

In 2018, Ecuador made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The National Assembly's Workers' Rights Committee presented legislation to reform Ecuador's Labor Code to strengthen provisions related to the eradication of child labor. The National Assembly also passed the Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, which includes protections for girls and women who become victims of sexual exploitation. In addition, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion signed agreements to strengthen child labor prevention

efforts with local governments. The Ministry of the Interior also began drafting a new National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Ministry of Labor began drafting a 2018–2021 update to the current National Plan to Eradicate Child Labor. However, children in Ecuador engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. The labor inspectorate continues to lack sufficient resources.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Ecuador engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture. (1,2) Table I provides key indicators on children's work and education in Ecuador.

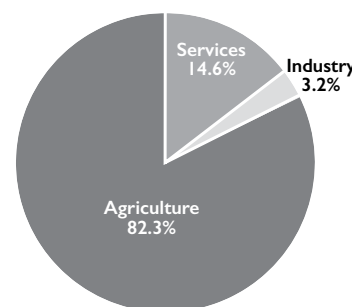
Table I. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	4.9 (168,530)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	97.3
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	5.6
Primary Completion Rate (%)		104.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2016, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (3)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's Analysis of Statistics from Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo y Subempleo, 2016. (4)

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



Although the government conducted two surveys in 2017 that included some information on child labor, the government has not conducted a nationwide child labor survey since 2012. Both government and civil society agree that a lack of updated statistics hampers efforts in eradicating child labor. (2)

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 bananas,† palm oil,† and flowers,† including the use of chemical products and machetes (2,5-7)
	Fishing† (2,5,6)
Industry	Gold mining† and small-scale mining† (2)
	Production of bricks† (2,8)
	Construction,† including loading construction materials, mixing materials to make concrete, and brickwork (2,6,8)

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Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity (Cont.)

Sector/Industry	Activity
Services	Domestic work† (2,5,9)
	Street work, including begging, shoe shining, selling newspapers, and vending (2,5,10)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2,10-12)
	Use in illicit activities, including drug trafficking and robbery (2,12,13)
	Recruitment of children by Colombian non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict (2,12,14)
	Use in the production of pornography (2,12)
	Forced labor in banana and palm plantations, floriculture, fishing, mining; and in domestic work, street vending, and begging, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2,12)

† 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

Civil society and government sources reported incidences of Peruvian adolescents being recruited into forced labor under false promises of employment in illegal mines in Ecuador. (2,14,15) Migrant and refugee girls from Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela are particularly vulnerable to labor trafficking in domestic servitude and forced begging. (2,8,12) Indigenous children between the ages of 6 and 10 from the highlands are trafficked for forced begging in Guayaquil, Quito, and Rumiñahui. (7,16) Children of Venezuelan and Colombian migrants and refugees are also vulnerable to exploitative labor practices in some parts of the fishing sector in the coastal region and artisanal mining in southern Ecuador and in the northern province of Imbabura. (2,10)

Migrant and refugee children from other Latin American countries, girls from poor families, and indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian girls are used in commercial sexual exploitation. (2,12) Commercial sexual exploitation in Ecuador also occurs near illegal mining sites. (2,16,17) Venezuelan, Colombian, and Peruvian girls are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in Ecuador. (10,12) Sex trafficking networks also recruit children from schools, and, increasingly, through social media platforms which encourage children to recruit their friends and classmates. (12,14) On Ecuador's northern border, children are forcibly recruited to engage in drug trafficking and robbery. (12)

Despite education being free in Ecuador, children face barriers to accessing education, including having to pay for uniforms and books, lack of space and teachers, and lack of transportation for children who must attend schools far from their homes. (2,18) The lack of schools in some areas specifically affects indigenous and refugee children, who must travel long distances to attend school. (2) Many indigenous children abandon school early, both in rural and urban areas. (6,11) Specifically, almost half of all indigenous children in rural areas, and 37 to 40 percent of those in urban areas, do not attend secondary school, which can make them more vulnerable to child labor. (19) International humanitarian organizations and local government officials reported that, in practice, schools sometimes denied children of refugees and migrants access to education because they did not have refugee status and lacked identity and academic documents. (2) International organization representatives said these cases were likely due to Ministry of Education administrative staff error about required documentation and differences between the Venezuelan and Ecuadorian academic calendars. (2,20) According to the Ministry of Education, of the approximately 240,000 Venezuelans residing in Ecuador as of November 2018, 37,000 are below the age of 17, but only 12,514 Venezuelan children and adolescents had registered for school. (2)



II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

Ecuador 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 (Cont.)

