

In 2016, Ghana made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government drafted regulations to the Labor Act that include protections for child domestic workers and developed standard operating procedures to refer victims of child trafficking to social service providers as part of the Child Protection Compact. In addition, the Government continued developing the National Plan of Action Phase II on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Labor, signed memoranda of understanding with 20 institutions responsible for its implementation, and expanded its Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty program into 28 new districts. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development also introduced a new program to transition from a manual birth registration process to automated registration, which is likely to increase the number of children with birth certificates and facilitate school registrations and employment age verification. However, children in Ghana continue to engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced labor in fishing and cocoa harvesting. Resource constraints severely limited the Government's ability to fully implement policies and social programs during the reporting period.



I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in Ghana engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced labor in fishing and cocoa harvesting. (1-7) According to a report by Tulane University that assessed data collected during the 2013–2014 harvest season, there were an estimated 918,543 child laborers ages 5 to 17 in the cocoa sector, which represents a 6.4 percent decline in the number of child workers in cocoa production since the 2008–2009 harvest season. (8) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in Ghana.

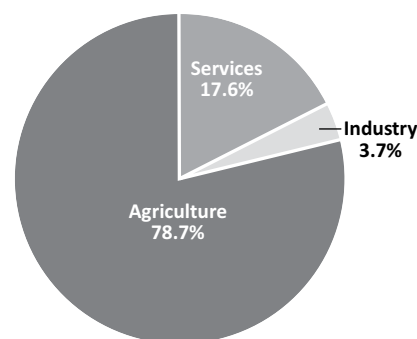
Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	24.7 (1,721,914)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	91.7
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	25.3
Primary Completion Rate (%)		101.1

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2015, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016. (9)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Living Standard Survey, Round 6, 2012–2013. (10)

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



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	Producing cocoa, including land clearing, using machetes and cutlasses for weeding, collecting cocoa pods with a harvesting hook, breaking cocoa pods, working in the vicinity of pesticide spraying, and carrying heavy loads† of water (2, 3, 8, 11-14)
	Production of palm oil and cotton (14)
	Herding livestock (15, 16)
	Fishing for tilapia, and to a lesser extent for mudfish, catfish, and electric fish, including preparing bait, nets, and fishing gear; launching, paddling, and draining canoes; diving for fish; casting and pulling fishing nets and untangling them underwater; sorting, picking, cleaning, smoking, transporting, and selling fish; cleaning and repairing nets; and building and repairing boats (1, 2, 4-6, 13, 17-20)

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

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Quarrying [†] and small-scale mining, [†] sometimes for gold, including using mercury, digging in deep pits, crushing rocks by hand, carrying heavy loads, [†] and machine operation [†] (2, 7, 14, 18, 21-27)
	Manufacturing, activities unknown (7, 14)
	Bricklaying (15)
Services	Domestic work (12, 18)
	Transporting heavy loads as <i>kayayes</i> [†] (4, 18, 28-30)
	Work in transportation, activities unknown (7)
	Electronic waste and garbage scavenging, including sorting scavenged items and transporting items for sale (27, 31-37)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor [‡]	Street work, including begging, small-scale vending, and work at restaurants (7, 14, 38, 39)
	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking (16, 18, 29, 40-43)
	Forced labor in begging; agriculture; fishing, including for tilapia; artisanal gold mining; domestic work; and street work, including vending and carrying heavy loads, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (1, 4, 6, 11, 16, 19, 20, 41, 44-48)
	Forced ritual servitude for girls known as <i>trokosi</i> , including in domestic work for priests (4, 18, 29, 42, 44, 49, 50)

[†] 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.




The majority of children subject to human trafficking are transported within Ghana for forced labor in cocoa, domestic work, and aquaculture. Children as young as 4 years old are subjected to forced labor in fishing in the Lake Volta region, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. (16, 20, 29, 42-44, 48, 51, 52) Children also engage in hazardous work in the cocoa sector, including the use of sharp tools and exposure to agro-chemicals. (8, 14)

According to the Constitution and Education Act, primary education in Ghana is free and compulsory from kindergarten through junior high school. (53, 54) However, in practice, children must pay for school uniforms, fees, and materials, which may be prohibitive for many families. (1, 4, 12, 25, 31, 55-57) The Government has made efforts to increase the accessibility of public education, including by providing school uniforms and lifting birth registration requirements for enrollment. However, in isolated incidents, children without uniforms or birth registration may risk being turned away from schools, and out of school children are more vulnerable to child labor. (56, 58) In addition, factors such as a shortage of classrooms, long distance to schools, overcrowding in urban areas, sexual harassment of girls in schools, and poor educational infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, severely limit access to education for many children. (1, 12, 25, 55, 56)

