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2020 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Moderate Advancement

In 2020, the Democratic Republic of the Congo made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The national anti-trafficking coordinating body successfully prosecuted several cases of forced child labor, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Defense also issued a zero-tolerance policy for child recruitment, and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo identified and began prosecuting an army officer responsible for operating a child trafficking ring. Moreover, the government's universal primary education decree continued to reduce the number of children vulnerable to labor exploitation and the government task force on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, in conjunction with the Ministry of Employment, Labor, and Social Welfare, published a manual to address child labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's agricultural sector. However, children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in the forced mining of gold, tin ore (cassiterite), tantalum ore (coltan), and tungsten ore (wolframite), and are used in armed conflict, sometimes as a result of forcible recruitment or abduction by non-state armed groups. Although the government made meaningful efforts in all relevant areas during the reporting period, it did not publish labor or criminal law enforcement data. The government also failed to take active measures to ensure that children are not inappropriately incarcerated, penalized, or physically harmed solely for unlawful acts as a direct result of being a victim of the worst forms of child labor. Other gaps remain, including a lack of trained enforcement personnel, limited financial resources, and poor coordination of government efforts to combat child labor.

I. Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of Child Labor

Children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in the forced mining of gold, tin ore (cassiterite), tantalum ore (coltan), and tungsten ore (wolframite), and are used in armed conflict, sometimes as a result of forcible recruitment or abduction by non-state armed groups. (1-7) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in the DRC. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

| Children | Age | Percent |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Working (% and population) | 5 to 14 | 17.4 (Unavailable) |
| Attending School (%) | 5 to 14 | 68.8 |
| Combining Work and School (%) | 7 to 14 | 16.3 |
| Primary Completion Rate (%) | | 69.9 |

Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2015, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021. (8)
Source for all other data: International Labor Organization's analysis of statistics from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6 (MICS 6), 2017–2018. (9)

Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children's work by sector and activity.

Sector/Industry Activity

| | |
|--|--|
| Agriculture | <p>Farming, including tilling fields, planting seeds, watering crops, carrying heavy loads,† weeding, harvesting crops, and use of chemical products and machetes in the production of beans, corn, manioc, rice, and sweet potatoes (10-14)</p> <p>Fishing, including maintaining fishing tools, baiting hooks, transporting heavy loads, using explosives, and salting, smoking, and packaging fish (10,12-14)</p> <p>Herding and raising livestock such as chickens, goats, and pigs, including feeding, cleaning cages or stalls, and disposing of waste (13,15)</p> <p>Hunting (10,15)</p> |
| Industry | <p>Mining,† including carrying heavy loads,† digging, sifting, sorting, transporting, using explosives, washing, and working underground † in the production of diamonds, copper, cobalt ore (heterogenite), gold, tin ore (cassiterite), tantalum ore (coltan), and tungsten ore (wolframite) (1,4,5,10-14,16-19)</p> <p>Working as auto mechanics, in carpentry, and in craft workshops (10)</p> <p>Working on construction sites and building roads (10)</p> |
| Services | <p>Domestic work (10-14)</p> <p>Driving motorcycle taxis (12)</p> <p>Street work, including vending, garbage scavenging, and carrying heavy loads (10,12-14)</p> |
| Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡ | <p>Forced mining of gold, tantalum (coltan), tin (cassiterite), and tungsten (wolframite), each sometimes as a result of debt bondage (3-5,13,14,20)</p> <p>Forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (3,4,10,18,21-24)</p> <p>Use in illicit activities for non-state armed groups, including carrying stolen goods, and smuggling minerals (20,21,25,26)</p> <p>Forced recruitment or abduction of children by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict, including as checkpoint monitors, combatants, concubines, domestic workers, field hands, human shields, looters, porters, spies, and tax collectors at mining sites (14,20,27)</p> |

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

† 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 in the DRC's eastern provinces were particularly vulnerable to recruitment by non-state armed groups, forced labor in artisanal mining, and forced prostitution. (28-30) UNICEF and other international organizations estimate that between 40 and 70 percent of non-state armed groups in central DRC include children, some as young as age 5. (26,31) By the end of the reporting period, the government and international partners had secured commitments from 35 armed groups to end the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations. (27,32) However, some of the 150 non-state armed groups, criminal gangs, and illicit smuggling networks operating in the DRC continued to abduct, recruit, or use children in armed conflict during the reporting period. (3,27,33) Major non-state armed groups included *Nyatara*, *Mai-Mai Mazembe*, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), *Nduma Défense du Congo-Rénové-Guidon (NDC-R Guidon)*, *Kamuina Nsapu*, *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda-Forces combattantes abacunguzi (FDLR)*, *Raia Mutomboki*, *Conseil national pour la renaissance et la démocratie*, *Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain*, *Union des révolutionnaires pour la défense du peuple Congolais (URDPC/CODECO)* and the *Armée de libération du Congo (ALC/CODECO)*. (27,28,34) Armed groups that surrendered to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) submitted to Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programs that separated children from their ranks. A DDR ordinance is imminent but did not pass during the reporting period. (35) In the absence of a coherent national DDR strategy, some factions continued to recruit children. (14,36)