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

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Article 46 of the Constitution; Article 82 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (21,22)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 87 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (22)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Article 8 of Resolution No.016 of 2008; Article 5 of Ministerial Accord MDT-2015-0131 (23,24)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 82, 91, 105, and 213 of the Integral Penal Code (25)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 47 and 91 of the Integral Penal Code; Article 117 of the Organic Law on Human Mobility (25,26)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 91 and 100-104 of the Integral Penal Code (25)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Articles 47, 219, and 220 of the Integral Penal Code (25)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 57 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 161 of the Constitution (21,22)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	N/A*		
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 127 of the Penal Code; Article 57 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; Article 161 of the Constitution (21,22,25)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15	Article 38 of the Organic Intercultural Education Law (27)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 4 of the Organic Intercultural Education Law; Chapter 5, Article 28 of the Constitution (21,27)

* No conscription (21)

In May 2018, the National Assembly's Workers' Rights Committee presented legislation to reform Ecuador's labor code to strengthen provisions on the eradication of child labor; labor protections of adolescents ages 15 to 18, and the fight against the worst forms of child labor, including sex and labor trafficking. (2,12) The reform proposes to make it easier for labor inspectors to conduct inspections for the purposes of identifying child labor; establishes a registry of employers who hire working adolescents; and supports an initiative to strengthen local governments' awareness and prevention of child labor. (2,12) In January 2018, the National Assembly passed the Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women, which includes the protection of girls and women against human trafficking for sexual exploitation. (2,28) The law is intended to coordinate the efforts of local governments, the Attorney General's Office, and other government entities to develop action plans, programs, and policies. (2,28)

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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 operations of the Ministry of Labor and Industrial Relations (MOL) that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Labor and Industrial Relations (MOL)	Monitors child labor; conducts labor inspections at worksites, and enforces child labor laws in the formal sector; administering sanctions and collecting fines from companies found using child labor. Also provides technical assistance to local governments on child labor. (2) Using the Unified System of Registration of Child Labor (SURT), collects information on child laborers and refers children to appropriate government services. (2)
Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), Office of Special Protection to Vulnerable Population	Provides remediation services to child laborers and their families. Assists victims of child labor found in the informal sector. (2) Through its Office of Special Protection, maintains a national anti-child-labor program involving coordination with civil society organizations and local governments. (2)
Attorney General's Office (AGO)	Enforces criminal laws against child labor; hazardous child labor; commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. (2,29,30) The AGO's Specialized Victim Witness Protection Program (SPAVT) provides immediate support and shelter to victims and witnesses willing to press charges and testify against their abusers and coordinates referrals for further assistance with other government agencies. (2) During the reporting period, SPAVT provided services to 18 human trafficking victims. (12)
Ministry of Interior (MOI)	Oversees and evaluates all police actions, including the National Police Unit for Crimes against Children and Adolescents (DINAPEN). (2,15) DINAPEN investigates all crimes against children, including abuse, sexual exploitation, sex tourism, smuggling, kidnapping, exploitative child labor, and forced labor. (2) DINAPEN's Anti-Trafficking Unit also investigates child trafficking cases. (2)
Office of the Prosecutor	Tries cases related to the worst forms of child labor. (2)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in Ecuador took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the MOL that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including human resource allocation.

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$1,458,000 (14)	\$265,398 (2)
Number of Labor Inspectors	150 (14)	249 (2)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	Unknown	15,605 (2)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	15,605 (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown	72 (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (14)	23 (2)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (14)	107(2)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (14)	Yes (2)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (14)	Yes (2)

In 2018, the Ombudsman's Office called on the MOL to conduct labor inspections in banana-producing areas, particularly in the coastal provinces of Los Rios, El Oro, and Guayas, to monitor the safety of affected families. (2) During the reporting period, the labor inspectorate's funding was drastically reduced. The MOL did not provide a specific explanation for the difference, but in general, the Ecuadorian government suffered from budgetary constraints in 2018 due to economic pressures. (2,20) The MOL reported that the labor inspectorate was understaffed and lacked the necessary resources, such as transportation and equipment, to fulfill its mandate. (2) The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Ecuador's workforce, which includes over 8 million workers. According to the ILO's recommendation of 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, Ecuador would employ about 534 labor inspectors. (2,31,32) MOL and ILO officials reported that inspectors' coverage of the agricultural sector is insufficient, even though most children work in this area. (2) According to the MOL, Ecuador's labor inspectors focus only on formal sector employment, despite large numbers of Ecuadorians and migrants working in the informal sector. (12) Although Ecuadorian laws and regulations governing child labor are comprehensive, those regarding hazardous work are not enforced equally in rural areas and family-run businesses. (2,33)