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Ghana has ratified most key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4). However, gaps exist in Ghana’s legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Section 89 of the Children's Act (59)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Section 91 of the Children's Act (59)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 28.1d, 28.2, and 28.5 of the Constitution; Article 7 of the Labor Regulations Legislative Instrument; Sections 91 and 92 of the Children's Act; Article 58 of the Labor Act (53, 59-61)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 16.1 and 16.2 of the Constitution; Articles 116 and 117 of the Labor Act; Sections 1–3 and 42 of the Human Trafficking Act; Sections 1 and 2 of the Human Trafficking Prohibition Legislative Instrument (53, 60, 62, 63)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Sections 1 and 2 of the Human Trafficking Act; Sections 1 and 2 of the Human Trafficking Prohibition Legislative Instrument; Articles 21–25 of the Labor Regulations Legislative Instrument (61, 62)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	No		Sections 107, 108, 110, 111, 274–277, and 279–283 of the Criminal Code; Section 101A of the Criminal Offenses Act; Article 7(2) of the Labor Regulations Legislative Instrument (61, 64, 65)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes*	20	Armed Forces Regulations (Administration) Volume I (66-68)
State Voluntary	Yes	20	Armed Forces Regulations (Administration) Volume I (66-68)
Non-state Compulsory	No		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15 [‡]	Article 2.2 of the Education Act (54, 66)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 25.1.a of the Constitution; Articles 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2 of the Education Act (53, 54)

* No conscription (69)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (66)

In 2016, Ghana drafted Regulations to the Labor Act, which include protections for domestic workers, including minimum age for employment.(70-72) Although Ghana has two Hazardous Activities Frameworks, which include detailed types of hazardous activities prohibited to children, neither is considered a legal instrument and no penalties can be imposed for violations of the activities listed in the Frameworks.(73, 74) Furthermore, laws regarding the types of hazardous work prohibited for children are not comprehensive as they do not cover the use of sharp tools in cocoa production or lake fishing, an area of work where there is evidence of children working underwater, for long hours, and at night.(59, 61) In addition, Ghana's laws do not specifically criminally prohibit the use of a child in pornographic performances.(75)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MELR)	Through its Child Labor Unit (CLU), enforce child labor laws, oversee child protection committees at the district level, and implement the Ghana Child Labor Monitoring System (GCLMS) through the National Program for the Elimination of Child Labor in Cocoa (NPECLC).(2, 4, 25, 56, 76-79) Through its District Assemblies, investigate child labor violations in the informal sector, educate employers on compliance with child labor laws, and conduct inspections.(1, 56)

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

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of the Interior (MOI)	Through its Ghana Police Service (GPS), investigate, arrest, and prosecute cases related to the worst forms of child labor and operate a 24/7 hotline for reporting crimes.(40) Within the GPS, the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) work together to investigate cases and provide support to victims.(4, 40, 44, 47) Through its Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), combat human trafficking through Anti-Human Smuggling and Trafficking Units (AHSTIP) located in Accra and at three major border crossings.(76, 80, 81) In 2016, created a 35 member GIS and GPS task force at the Accra airport to combat human trafficking, which operated for part of the year.(76, 81-84)
Ministry of Justice's Office of the Attorney General (MOJ/AG)	Combat child labor by prosecuting child labor and child trafficking crimes.(40, 79) Within the Economic and Organized Crime Office, the Human Trafficking Unit shares responsibility with the AHTU for combatting human trafficking, confiscate proceeds from human trafficking, and provides ongoing training for law enforcement on prevention measures.(76, 85)
Minerals Commission	Inspect licensed mining sites and raise awareness of laws on the mining sector with criminal law enforcement agencies.(25)
Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MOGCSPP)	Combat child labor and human trafficking.(76, 79, 86) Through its Department for Social Welfare (DSW), operate shelters for vulnerable children, administer juvenile justice, and implement programs to combat child labor.(76, 86-88) Through its Human Trafficking Secretariat, oversee the creation, implementation, and review of human trafficking policies and ensure proper monitoring, evaluation, and data collection.(40) In 2016, created and disseminated a template to collect data on human trafficking, funded an anti-human trafficking training at the police academy, and conducted an on-site simulation at the airport in Accra for the GIS and GPS task force.(76, 82)
Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs)	Receive complaints of child labor violation at the district level and report cases to the GPS, DSW, or traditional authorities, who work with the police to conduct investigations.(25, 40, 78) Participate in the GCLMS to monitor, prevent, and withdraw children from the worst forms of child labor in more than 600 communities nationwide as part of the Child and Family Welfare Policy.(15, 39, 57)