Armed groups subjected children to forced labor in artisanal mines in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Maniema, where forced labor, conflict, and mining are often intertwined. (14,37,38) Non-state armed groups in Ituri reportedly seized young children from their homes, forcing them to transport heavy loads or perform domestic work. (13) In eastern Congo's conflict-affected regions, children extract and transport tin (cassiterite), tantalum (coltan), tungsten (wolframite), diamonds, and gold. Thousands of children also work in cobalt and copper mines in the DRC's southern Copperbelt region. (39-41) Prevalence is highest in the country's artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector, which operates with minimal oversight. Child labor has been detected at one in four ASM sites in the DRC, with informal or illegal ASM operations leaving children uniquely exposed to hazardous working conditions and, in some instances, to forced labor. (29,40,42) As many as 35,000 of the DRC's 255,000 artisanal cobalt miners are children. (43)

During the reporting period, international border closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic led to an uptick in cross-border smuggling of untagged gold, tantalum, and tin from North and South Kivu into Rwanda and Burundi. (28) Lockdowns also prevented mining authorities from accessing artisanal gold-mining sites. (28) Criminal trafficking networks targeted girls in Kinshasa, some of whom were forcibly trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation and forced domestic labor in Lebanon. Children in the Kasai region were also trafficked into forced begging rings that brought them to Kinshasa. (14,37,44) Despite strong evidence that children are subjected to participation in armed conflict, commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labor in mining, the prevalence and nature of child labor in other sectors remains unclear because a comprehensive, stand-alone child labor survey has never been conducted in the DRC. (14)

Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced in eastern Congo's Ituri Province because of the conflict, making thousands of children vulnerable to sex trafficking, forced labor, or commercial sexual exploitation. In Tanganyika and Ituri, flooding and interethnic conflict destroyed 700 schools, leaving 500,000 children out of school. In addition, non-state armed groups attacked more than 60 schools in the DRC between January and October 2020, while the FARDC targeted one school. Attacks against schools in 2020 left 45,000 children without access to the classroom. (27,37,45)

UNICEF estimates that only 25 percent of children under age 5 have birth certificates. (46) Low rates of birth registration leave many children vulnerable to child labor because it makes age verification difficult during FARDC recruitment campaigns and hinders efforts to identify and separate children associated with armed groups. (4,47) While Congolese law provides for free, compulsory education, only slightly more than half of the DRC's 51,574 public schools were financed by the state. At public schools that did not receive government funding, parents were asked to pay school fees, which were often prohibitively high, to support teacher salaries. (48,49) In 2019, President Felix Tshisekedi implemented a free primary education initiative to expand funding for public schools, and in 2020, new teachers were hired and plans approved for school construction. (13,50-52) Nevertheless, significant obstacles remain. Nationwide school closures to contain the pandemic led to an increase in working children, particularly in mines. (52,53) Non-state armed groups attacked 52 schools between January and July 2020, while the FARDC targeted one school. (27,36,45,54)

Schools remained overcrowded, understaffed, and geographically dispersed, requiring students to travel long distances. Many have been structurally damaged by conflicts or used as shelters for IDPs. (1,2,24,26,47,55)

II. Legal Framework for Child Labor

The DRC has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

| 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 | ✓ |

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

The government has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 4). However, gaps exist in the DRC's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including its compulsory education age.

| Standard | Meets International Standards | Age | Legislation |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Minimum Age for Work | Yes | 16 | Article 6 of the Labor Code; Article 50 of the Child Protection Code (56-58) |
| Minimum Age for Hazardous Work | Yes | 18 | Article 10 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (59) |
| Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children | Yes | | Articles 8–15 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work; Articles 26 and 299 of the Mining Code; Article 8b of the Decree on Validation Procedures for Artisanal Mines; Article 125 of the Labor Code (57,59-62) |
| Prohibition of Forced Labor | Yes | | Articles 2 and 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 53 and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Articles 16 and 61 of the Constitution; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (57-59,63) |
| Prohibition of Child Trafficking | Yes | | Article 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 53, 162, and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Article 174j of the Penal Code; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (56-58,61) |
| Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children | Yes | | Article 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 53, 61, 169, 173, 179, 180, 182, 183, and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Articles 174b, 174j, 174m, and 174n of the Penal Code; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (56-59) |
| Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities | Yes | | Article 3 of the Labor Code; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work; Articles 53, 187, 188, and 194 of the Child Protection Code (57-59) |
| Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment | Yes | 18 | Article 27 of the Law on Armed Forces; Articles 53, 71, and 187 of the Child Protection Code (57,64) |
| Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military | Yes* | | Article 7 of the Law on Armed Forces; Article 27 of the Law on the Military Status of the Congolese Armed Forces; Articles 53, 71, and 187 of the Child Protection Code (57,64,65) |
| Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups | Yes | | Articles 53, 71, and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Article 190 of the Constitution (57,63) |
| Compulsory Education Age | No | 12‡ | Article 38 of the Child Protection Code; Articles 7.21, 12, and 72 of the Law on National Education; Article 43 of the Constitution (57,63,66) |
| Free Public Education | Yes | | Article 38 of the Child Protection Code; Article 43 of the Constitution; Articles 12 and 72 of the Law on National Education (57,63,67) |

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

* No conscription (15)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (57,67,68)

In 2019, the Agency for Prevention and the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (APLTP) drafted and submitted to the National Assembly an aggressive national anti-trafficking law. However, due to the pandemic, the law's scheduled adoption in the 2020 legislative session was postponed. (14,50) The DRC also expanded oversight of and control over its artisanal mining sector in which child labor is prevalent, including in copper- and cobalt-rich areas. (50,69)

Children in the DRC are required to attend school only up to age 12. This standard means children ages 12 through 15 are vulnerable to child labor as they are not required to attend school, but are not legally permitted to work. (57,63,66) Moreover, some implementing decrees for the Child Protection Code have not been adopted. (57,70) Without these decrees, multiple provisions, including the provision on light work, cannot be enforced.