The absence of appropriate sanctions against employers may also hinder efficient labor law enforcement. (14) Inspectors do not have sufficient knowledge of child labor laws and lack training on identifying trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. (2,12,14)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in Ecuador took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the National Police Unit for Crimes against Children and Adolescents (DINAPEN) that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including its referral mechanism.

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	Yes (33)	Yes (2)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A (14)	Yes (2)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (34)	Yes (2)
Number of Investigations	80 (14)	5 (2)
Number of Violations Found	Unknown	2 (2)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	8 (14)	5 (2)
Number of Convictions	1 (14)	2 (2)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to The Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	Yes (2)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (14)	Yes (2)

During the reporting period, criminal investigators received training on cases linked to cybercrime, cryptocurrency, child pornography, and the use of Facebook for commercial sexual exploitation of children. (2) In 2018, the Anti-Trafficking Unit conducted 13 anti-trafficking police operations, arresting 18 traffickers, and rescuing 55 victims. Of these operations, six resulted in investigations of sexual exploitation, one for labor trafficking, one for the purpose of forced prostitution, and three for the purposes of child pornography. (12) The Government of Ecuador reported two convictions for trafficking in persons of children and both defendants were sentenced to 16 years in prison. (20) Civil society reports that the Anti-Trafficking Unit and DINAPEN lack resources to adequately investigate trafficking in persons cases. (12)

In November, the Specialized Victim Witness Protection Program (SPAVT) inaugurated a new shelter for female adolescent TIP victims in Quito, which, once opened to victims, will have 21 spots and provide psychological services, education, and other social services. (2) The MOL, Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), and the Ministry of Tourism all supported trainings for public officials, which addressed trafficking in persons and promoted anti-TIP public awareness campaigns. (12) However, shelters serve only

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girls who have been victims of sex trafficking. There are no shelters for boys or girls who have been victims of trafficking unrelated to sex. (12,13,34) Although the MIES will generally assign child victims to shelters depending on space availability, the anti-TIP unit and MIES officials cite a lack of shelters in many provinces as a primary constraint in victim assistance. (2,12,20) Although the introduction in 2016 of the Unified System of Registration of Child Labor (SURTl) has improved the referral mechanisms for victims removed from the worst forms of child labor, the process is ad hoc and some government officials find it difficult to use, sometimes keeping their own records of child labor cases instead of using the system. Of the information collected, the government does not publish it. (2,14) MOL technical staff is exploring ways to improve the system. (2)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder the effective coordination of efforts to address child labor, including the provision of social services for victims of the worst forms of child labor.

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Inter-institutional Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor	Coordinates government efforts to combat child labor. (2) Includes participation from MOL, DINAPEN, AGO, and MIES. (2,15)
Inter-Agency Committee against Trafficking in Persons	Coordinates government efforts to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking. Established as part of the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, Sexual and Labor Exploitation, and Other Forms of Exploitation. (30) MOI continued to chair this committee as the main coordinating body of the Government of Ecuador's anti-trafficking efforts in 2018. (12)
Technical Secretariat for the Lifetime Plan	Convenes government ministries to discuss issues, including child labor. (35) Remained the Government of Ecuador's signature social program in 2018. (2)
National Council for Intergenerational Equity (CNII)	Coordinates inter-agency efforts to protect vulnerable populations, including children. (35) The Council was active during the reporting period and is requesting MOL allow the Council to lead the Inter-Agency Committee to Eradicate Child Labor. (36)
Local Autonomous Governments	Participate in coordinating mechanisms to combat child labor and implement the guidelines provided by CNII. (35) Responsible for ensuring the correct application of norms related to child labor. (35)
Inter-Agency Table for the Eradication of Child Labor (Mesa Interinstitucional de Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil)	Coordinates regional efforts to address child labor. (37) Participants include MIES; regional councils of Childhood and Adolescence; Ministries of Education, Labor, and Interior; DINAPEN; and AGO. (20,37) Although the national roundtable was not active in 2018, provincial tables continued to coordinate work and reported to central government agencies when joint coordination was necessary in efforts to eradicate child labor. (36)