Although the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting child trafficking violations, in practice it is often left to the prosecutors of the Ghana Police Service (GPS), who often have minimal formal legal training.(40, 84)

Labor Law Enforcement

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in Ghana took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown* (66)	Unknown* (40)
Number of Labor Inspectors	97 (66)	105 (40)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (66)	No (40)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Yes (66)	Yes (40)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A (66)	N/A (40)
Refresher Courses Provided	Unknown (66, 89)	Unknown* (40)
Number of Labor Inspections	317 (66)	200 [‡] (40)
Number Conducted at Worksite	317 (66)	200 [‡] (40)
Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	0 (66)	0 (40)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown (66)	Unknown
Number Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown (66)	Unknown
Number of Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown (66)	Unknown
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (66)	Unknown
Routine Inspections Targeted	No (66)	N/A (40)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (66)	Yes (40)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (66)	Unknown*(40)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (66)	Yes (40)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (66)	Yes (40)

* The Government does not make this information publicly available.

‡ Data are from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

The number of labor inspectors is insufficient for the size of Ghana's workforce, which includes almost 12 million workers.(90) According to the ILO's recommendation of 1 inspector for every 15,000 workers in industrializing economies, Ghana should employ roughly 799 inspectors.(90-92) Inadequate resources, including funding, transportation, office space, and office supplies, hamper the labor inspectorate's capacity to enforce child labor laws.(25, 40, 56, 93) Research also indicates that few cases of child labor violations are reported, and even fewer cases result in prosecution because judges, police, and labor inspectors are sometimes unfamiliar with child labor laws.(56, 94) In addition, it is not known how many cases of child labor were identified as a result of calls made to the GPS's 24/7 hotline.

In 2016, the MELR mandated its Chief Labor Officer to investigate unlicensed recruitment agencies, which frequently recruit children for domestic work, and publicly posted a list of registered recruitment agencies to counteract unlawful recruitment activities.(79, 81, 95, 96) The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development also stopped two fishing boats that were suspected of employing victims of child trafficking.(51, 97) Formal referral mechanisms continued to be hindered by lack of shelter space and transportation for victims.(40)

Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in Ghana took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	No (66)	Yes (76)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A
Refresher Courses Provided	No (66, 85)	Yes (40, 76)
Number of Investigations	132 (66)	Unknown
Number of Violations Found	Unknown* (66)	84 (98)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	Unknown (66, 89)	6 (40, 99)
Number of Convictions	0 (66)	1 (100)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (66)	Yes (40)

* The Government does not make this information publicly available.

During the reporting period, the GPS's Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) employed approximately 57 investigators and the GIS's Anti-Human Smuggling and Trafficking Unit (AHSTIP) increased its staff from 5 to 8. However, both GIS and the AHTU noted a lack of transportation, human and financial resources, and collaboration with other government officials, which hampered enforcement efforts.(40, 47, 51, 76, 81, 84) In addition, data on human trafficking are not collected systemically, and information is often not conveyed from regional offices to the headquarters in Accra.(85) Victims are sometimes required to bear the costs of investigations, including medical exams and transportation to arrest the suspect.(42)

In 2016, IOM worked with the Government to develop standard operating procedures to refer victims of child trafficking to social service providers as part of the Child Protection Compact Partnership.(40) In addition, state attorneys reviewed all 217 open human trafficking cases during the reporting period and recommended prosecution in five cases as a result.(81, 82, 84) With support from UNICEF, the MOGSP also printed and disseminated 4,000 copies of the Human Trafficking Act to law enforcement and social service providers during the year.(76, 81, 84) In April 2016, an individual accused of child trafficking in the Lake Volta region was convicted of employing a child in hazardous work and was sentenced to pay a fine.(100) Research indicates that some Government officials may be unfamiliar with how to identify cases of domestic human trafficking, which limits the Government's ability to investigate and prosecute these offenses.(76)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

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

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Steering Committee on Child Labor (NSCCL)	Oversee Government efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor and support the implementation of the GCLMS, a monitoring, data collection, and referral mechanism.(40, 77, 85) Led by the CLU and includes representatives from other ministries, employers' and workers' organizations, and civil society.(1, 40, 77, 101) In 2016, continued developing the National Plan of Action Phase II on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Against Child Labor (NPA2) (2016–2020) and signed memoranda of understanding with 20 stakeholder institutions to implement the plan.(79)
MELR's CLU	Coordinate Government programs to combat child labor and provide technical support to ministries, departments and agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, and international agencies such as the ILO, IOM, and UNICEF.(1, 40) In 2016, received \$22,181 from the Government and \$22,482 from partner organizations, which was insufficient to carry out all planned activities.(40, 102)
Human Trafficking Management Board (HTMB)	Intersectoral board chaired by the MOGCSP that includes representatives from law enforcement, ministries, and civil society.(40) Advise the MOGCSP on human trafficking policy; rehabilitate and re-integrate victims; and oversee the Human Trafficking Fund, which provides financial support to victims, including children.(40, 62, 63) In 2016, began drafting a National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana with donor support.(76)