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 enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate enforcement of child labor laws.

Organization/Agency Role

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Ministry of Employment, and Social Welfare (MOL) | of Labor, and Social Welfare (12) | Investigates cases related to child labor, including its worst forms. (72) Refers cases of child labor to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for prosecution. (12) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Ministry of Mines | | Includes the Service for Assistance and Supervision of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining, the government agency responsible for artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) regulation and training, and the Division of Mines, which oversees mining-related departments and public services, including large-scale mining, at the provincial level. (73-75) |
|-------------------|--|---|

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Ministry of Justice (MOJ) | of Justice | Enforces criminal laws related to child labor. (12) Oversees five juvenile courts in Kinshasa and 19 UNICEF-funded child protection courts throughout the country. (13) Assists the International Criminal Court in conducting investigations and prosecuting individuals charged with using children in armed conflict. (12,33,47) |
|---------------------------|------------|---|

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Ministry of the Interior (MOI) | | Investigates allegations of human trafficking rings, refers child labor cases to the MOJ for prosecution, and coordinates support and reintegration services with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity, and Humanitarian Action. (12,33) Includes the Special Police Unit for Women and Children, which combats conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence against women and children, protects children and women who are victims of physical abuse, and ensures the demobilization of children. (12,13) The Congolese National Police (PNC) Child Protection and Sexual Violence Directorate has a formal mechanism in place with local NGOs to screen for possible human trafficking victims among vulnerable groups. (44) The Mining and Hydrocarbon Police are charged with enforcing the mining code, including prohibitions against child labor, at artisanal and large scale mining sites. (75,76) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Office of the President's Representative on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment | of the Personal Representative on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment | Supports and coordinates the efforts of government officials and international bodies to combat sexual violence and the use of children in armed conflict. (72,77) Compiles data on prosecutions in military and civil courts involving sexual violence against girls and maintains a hotline for reporting cases. (33) |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Ministry of Defense (MOD) | of Defense | Investigates and prosecutes in military courts military officials suspected of recruiting and using child soldiers, and leads the implementation of the Action Plan to End the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. Through its Department of Child Protection, coordinates actions with UNICEF. (12) Through its Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Unit, coordinates demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration activities. (33,78) |
|---------------------------|------------|---|

Ministry of Gender and Oversees and investigates cases related to the commercial sexual Family (MOGF) exploitation of children. (12)

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity, and Humanitarian Affairs monitors humanitarian programs and coordinates with key actors to promote social services to vulnerable groups, including street children, human trafficking victims, and child soldiers. (15) In April, as part of pandemic-related protection measures, Ministry of the Interior (MOI) officials held a training for Kinshasa police officers emphasizing collateral consequences of mandated quarantines, including acts that can be considered forms of trafficking in persons, such as sexual exploitation and the trafficking of children. (37)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2020, labor law enforcement agencies in the DRC took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the operations of the Ministry of Employment, Labor, and Social Welfare (MOL) that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including financial resource allocation.

| Overview of Labor Law Enforcement | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Labor Inspectorate Funding | Unknown (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Number of Labor Inspectors | 200 (13) | 172 (14) |
| Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties | Yes (13) | Yes (58) |
| Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors | No (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor | No (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Refresher Courses Provided | No (13) | No (14) |
| Number of Labor Inspections Conducted | 0 (13) | 175 (14) |
| Number Conducted at Worksite | 0 (13) | 175 (14) |
| Number of Child Labor Violations Found | 0 (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed | 0 (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected | 0 (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Routine Inspections Conducted | No (13) | Yes (14) |
| Routine Inspections Targeted | N/A (13) | Yes (14) |
| Unannounced Inspections Permitted | Yes (58) | Yes (58) |
| Unannounced Inspections Conducted | No(13) | Yes (14) |
| Complaint Mechanism Exists | Yes (13) | Yes (14) |
| Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services | Yes (13) | Yes (14) |

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of the DRC's workforce, which includes over 31 million workers. According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, the DRC would employ about 784

labor inspectors. (79,80) Moreover, as the government did not directly fund the Central Labor Inspectorate in 2020, MOL relied on provincial labor inspectorates, the mining police, industrial mining companies, and NGOs to conduct inspections and defray the costs. (14) Regional labor inspectorates rely on fees collected from violators to sustain their operations. (14) Despite these challenges, provincial authorities conducted inspections in the formal mining sector in the Katanga region, including in Haut Katanga, Tanganyika, and Lualaba, where child labor is known to occur. (14) Approximately 80 percent of the DRC's labor force is engaged in the informal sector, including subsistence agriculture, which is also the DRC's largest rural employer. (81,82) To support labor inspections in the agricultural sector, the government task force on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, in conjunction with MOL, published a roadmap to address child labor in the DRC's agricultural sector. The government also made a commitment to survey child labor prevalence in the rice sector in Kongo-Central Province in 2021. (14,83)

