, lack of resources for inspections, and inspectors' inability to enter private homes.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in the Philippines engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. Children also engage in the production of sugarcane, an industry that is considered dangerous for children in the Philippines.(1-8) The 2011 National Survey on Children indicated that 3.2 million children aged 5 to 17 years old engage in child labor, of which approximately 3 million work in hazardous labor.(9) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in the Philippines.

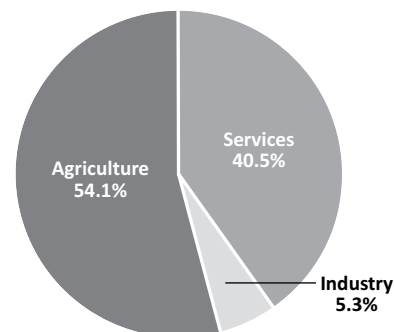
Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

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 (%)		101.0

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2013, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(10)

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

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



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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† (1, 3-6, 12, 13)
	Growing bananas, coconuts, corn, rice, rubber, and tobacco (3, 4, 13, 14)
	Hog farming (4, 13)
	Production of palm oil, including harvesting,† hauling,† and loading palm oil fruits (2-4)
	Deep-sea fishing† (4, 15, 16)
Industry	Mining† and quarrying†, including gold and nickel extraction (1, 3, 16-20)
	Manufacturing pyrotechnics† (12, 16, 21, 22)
	Construction,† activities unknown (15, 23)
	Production of fashion accessories (22)
Services	Child domestic work (1, 13, 24-27)
	Street work, including scavenging, selling flowers, and begging (6, 12, 15, 28)
	Scavenging in dumpsites† and in rivers (12, 16, 29)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, including use in the production of pornography, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (8, 12, 26, 30-32)
	Forced labor, including domestic work, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (7, 8, 26, 33)
	Forced recruitment of children by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict (34-36)
	Forced begging (32, 37, 38)
	Use in illicit activities, including in the trafficking of drugs (32, 37, 39)

† 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.

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.(26, 37) In addition, 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.”(8, 37, 40-43) Research indicates that the Philippines is the top global Internet source of commercial sexual exploitation of children in which exploiters pay between \$20 to \$150 for a live “sex show.”(44-46)

Many children work as domestic workers, or *kasambahays*, and are particularly vulnerable to forced labor.(24, 37, 47) Child domestic workers often live and work in the private homes of their employers, where they are expected to work long hours. These children may have limited access to education, and may be subjected to sexual, verbal, and physical abuse.(7, 26, 47, 48)

Child soldiering remains a concern among non-government militias and terrorist organizations, predominately in the southern region of Mindanao.(8, 37, 49) In 2016, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) began implementing its four-step process of identifying and ending the recruitment and enlistment of children within the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces as part of the UN-MILF Action Plan.(50, 51) However, limited evidence suggests that the MILF and the New People's Army continue to use children to perform chores such as cooking and to fight; in one UN-verified incident, 15 children were used as human shields by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.(36, 37, 52, 53)



II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF 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	✓

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

Convention	Ratification
 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). However, gaps exist in the Philippines's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

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 (54, 55)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 139 of the Labor Code (55)
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; Sections 12-D and 16 of the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (56, 57)
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 (56, 58)
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; (56, 58)
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 (56, 59, 60)
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 (56, 61)
Minimum Age for 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 (62)
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 (62)
Non-state Compulsory	Yes	18	Sections 12-D and 16 in the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act (56)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18 [‡]	Section 4 of the Enhanced Basic Education Act (16, 63)
Free Public Education	Yes		Section 2 of the Philippine Constitution (64)

* No conscription (65)

‡ Age calculated based on available information

In 2016, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) released a revised and expanded list of hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children and Guidelines for the Employment of Migratory Sugarcane Workers, which prohibit

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the use of children on sugarcane fields.(37, 42, 57, 66) In addition, the Government passed the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act in May 2016, in which the Philippine National Police, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines will act as operating units and local councils in areas affected by national disasters and calamities and monitor and prevent child trafficking and child labor, including its worst forms.(37, 42, 67, 68)

In 2016, the Philippine Congress introduced House Bill No. 002 that seeks to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to nine years old. The bill does not outline the rights of the children who encounter this law, including their right to access a lawyer and disadvantages children who are socioeconomically challenged and would struggle to obtain legal assistance.(69)

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). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

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 all sectors, including in the informal sector and agricultural and mining operations.(1) Register DOLE enforcement activities using the Labor Law Compliance System Management Information System.(70)
Rescue the Child Laborers Quick Action Teams (Sagip Batang Manggagawa – SBM QAT)	Lead the regional mechanism for rescuing children who work in exploitative situations.(25) Detect, monitor, and respond to incidents of child labor using a cooperative and interagency approach.(37, 71) In 2016, rescued 65 children engaged in child labor.(42)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	Rehabilitate and reintegrate child laborers.(25, 72) 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, 37)
Philippine National Police (PNP)	Investigate and prosecute cases related to the worst forms of child labor.(33, 73) The PNP's Women and Children's Protection Center leads the enforcement of laws on child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children as well as other tasks related to the protection of children.(1)
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)	Investigate and prosecute child labor cases.(33, 73) Operate a national Trafficking in Persons Task Force, as well as a Task Force on the Protection of Children from Exploitation and Abuse.(48, 74)
Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	Enforce the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act. Maintain a national hotline for reporting cases of children used in illicit activities.(72) Coordinate with the DSWD to assist during rescue operations.(1)