Weak coordination between ministries providing social services has caused difficulties in ensuring that children rescued from working in the informal sector receive adequate social assistance. (38)

In June 2018, in recognition of World Day against Child Labor, MIES signed agreements to strengthen child labor prevention efforts with local governments, including with multiple cities in Chimborazo, Napo, and Tungurahua provinces. (2) In Manta, MIES signed an agreement with local government and chamber of commerce officials to launch a seal certifying that goods made in Manta were not produced with child labor. MIES reported that their efforts reached 10,000 children and adolescents in 2018. (2) MOI drafted the Inter-Institutional Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of TIP victims (*Protocolo Interinstitucional para la Atención y Protección Integral a Víctimas de Trata de Personas*), which aims to strengthen inter-agency coordination of efforts related to TIP victims. (2) In order to improve and better coordinate government response to the Venezuelan migration crisis, the government established a Human Mobility Board of government ministries, local governments, international organizations, and civil society organizations and a TIP sub-group to organize anti-TIP efforts concerning Venezuelans. (12) In September 2018, the governments of Ecuador and Colombia held a binational workshop for government officials focused on TIP victim identification, differentiating between TIP and other crimes, and methods for taking victim statements. (12)

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 implementation.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Plan to Eradicate Child Labor	Establishes strategy to eradicate child labor in Ecuador by 2021. (2) During the reporting period, MOL updated the Plan, which is currently going through government approval. (2) As part of the plan, the government conducted trainings, workshops, public awareness campaigns, and partnerships with the private sector in 2018. (2)
Lifetime Plan (<i>Plan Toda Una Vida</i>) (2017–2021)	Aims to support vulnerable populations from birth to advanced age through a series of social welfare programs. Aims to reduce child labor of children ages 5 to 14 to 2.7 percent by 2021. (14,39) Launched on November 28, 2017. (14) Led by the Technical Secretariat for the Lifetime Plan. (40) In 2018, and in accordance with the plan, the Government of Ecuador conducted social welfare activities including combating child malnutrition, expanding early childhood education programs, sponsoring conditional cash transfer programs, and increasing job training and higher education opportunities for at-risk youth. (20)
National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, Sexual and Labor Exploitation, and Other Forms of Exploitation	Establishes processes to prevent, investigate, and impose legal sanctions against human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse. Enacted by decree in 2006 to protect and restore the rights of victims. (41–43) In 2018, the government held activities to combat and prevent trafficking in persons including inter-agency coordination, such as trainings, workshops, public awareness campaigns, and partnerships with the private sector. (2) In addition, the government began drafting a new plan which is supported by an IOM technical assistance grant. (2,20)

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 the adequacy of efforts to address all worst forms of child labor.

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

Program	Description
Project to Eradicate Child Labor (PETI)†	MOL project under the National Plan for Good Living to prevent hazardous child labor in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and mining. (6,44) In 2018, the project was under revision for the 2018–2021 period. (45) Between January and June of 2018, PETI conducted anti-child labor training to 166 people, assisted 184 local government officials with the development and implementation of public policies on eradicating child labor; and conducted 90 consultations on child labor with the private sector. (2,46)
Business Network for a Child Labor Free Ecuador	UN initiative that seeks to gain commitment from participating industries to promote the prevention and elimination of child labor in their supply chains, trains businesses on child labor prevention, and creates employment opportunities for the parents of children engaged in child labor. (47,48) Through the network, MOL provided trainings on anti-child labor practices to companies nationwide during the reporting period. (2)
National Program to Combat Child Begging†	Seeks to raise awareness about child begging; aims to facilitate social services for children begging in the streets. MIES continued to raise awareness in 2018 through its national campaign on child begging Give Dignity (<i>Da Dignidad</i>). (2)
USDOL-Funded Initiatives	Reducing Child Labor and Forced Labor in Palm Oil Supply Chains (2018–2022),* \$6 million project to improve the implementation of social compliance systems that promote acceptable conditions of work and reduction of child labor and forced labor in palm oil supply chains; Building Effective Policies Against Child Labor in Ecuador and Panama (2012–2018), \$4.3 million project implemented by ILO in collaboration with <i>Casa Esperanza</i> , <i>Comunidades y Desarrollo en Ecuador</i> (COMUNIDEC), and <i>Fundación Esquel</i> . (49,50) EducaFuturo Project (2012–2018), \$8.1 million project implemented by Partners of the Americas, in collaboration with <i>Expoflores</i> , COMUNIDEC, and <i>Fundación de las Americas</i> . Additional information is available on the USDOL website.