Labor inspectors did not receive child labor law enforcement training in 2020. (14) Mines are inspected by mining and hydrocarbon police, NGOs, industrial mining companies, armed forces, and two specialized divisions within the Minister of Mines. Conflict mineral sites subject to international due diligence requirements are validated as child labor- and conflict-free by local monitoring committees, or CLS. (84) The CLS include territorial administrators, state mining services, state security forces, traditional authorities, and mining operators. (84) With support from the U.S. Department of State, IOM trained 250 mining police in North and South Kivu on inspection and validation techniques. Topics included child labor detection, hazards assessment, and additional compliance measures. (14) Under a USAID program aimed at boosting gender equity in artisanal mining, 20 female mine inspectors were also trained and inducted in South Kivu. Trainers used specific modules designed from the Voluntary Principles for the Security of Human Rights, with a specific focus on child protection in mining areas. (14) In addition, the Congolese National Police (PNC) worked with NGOs to protect children in artisanal gold mining sites in North and South Kivu. At the Omape artisanal mining site near Walikale, PNC, in collaboration with the NGO Caritas, conducted night patrols to check for the presence of children working in the mines at night. (14,37) In 2020, the NGO PACT identified and extricated 18 children working in artisanal mines in the east. (14,37) Separately, the APLTP discovered 100 children working in an artisanal gold mine in South Kivu, and they were also removed. The provincial labor inspectorate in South Kivu was actively investigating the case at the close of the reporting period. (14)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2020, criminal law enforcement agencies in the DRC 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 the allocation of financial resources.

| Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators | No (13) | No (14) |
| Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor | No (13) | No (14) |
| Refresher Courses Provided | No (13) | No (14) |
| Number of Investigations | Unknown (13) | Unknown (14) |
| Number of Violations Found | 3,129 (50) | Unknown |
| Number of Prosecutions Initiated | 3 (13,50) | 13 (14) |
| Number of Convictions | 4 (13) | 1 (14) |
| Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor | Yes (13,85) | Yes (14) |
| Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services | Yes (13) | Yes (14) |

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

In August 2020, the National Commissioner of the Congolese National Police adopted a set of regulations, approved through inter-ministerial consensus, that defines for the first time the function and duties of the Mining Police, including the protection and enforcement of human rights in mining

areas. In specific cases of human rights abuses, including the worst forms of child labor, the guidelines instruct the mining police to arrest suspects, preserve evidence, and exercise the authorities of the child protection unit in cases in which the specialized services are absent. (14)

Unlike previous years, in 2020, military courts identified and began prosecuting multiple army officers for cases of child trafficking, child soldier recruitment, and sexual slavery. In June 2020, two FARDC soldiers from the 2105th regiment, accused of kidnapping underage girls for sexual enslavement, stood trial before a military tribunal in Kasai. (14,44) The military prosecutor's office in Tshikapa also uncovered a child trafficking ring run by a FARDC captain and a civilian woman. The captain was arrested and was awaiting trial at the end of the reporting period. (14,44) Military prosecutors planned to request a sentence of 5 years for both the FARDC officer and the civilian. (14,44) In September, military prosecutors in Goma also opened a case against ex-warlord and prolific child soldier recruiter Bahati Kibira Kapasi, leader of the armed group Union of Patriots for the Defense of Congo. The following month, the government secured a landmark conviction against Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for war crimes, including child soldier recruitment. (14,37,86) Sheka, who commanded the *Nduma Défense du Congo* (NDC) until 2015, created a command-and-control structure based on child soldier recruitment. Jean-Claude "Kamutoto" Lukambo, a co-defendant and former child soldier who rose to command the NDC's child soldier recruitment and training division, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. (14,37,86) The conviction also identified recently ousted NDC-R head Congolese "General" Shimiray Mwissa Guidon, who split from Sheka's NDC in 2015, as complicit in Sheka's crimes; however, Guidon remains at large. Prosecutors also indicted members of the Bana Mura for child sexual enslavement in the Kasai region. (14,37,86,87)

In January 2020, police in Lubumbashi arrested 3 men accused of running a child trafficking ring; 22 child victims were freed during the arrest. (50) Research was unable to verify if the men were prosecuted or to confirm the case's disposition by the end of the reporting period. (14,44) The APLTP also investigated cases of child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and child abuse, and initiated 13 prosecutions for trafficking in persons and commercial sexual exploitation during the reporting period. These included three cases of child recruitment, one case of forced child labor, and seven cases of commercial sexual exploitation. (14,37) In addition, DRC and Republic of the Congo authorities disrupted a cross-border child trafficking ring, and MOI officials opened an investigation into a child trafficking network between the DRC and Zambia. (14,37) Research indicates that 58,305 children, including victims of criminal labor exploitation, were processed through the DRC's 21 Children's Tribunals in 2020. However, the closure of civilian criminal courts in March, following national lockdowns to contain the pandemic, resulted in an overall reduction in the volume of criminal hearings. (14,44) Similarly, police and prosecutorial investigations declined significantly. Lockdowns prevented actors from conducting necessary field travel, greatly reducing the number of victims identified. (44) Moreover, poor coordination in conducting investigations, collecting data, and providing services to victims continued to hinder the government's ability to adequately combat the worst forms of child labor. (3,33) Research indicates that both the military and civilian justice systems lack the capacity and resources to investigate and prosecute child labor violations. (4,22,72)

In 2020, the FARDC made progress compared with prior years in preventing child recruitment within state security forces following an August decree by the Minister of Defense reiterating zero tolerance for child recruitment. (14) There were three cases of the FARDC using children in non-combat capacities in 2020, all of whom, according to the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (MONUSCO) Child Protection Services, were demobilized. (14) The FARDC also separated 2,101 children from armed groups during the reporting period and referred them to UNICEF-run transition centers, which provided them with medical and psychosocial support and livelihood training. (14)