In May 2016, DOLE issued the Revised Rules on Labor Laws Compliance System, which prioritizes establishments and workplaces that employ children for joint assessments that would involve the labor inspector, the employer's representatives, and the employees. If the complaint on an employer involves a violation of the Special Protection of Children against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, the *Manual on Conduct of Inspection, Rescue and Enforcement Proceedings in Child Labor Cases* pursuant to Department Circular No. 02, Series of 2010, will apply. (37, 75)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in the Philippines 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	2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$706,480 (76)	\$3,385,649 (77)
Number of Labor Inspectors	536 (16, 78)	574 (37)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (16)	No (37)

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (16)	Yes (77)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	Yes (37)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (16)	Unknown
Number of Labor Inspections	44,524 (76)	60,374 (37)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown (76)	Unknown
Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown (76)	Unknown
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown	22 (37)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	N/A	Unknown
Number of Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	N/A	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (76)	Yes (37)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (79)	Yes (37)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (16)	Yes (37)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (16)	Yes (37)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (16)	Yes (37)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (16)	Yes (37)

In 2016, DOLE hired 41 additional Labor Laws Compliance Officers and conducted a Training of Labor Laws Compliance Officers on Child Labor Assessment to enhance personnel's capacity to detect and assess child labor incidents. However, enforcement of child labor laws remains challenging due to the lack of resources for inspections.(16, 37, 70) The number of labor inspectors is insufficient for the size of the Philippines's workforce, which includes over 42 million workers. According to the ILO's recommendation of one inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, the Philippines should employ roughly 2,783 labor inspectors in order to adequately enforce labor laws throughout the country.(37, 80-82) While the Inspectorate's funding increased in 2016, the Government noted that DOLE's funding for maintenance and operating expenses was insufficient to carry out inspections across the country's 16 regions, particularly in more rural areas.(37, 77)

During the reporting period, DOLE identified 22 establishments in three regions with deficiencies in child labor law compliance and permanently closed two establishments that engaged four children in commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, SBM QATs conducted 23 rescue operations and removed 36 children working in hazardous activities.(37) While the SBM QATs 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.(70)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in the Philippines 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	2015	2016
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (76)	Unknown
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	Yes (37)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (16)	Unknown
Number of Investigations	654 (16, 76)	Unknown
Number of Violations Found	159 (16, 78)	Unknown
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	102 (16, 78)	54 (37)
Number of Convictions	40 (16, 78)	38 (37)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (16)	Yes (37)

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In 2016, the PNP-WCPC employed 4,527 personnel, assigned to 1,918 women and children's desks throughout the country. In addition, the Anti-Trafficking Division of the National Bureau of Investigation maintained nine agents responsible for the investigation of human trafficking cases, with no investigators currently assigned to monitor international airports.(37)

The PNP-WCPC established the Internet Crimes Against Children office under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division to combat the Internet-facilitated commercial sexual exploitation of children.(37, 83) The PNP-WCPC also provided 419 police officers 32 different trainings on human trafficking and child labor laws, and it launched two manuals: the *Revised Standard Operating Procedures on Trafficking in Persons Investigation* and the *Manual in Handling Cases of Children at Risk and Children in Conflict with the Law*.(37) In addition, the Government organized trainings to build the capacity of law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including child labor trafficking cases. The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) conducted 26 trainings with 1,056 government personnel, and the IACAT Task Forces conducted a total of 168 trainings for a total of 13,229 participants, including 3,922 government personnel.(37) The IACAT also conducted 43 rescue operations that rescued 32 children.(42)

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. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)	Coordinate national efforts to combat child labor under DOLE.(25) Promote information-sharing at the national, regional, and provincial levels.(72) Composed of more than 25 government agencies, international organizations, and trade unions.(13)
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.(1, 74) Composed of 24 anti-human trafficking task forces established in eight regions and seven interagency task forces in major seaports and airports. (1, 16, 70). In 2016, established a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate efforts to combat the trafficking of children.(37)
Inter-Agency Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	Operate a monitoring and response system to assist children engaged in armed conflict, including recruitment and use of child soldiers.(33)
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.(70) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Children in Armed Conflict Program Framework.(1)
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography	Monitor and implement the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009.(84) Chaired by the DSWD.(76)

In 2016, the Government proposed an executive order that aims to restructure the role of the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) and allocate funds to support its projects and activities, which would enhance the NCLC's role as the lead coordination mechanism on child labor policy and programming.(37, 85)