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

Program	Description
Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents	Ministry of Tourism program that seeks to prevent commercial sexual exploitation by creating regulations and awareness campaigns in the tourism sector. In 2018, the Ministry continued to provide online training to hotel owners and employees on identifying, responding to, and reporting suspected cases of child sex tourism and trafficking in persons. (2) It also conducted public awareness workshops and participated in the XI Meeting of the Regional Action Group of the Americas, which seeks to address and share strategies in prevention. (2)
Young Workers' Symphonic Orchestra (<i>Orquesta Sinfónica de los Trabajadores Jóvenes Eloy Alfaro</i>)†	Orchestra that performs to raise awareness of child labor. (38) Established by MOL in 2016, comprises more than 200 former child laborers from Quito and Cuenca who take daily music lessons funded by MOL.
Grants for Human Development	Conditional cash transfer program run by MIES that supplements household income for vulnerable families. (2) In October 2018, President Moreno announced that the administration assigned \$730 million to the grant. The Moreno Administration planned to expand coverage to one million cash transfers by the end of 2018. (20)
Mission Tenderness (<i>Misión Ternura</i>)†	Seeks to promote the development of children under age 5 by combating malnutrition, increasing the number of children participating in early childhood education programs, and increasing participation of children from poor and vulnerable families in public childhood development programs. (2)
Less Poverty, More Development (<i>Menos Pobreza, Más Desarrollo</i>)†	Aims to reduce extreme poverty from 8 percent to 3.5 percent by 2021, in part, through a conditional cash transfer for families living below the poverty line. (2,51)
Youth Impulse (<i>Impulso Joven</i>)†	Seeks to increase job training and higher education opportunities for at-risk youth, support youth entrepreneurship through preferential loans, and connect employers with at-risk youth. (2)

† Program is funded by the Government of Ecuador.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (2,38,52,53)

*Program was launched during reporting period.

Although civil society stakeholders commended the government's social programs, they reiterated that these programs only make limited interventions in sectors in which child labor is most prevalent, specifically the informal and agricultural sectors. (2)

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 Ecuador (Table 11).

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Ensure that laws and regulations governing child labor, especially hazardous labor, are enforced consistently throughout the country, including in rural areas and family-run businesses.	2016 – 2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice.	2009 – 2018
	Ensure that the labor inspectorate is properly funded so that inspectors receive sufficient resources, including transportation, to adequately carry out their duties. Ensure that inspections sufficiently cover sectors in which child labor has been reported, including the agricultural sector and the informal sector.	2014 – 2018
	Ensure that labor inspectors have sufficient knowledge of existing laws, penalties, and processes, and training in victim identification to conduct inspections and refer victims to social services.	2015 – 2018
	Ensure that police investigators receive sufficient resources, including shelters for victims, to investigate cases of the worst forms of child labor and refer victims.	2016 – 2018
	Strengthen the provision of specialized services for victims under the age of 18.	2018
	Continue to improve the Unified System of Registration of Child Labor (SURT), ensure that labor inspectors use it to track cases of the worst forms of child labor, and publish this information.	2018
Coordination	Strengthen coordinating mechanisms among ministries providing social services to victims of child labor, especially in the informal sector.	2015 – 2018

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Social Programs	Conduct a new child labor survey so that there is sufficient data to inform government actions to eliminate child labor.	2018
	Enhance efforts to eliminate barriers and make education, particularly secondary education, accessible for all children, including indigenous and refugee children and children from rural areas, by removing school-related fees, increasing classroom space, and providing adequate transportation.	2014 – 2018
	Enhance efforts to address exploitative labor practices and labor trafficking of migrant and refugee children.	2018
	Ensure that children of refugees and migrants have full access to education, regardless of their ability to provide documentation.	2018
	Ensure that social programs make interventions in sectors where child labor is most prevalent, specifically in the informal and agricultural sectors.	2018

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