Until July 2020, FARDC elements in North Kivu collaborated with UN- and U.S.-sanctioned Congolese "General" Shimiray Mwissa Guidon's NDC-R, an armed group and occasional proxy for the FARDC that recruits children, sometimes forcibly, into its ranks. (30,87-91) Congolese forces, including senior FARDC commander General Innocent Gahizi, allowed the group to move freely throughout the province and tolerated NDC-R's use of FARDC uniforms. Colonel Yves Kijenge, FARDC commander of the 3411th Regiment, also supplied the group with weapons and ammunition. (50,88,90) Under this arrangement, which allowed the NDC-R to establish illegal taxation schemes and control of lucrative gold mining sites, the group emerged as the dominant non-state group in the Masisi and Walikale regions of the eastern DRC. (50,81,88-90) In June 2019, military prosecutors in North Kivu issued an arrest warrant for Guidon for child recruitment, mass rape, and other crimes committed between 2015 and 2020 as leader of the NDC-R. (50,89,90) They further allege that sanctioned high-ranking FARDC commanders protected Guidon during this period, although these officers have not yet been charged. In July 2020 Guidon was deposed by Gilbert Chuo Bwira, his second-in-command, with FARDC support. (28,92) In August 2020, 584 combatants under Bwira's command, including 29 children, surrendered to the FARDC. The children were removed by MONUSCO's child protection unit and taken to the UNICEF-funded community demobilization center in Goma. (93-95)

Despite efforts to prevent child recruitment by state security forces, children whom the FARDC separated from armed groups were occasionally detained for 2 to 14 days. In 2020, 85 children were detained following separation from armed groups, 78 of whom were released shortly thereafter. However, 7 children were held in detention for periods ranging from 2 to 9 months. (14,44) When children are detained, official procedure requires the government to alert MONUSCO, to whom the children are handed over. Prior to that handover, children may be held in local detention cells, which suffer from overcrowding, lack of food and health services, and poor sanitation. (14,44)

The FARDC, mining police, and private security forces, including those guarding large-scale mining concessions, reportedly subject child laborers on ASM sites to extortion and physical abuse. (96) There is no evidence the government took action to address these abuses. Moreover, some FARDC elements collected illegal fees from traders to transport gold in FARDC trucks on routine operations between Misisi and Bukavu. (28) Members of the 1301st Regiment of the FARDC illegally owned and taxed artisanal gold mines in Mongbwalu, Ituri Province. The pandemic lockdown exacerbated these trends. Research indicates that members of the FARDC's 3407th Regiment facilitated the transport of gold on behalf of non-state armed group Mai-Mai Yakutumba. (28)

Penalties for criminal violations related to the worst forms of child labor—including the use of children in armed conflict—are 1 to 3 years of imprisonment with fines of up to \$123 (200,000 Congolese Francs). (13,20,22,56,57,59,70,71)

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 lack of coordination among agencies.

| Coordinating Body | Role & Description |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| National Committee to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor (NCCL) | Oversees the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor and monitors its implementation. (97,98) Led by MOL and includes representatives from 12 other ministries, local NGOs, and civil society. (12,97,98) In 2020, the DRC's Minister of Mines joined the Cobalt Action Partnership (CAP), a public-private initiative that promotes due diligence in the cobalt supply chain. The CAP's objectives include the formalization of ASM operations and eradication of child labor in cobalt mining. (99) |
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| Regulatory and Control Authority for Strategic Minerals (Autorité de Régulation et de Contrôle des Marchés des Substances Minérales Stratégique, ARECOMS)* | Created under a 2019 mining decree, ARECOMS is a new regulatory agency that will oversee supply chains of "strategic minerals" such as cobalt and coltan to ensure children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations are not working in mining sites. (37,69) A separate body, <i>Entreprise Générale du Cobalt</i> (EGC), is a subsidiary of the state-owned mining company <i>Gécamines</i> , which has exclusive authority to buy and sell artisanally mined cobalt. (69) The EGC aims to ensure price stability and fairness by removing unregulated middlemen from the supply chain, thereby decreasing the potential for child labor. (50,69,100) |
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| Child Soldier Monitoring, Verification, Demobilization, Reintegration Mechanisms | Includes the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission (UEPN-DDR), which coordinates verification and release of children associated with armed groups. Working with the MOGF, the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), UNICEF, and NGOs, refers demobilized child soldiers to social service providers for family reunification and reinsertion. (12,33,78) The commission is led by MOD's Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups unit. (33,78) In addition, the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting, which is co-chaired by the UN, documents all grave violations committed against children. With UN support, the Centers for Transit Demobilization, and Orientation in North Kivu Province provided psychological counseling, basic education, and job skills training to ex-child soldiers during the reporting period. In 2020, the centers supported and helped reintegrate 2,210 children who were formerly associated with armed groups. (14,44) In October 2020, the commander of the Mai-Mai Apana Pale-Makilo faction signed a unilateral declaration to end and prevent the recruitment and use of, and sexual violence against, children. The commander of the Mai-Mai Ilunga also signed a roadmap to end child recruitment in December 2020. (54) As of November 2020, 35 armed group commanders had committed to releasing children recruited into their ranks. (32,50) |
| Joint Technical Working Group | Coordinates the implementation of the UN Child Soldiers Action Plan and activities at the provincial level in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces. Led by the MOGF and includes representatives from four other ministries and the UN. (3,5,101) In addition, organizes training on child soldier screening, monitoring, verification, and demobilization processes, and participates in advocacy events. (3,27,102) Throughout the reporting period, the working group conducted 14 trainings on age verification procedures and enforcement of the UN Secretary-General's principles on Children in Armed Conflict. (14,44) |
| Inter-Ministerial Commission Responsible for Addressing the Issue of Child Labor in Mines and on Mine Sites in the DRC | Coordinates efforts to eradicate child labor in the DRC's mining sector and serves as an adviser to other ministries combating child labor in mining. The Ministry of Mines organized a meeting in November 2020 for international missions and donors on combating child labor in artisanal mining in Kolwezi, the capital of the copper- and cobalt-rich Lualaba Province, which resulted in the Kolwezi Declaration. The Kolwezi Declaration is a new partnership between the Ministry of Mines and international partners ("Technical and Financial Partners") that calls for "responsible and ethical artisanal mining free of child labor." (14) The Declaration also reinforces the commitments outlined in the Operational Plan of the National Sector Strategy to Fight Against Child Labor in Mining (2017–2025). (14) |
| Agency for Prevention and the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (APLTP) | Investigates, prosecutes, and sentences traffickers, including government officials complicit in human trafficking. Advocates on behalf of victims of trafficking. (50) Embedded in the Office of the Presidency, replaces a previous trafficking in persons working group. Includes government officials from PNC and FARDC, local NGOs, and international organizations that formulate, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate government efforts to combat human trafficking. (50) In 2020, the APLTP worked with civil society organizations to identify and report 100 children working in artisanal gold-mining sites in South Kivu. (14) The government also funded the APLTP's national awareness-raising campaign, with assistance from international donors. (14) Despite the pandemic, the APLTP-led inter-agency trafficking in persons committee met 50 times and held 5 technical working group meetings. This schedule enabled the APLTP to achieve notable success on human trafficking issues, including multiple arrests and convictions. (14,37,44) During the year, the APLTP also developed reference cards for use by law enforcement and intelligence officials and civil society organizations, to facilitate identification of victims and appropriate sharing of case data. In addition, the APLTP distributed standardized identification forms for care providers to input data on human trafficking victims. (14,44) |