In March 2016, the NCLC, DOLE, and members of the Technical Working Group on Decent Work convened to update the Philippine Program against Child Labor, which set a goal of withdrawing one million child laborers by 2022, with a priority placed on removing children from domestic work.(67)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Philippine Program against Child Labor (2017-2022)	Aims to remove one million children from child labor by the year 2025.(37) Implementation led by the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns.(67)
National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2012–2016)	Raises awareness and creates local programs to prevent children from being victimized by human traffickers.(1, 72)

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography Three-Year Strategic Plan†	Aims to eradicate child pornography in the Philippines by focusing efforts in five strategic areas: (1) advocacy and prevention; (2) law enforcement and prosecution; (3) protection, recovery, and reintegration; (4) research, monitoring, and management of information systems; and (5) partnerships and networking.(86)
Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2011–2016)	Aims to strengthen monitoring mechanisms for child protection laws, develop strategies for responding to child trafficking and pornography concerns, and implement an enhanced program for preventing the engagement of children in armed conflict.(72)
Philippine Labor and Employment Plan (2011–2016)	Operates within the framework of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and includes the goal of reducing exploitive child labor.(1, 72, 87)
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.(25, 74, 88) 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 agenda for implementation of Child 21.(74) Child labor elimination and prevention strategies are mainstreamed throughout the document, particularly in goal two on child protection, which specifies that children should be free from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.(16)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In December 2016, the NCLC announced that it will launch three anti-child labor programs in early 2017 to support the Philippine Program against Child Labor 2016-2022. These programs will establish helpdesks and a local registry on child labor for referral to social services, integrate a new module on child labor with a conditional cash transfer program that will raise awareness of child labor and involve families in preventing and combating child labor, and provide interventions to address child labor in gold mines and improving these children's working conditions.(89)

However, access to education remains a challenge in the Philippines. While the Philippine Constitution mandates free public education, many children are unable to attend school due to the prohibitive cost of books, uniforms, meals, and transportation.(16, 90)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor†

Program	Description
Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program</i>)	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 <i>barangays</i> to develop child labor elimination plans. (91-93) Covers 1,627 cities and municipalities in 79 provinces and all 17 regions.(70) As of November 2016, there were 4,389,863 active household beneficiaries who received education and health services. 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.(37, 94)
Campaign for Child-Labor Free <i>Barangays</i> †	DOLE program that aims to eliminate child labor in villages through community awareness-raising on child labor and anti-human trafficking laws, and through government livelihood programs and guidelines.(95) In 2016, DOLE declared 79 <i>barangays</i> child labor free, bringing the total number to 292 since 2014.(37) DOLE regional offices certified 28 establishments child labor free, bringing the total up to 210 since 2013.(37)
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. (73, 96, 97) In 2016, prevented or removed a total of 2,108 child laborers or children at risk for child labor.(37)
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.(98) 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.(98) There are 149 referral networks established in 16 regions. In 2016, received a budget of \$479,413.(37)

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

Program	Description
USDOL-Funded Projects	USDOL projects in the Philippines that aim to eliminate child labor in the sugar-cane provinces, artisanal and small-scale gold mines, and its worst forms, through improved capacity of the national government and legislation, the implementation of a National Action Plan, research, data collection, the development of strategic policies to address the elimination of child labor and forced labor, and stronger legal protections and social services delivery for child domestic workers. These projects include <u>Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR)</u> , implemented by the ILO in at least 11 countries; <u>Global Action Program (GAP) on Child Labor Issues</u> , implemented by the ILO in approximately 40 countries; <u>Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers: Safe and Healthy Youth</u> , implemented by the ILO with the Philippines as one of the three pilot countries; <u>Philippines ABK3 LEAP—Livelihoods, Education, Advocacy, and Protection to Reduce Child Labor in Sugarcane</u> (2011–2016), \$16.5 million project implemented by World Vision; and <u>“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)</u> , implemented by the ILO with the Philippines as one of the two pilot countries. (99–102) For additional information about USDOL’s work, please visit our Web site .
Alternative Learning System Program†	Department of Education program that offers non-formal education to out-of-school children, including child laborers, as well as opportunities to attain a certificate of education equivalency. Has limited resources, represents approximately 1 percent of the Department of Education’s budget, and has only 1 teacher for every 24 communities, so it cannot reach many out-of-school youth.(76, 77, 96)

† 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, including its worst forms.(25, 73, 96, 103, 104)

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 the Philippines (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Authorize the labor inspectorate to assess penalties.	2015 – 2016
	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.	2014 – 2016
	Authorize SBM QATs to conduct compliance visits in private homes to search for underage child domestic workers.	2014 – 2016
	Publish information about the training system for labor inspectors, the number of labor inspections conducted at worksites and by desk review, whether routine inspections are conducted and targeted, and the number of child labor law violations found; and ensure that the total number of criminal investigations, violations, prosecutions, and convictions related to the worst forms of child labor are disaggregated by age.	2015 – 2016
Coordination	Pass 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 including its worst forms.	2015 – 2016
Government Policies	Ensure that all children are able to safely access and attend school and do not face prohibitive costs for education-related expenses.	2010 – 2016
Social Programs	Provide necessary resources to help more out-of-school youth access the Alternative Learning System program so they can complete their basic education.	2011 – 2016

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