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

* Mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor was created during the reporting period.

The creation of APLTP in April 2019 addressed a long-standing need to increase coordination among various anti-human trafficking actors within the government. (50) Nevertheless, overlapping objectives and duplication of efforts, combined with a lack of resources and trained personnel, may have impeded the government's ability to coordinate actions to combat the worst forms of child labor. (24,33) In addition, the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission is supposed to take the lead on child soldier issues; however, research indicates that, in practice, that role has often been assumed by the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting. (33)

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 whether relevant policies were active.

| Policy | Description |
|---|---|
| National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2012–2025) | <p>Developed by NCCL in consultation with UNICEF to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the DRC by the end of 2025. (10,103) Promotes the enforcement of laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor; universal primary education; monitoring and evaluation efforts; and improved coordination of stakeholders. Also seeks to raise awareness of the worst forms of child labor, empower communities to stop child labor practices, and provide prevention and reintegration services. (10,103) In September 2020, the DRC's First Lady, Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, in collaboration with World Vision, hosted an advocacy workshop to combat child labor. Two recommendations came out of this gathering: to reinforce inspections and to support the extension of the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor from 2020 to 2025. (14)</p> |
| Child Soldiers Action Plans | <p>The DRC has several key policies to address children in armed conflict. The UEPN-DDR's National Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration, and Resettlement (DDR III) plan aims to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services to demobilized combatants, including children. (3,104,105) DDR III is implemented with UN and international support and within the 2013 Framework Agreement for Peace, Security, and Cooperation for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region. (104,106,107) Requires children separated from armed groups to be immediately transferred to UNICEF. (33,50,102) The Action Plan to End the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers (Child Soldiers Action Plan) is a UN-backed plan that aims to prevent and end the use of children in armed forces, provide support and reintegration services, pursue accountability for perpetrators, and create a partnership framework for the UN and the government. (108,109) Includes standard operating procedures for age verification to help the FARDC avoid underage recruitment. (2,3,5) MOD worked with MONUSCO and UNICEF to identify and remove child recruits from the FARDC and non-state armed groups. (94) In December 2020, MONUSCO's Child Protection Section organized a training workshop for the FARDC's 34th military region. The training was carried out in conjunction with the Joint Technical Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, PNC, the National Intelligence Agency, and the General Directorate of Migration. MOD also provided training on age verification and child protection to the FARDC and police in 2020. (14) Throughout the year, a joint UN and DRC government technical working group on preventing child soldiers held 14 trainings on age verification procedures and the Children in Armed Conflict mandate. (14) A total of 1,543 FARDC and PNC officers attended these workshops. Moreover, the DRC's police and military continued to use a written standard operating procedure on age verification to avoid child recruitment, resulting in the screening of 2,489 recruits and the identification and removal prior to training of 53 children. (14)</p> |
| Action Plans to Address Child Labor in Mining | <p>Includes the National Sectoral Strategy to Combat Child Labor in Artisanal Mines and Artisanal Mining Sites (2017–2025), developed by the Ministry of Mines. Seeks to eradicate child labor in artisanal mining by 2025. The strategy aims to strengthen relevant laws, improve data collection on the prevalence of child labor in the mining sector, promote responsible sourcing regulations, improve child protection measures, and build stakeholder capacity to address these issues. (110) During the reporting period, the Ministry of Mines organized a workshop to operationalize this strategy. (13,50) In addition, the government allocated \$10.8 million (19 billion Congolese Francs) to the ministry to reduce child labor in the mining sector. (13) More broadly, the Inter-Ministerial Commission's Triennial Action Plan (2017–2020) aspired to eradicate child labor in mining by 2020, particularly in the tin, tantalum, tungsten, cobalt, and copper sectors by monitoring existing policies and strengthening measures to remove children from mining sites. (111) Research was unable to determine whether the plan was renewed during the reporting period. The government is also cooperating with the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade to end child labor in the cobalt sector. (50) In 2020, the National Minister of Mines hosted an international partners' and donors' workshop in Kolwezi, the capital of Lualaba Province and one of the country's two centers for copper and cobalt production. (14) This conference led to the development of a new strategy to mitigate child labor in the mining sector. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for late 2021 to reevaluate the government's progress on this front. (14) Mining police in Walikale and Rubaya also worked with the human rights NGO Association for the Development for Rural Initiatives to conduct community awareness-raising sessions on child labor with the aim of encouraging families to bring children sent to mines back home. (14)</p> |

Addresses all forms of trafficking in persons, including foreign-born and domestic victims and child soldiers. (50) Aims to prevent human trafficking through national awareness-raising and government training programs; victim identification and care; and law enforcement cooperation and coordination. (50) The 5 year National Strategy and accompanying 2020–2024 anti-trafficking National Action Plan are the first such guidance documents in the DRC's history. (50) In 2020, APLTP produced an unofficial report on trafficking in persons that documented incidents involving children. (14) APTLP will further benefit from a \$3 million USAID-funded 2020–2023 counter-trafficking program. (14) The government launched a trafficking in persons awareness-raising campaign in November 2020. The campaign included community radio messaging in multiple languages, the production of public-awareness campaign films, the creation of a free trafficking in persons resource library to be hosted on the websites of the offices of the Presidency and the MOJ, and a national hotline for reporting human trafficking cases. (14) In addition, the APLTP developed new screening procedures to identify trafficking victims. (14)

National
Action
Plan
Against
Sexual
Violence
in
Conflict

Supports UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, which aims to prevent the recruitment of children, particularly girls, into armed groups; to provide social services upon their release; and to ensure perpetrators are prosecuted. (112,113) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement this policy during the reporting period.

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

† Policy was launched during the reporting period.

‡ The government had other policies that may have addressed child labor issues or had an impact on child labor. (21,22,114,115)

Although the DRC has developed a number of action plans to combat child labor, only some received dedicated funding. (19,23,33,40)

VI. Social Programs to Address Child Labor

In 2020, the government funded and participated in programs that may contribute to preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the adequacy of programs to address the full scope of the problem in all relevant sectors.

Program Description

Aim to improve child protection with the support of donors and the government. Includes a \$4 million Government of Japan-funded program that aims to provide education, vocational training, reintegration kits, and school feeding programs to 13,000 children and to construct a training center for youth in North Kivu Province; a \$97 million Government of Canada-funded program that aims to assist 95,000 at-risk youth living near mining sites; and a MINASA and NGO program to reintegrate children removed from the street into communities and to reunify children formerly associated with armed groups with their families. (3,12,33,116) The government-run Center for the Transit and Orientation of Young Children in North Kivu Province also provides psychological counseling, basic education, and job skills training to ex-child soldiers. During the reporting period, the center supervised and helped reintegrate 400 children who had left armed groups. (50)

Under the auspices of the government's Free Primary Education Program, and with support from UNICEF and Global Partnership for Education, the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education reached 9,013,021 children and adolescents in 21 provinces with at least one form of distance education, including 91 radio stations and 7 television channels. (14,117,118) Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNICEF distributed 135,619 workbooks in 12 provinces, and provided 6,788 solar-powered radios to children in vulnerable households in 19 provinces to allow them to follow distance-learning classes. (117-119) Despite the school closures, more than 7 million Congolese children were able to continue learning through educational programs on the radio, workbooks, and other learning tools. Nearly 450,000 exercise books have been distributed, including to those living in remote areas of the country. (117-119) The government estimates that 4.5 million additional children were enrolled in primary schools through the program. (14)

USAID-Funded Projects*

The USAID-PACT Sustainable Mine Site Validation (SMSV, 2020-2024) is a four-year cooperative agreement that will implement a technically and financially sustainable Mine Site Qualification and Validation model in North and South Kivu that adheres to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals; the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region; Regional Certification Mechanism; and DRC law. (120) The SMSV also aims to develop strategies to fight child labor, including by raising awareness of child labor issues among local stakeholders, and by building the capacity of mining inspectors and local stakeholder committees (CLS) to qualify and validate mine sites. (120)

World Bank-Funded Projectst

Projects in support of reestablishing peace and stability. Includes [Human Development Systems Strengthening](#) (2014–2020), a \$46.8 million project that aims to increase birth registration and improve school infrastructure; and [Education Quality Improvement Project](#) (2017–2021), a \$100 million project that aims to improve the quality of primary school education. (107,121,122) In June 2020, the World Bank also approved an \$800 million [Emergency Equity and System Strengthening in Education Project](#)† that aims to improve primary education systems in 10 of the DRC's most restive provinces. The program targets nine million children for re-enrollment once pandemic restrictions are lifted and aims to enroll an additional one million previously out-of-school children. (123-125) By December 2020, the Human Development Systems Project had issued 600,000 birth certificates to children under age 5. (126)

USDOL-Funded Projects

Includes [Measurement, Awareness-Raising, and Policy Engagement \(MAP 16\) Project on Child Labor and Forced Labor](#), a \$20 million project implemented by the ILO to conduct research and develop new survey methodologies, improve awareness, strengthen policies and government capacity, and promote partnerships to combat child labor and forced labor. Along with IOM and the Walk Free Foundation, the MAP 16 project conducted research on forced labor, including forced child labor, in conflict zones in the DRC in 2018. The research is due to be published in 2021. (127) Also includes [Combating Child Labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Cobalt Industry \(2018–2021\) \(COTECCO\)](#), a \$3.5 million project implemented by the ILO in Kolwezi, Lualaba Province, aimed at reducing child labor and improving working conditions in the mining sector. (128,129) During the reporting period, the provincial ministers of mines attended workshops funded by COTECCO in the provinces of Tanganyika, Haut Katanga, and Lualaba. The Mining Chamber of the Federation of Congolese Enterprises also participated in these workshops. (13,14,128) Additional information is available on the USDOL [website](#).

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor

* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (130,131)

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) worked closely with the UN to identify and remove child recruits from the FARDC. (50) However, the scope of child DDR programs remains insufficient. The reintegration process is slow, funding is inadequate, and collaboration between partners is weak. (3,22,47,132,133) Children separated from armed groups remain vulnerable to stigmatization and re-recruitment. Girls, who make up an estimated 30 to 40 percent of children associated with armed groups, often survive prolonged sexual and physical abuse in captivity and face social exclusion upon their return. Because this cycle of rejection increases their risk of re-recruitment, girls should be specifically targeted in the DDR process. (5,47,132-135) Research also indicates that the government needs to strengthen its efforts to assist street children and to implement programs specifically designed to assist children engaged in forced labor in agriculture, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation. (4,22,23,47)

VII. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

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

| Area | Suggested Action | Year(s) Suggested |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Legal Framework | Establish by law a compulsory education age that aligns with the minimum age for employment. | 2013 – 2020 |

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| Enforcement | Issue appropriate decrees to ensure that enacted laws are implemented, including those related to light work provisions. | 2009 2020 | - |
| | Increase penalties for the worst forms of child labor so that they are sufficiently stringent to serve as a deterrent. | 2013 2020 | - |
| | Collect and publish complete data on labor enforcement efforts, including labor inspectorate funding, whether initial training and training on new laws were provided and the number of violations found, penalties imposed, and fines collected. | 2020 | |
| | Fully fund civil and criminal enforcement agencies responsible for conducting inspections or investigations, and ensure that labor inspectors are able to conduct worksite inspections throughout the country. | 2015 2020 | - |
| | Significantly increase the number of labor inspectors to meet the ILO's technical advice and ensure that inspectors and criminal law enforcement agencies receive adequate training and funding to carry out their duties, including refresher courses as appropriate. | 2011 2020 | - |
| | Collect and publish complete data related to criminal law enforcement efforts, including the number of investigations conducted and violations found related to the worst forms of child labor. | 2009 2020 | - |
| | Hold perpetrators of the worst forms of child labor, including child soldiering, accountable. | 2017 2020 | - |
| | Ensure that both the military and civilian criminal justice systems have the resources to investigate and prosecute child labor violations, and that judges, prosecutors, and investigators receive training on new and existing laws on the worst forms of child labor. | 2011 2020 | - |
| | Improve coordination among relevant criminal enforcement agencies in conducting investigations, collecting data, and providing services to victims. | 2017 2020 | - |
| | Cease the practice of subjecting children to physical violence and detention for their alleged association with armed groups. | 2015 2020 | - |
| Ensure that security forces do not subject children to human rights violations, including extortion and physical abuse, in artisanal small-scale mining operations. | 2019 2020 | - | |
| Coordination | Improve coordination among relevant ministries and agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that they receive adequate resources and trained personnel to combat the worst forms of child labor, including child trafficking. | 2015 2020 | - |
| | Ensure that the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration, and Resettlement Commission is able to coordinate the implementation of DDR III as intended. | 2015 2020 | - |
| Government Policies | Ensure all relevant policies, national action plans, and sectoral strategies to address the worst forms of child labor are adopted, funded, and implemented as intended. | 2011 2020 | - |
| Social Programs | Conduct a stand-alone child labor survey to better inform child labor policies and practices. | 2013 2020 | - |
| | Improve access to education by ensuring that all children are registered at birth or are issued identification documents. | 2012 2020 | - |

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| Improve access to education for all children by regulating classroom size, training additional teachers, subsidizing fees, and building additional schools. Take steps to ensure student safety while at school and while students are in transit both to and from school facilities. Make additional efforts to prevent schools from being attacked and occupied by armed groups. | 2012 – 2020 | – |
| Expand efforts to address the needs of demobilized children and incorporate stigmatization, gender, and re-recruitment concerns into programs to reintegrate such children. | 2009 – 2020 | – |
| Establish or expand social programs designed to assist children engaged in forced labor in agriculture, street work, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation, and implement existing programs as intended. | 2009 – 2020 | – |

Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

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| Austrian Red Cross Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) | Wiedner Hauptstraße 32, 1041 Wien T (Telefon) +43 1 589 00 583 F (Fax) +43 1 589 00 589 info@ecoi.net | Contact Imprint & Disclaimer F.A.Q. Data Protection Notice |
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