Although the Government created an ad hoc committee in 2016 to improve coordination of enforcement and prosecution efforts against human trafficking cases, the appointment of its National Trafficking in Persons Coordinator expired on January 6, 2017. It is unclear whether a new coordinator will be appointed and if the committee will continue to function.(76, 81, 103) In addition, the HTMB has not yet received funds to provide assistance to victims.(84)

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

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

Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor

Policy	Description
National Plan of Action Phase II on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Against Child Labor (NPA2) (2016–2020)†	Aims to fill in gaps identified in the first NPA (2009–2015), improve coordination, and reduce the worst forms of child labor to 10 percent by 2020, with a focus on the fishing, mining, and agricultural sectors, including cocoa, palm oil, and cotton production, and children engaged as <i>kayayes</i> , <i>trokosi</i> , domestic workers, and in commercial sexual exploitation.(14, 40, 79)
Hazardous Child Labor Activity Frameworks	Created by working groups and includes both the Hazardous Child Labor Activity Framework and the Hazardous Child Labor Activity Framework for the Cocoa Sector. Both frameworks were developed in consultation with workers' and employers' organizations and identify hazardous activities which should be prohibited for children.(74, 104, 105)
2010 Declaration of Joint Action to Support the Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol (2010 Declaration) and Its Accompanying Framework of Action	Joint declaration by the Governments of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and the United States, and the International Cocoa and Chocolate Industry.(106-108) Provides resources and coordinates with key stakeholders on efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labor in cocoa-producing areas.(106, 107) Ensures that all project efforts implemented under the Declaration and Framework align with Ghana's national action plans in order to promote coherence and sustainability.(106-108) USDOL-funded projects and some industry-funded projects carried out activities in support of this policy during the reporting period.(108)
Bi-Lateral Commitments to Combat Cross-Border Trafficking†	Joint declaration signed by the First Ladies of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to combat the worst forms of child labor and advocate for sub-regional cooperation with other First Ladies.(109) A subsequent cooperative agreement between the two governments further operationalizes the declaration, which targets high-risk sectors, provides protection to victims, improves coordination, and prosecutes offenders.(110, 111) The MOU with the Government of Jordan formalizes labor recruitment practices and provides for support and repatriation of Ghanaian victims of human trafficking in Jordan.(76)
MELR's National Employment Policy	Aims to create decent jobs and improve the legal framework regarding labor, including reinforcing regulations prohibiting child labor.(112)
Minerals and Mining Policy of Ghana	Prohibits child labor in mining and stipulates children who visit mining sites must be supervised.(113)
Child and Family Welfare Policy	Aims to strengthen social protection for children, improve inter-ministerial coordination, and empower youth.(25, 47, 66) Led by the MOGCSP, formalizes the referral of child protection cases, including the worst forms of child labor, between the police and the Department of Social Development.(40, 47) In 2016, held a two-day workshop for civil society and enforcement agencies on how to implement the policy.(114)
UNDAF Action Plan (2012–2016)	Aims to provide education or vocational training opportunities to 5,000 children ages 5 to 17 who have been withdrawn or are prevented from engaging in child labor.(115)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

In 2016, the MOGSP resumed work to draft a national plan of action to combat human trafficking.(76, 81, 116) Although the NPA2 to combat child labor was approved in 2016, the Cabinet must issue a memorandum authorizing its implementation, which was delayed into 2017 due to a change in Government.(40) The Government also approved a National Migration Policy during the reporting period, but like the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (F-CUBE), it does not include child labor elimination and prevention strategies .(48, 117) Overlapping objectives and poor coordination hindered the effective implementation of policies during the reporting period. (18, 87)

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

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

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor[‡]

Program	Description
USDOL-Funded Projects	USDOL projects in support of the 2010 Declaration in cocoa-growing areas of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire that aim to eliminate child labor, including its worst forms, through research, improved monitoring and enforcement. These projects include: Survey Research on Child Labor in West African Cocoa Growing Areas (2012–2016) , \$1.5 million project implemented by the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane University; Assessing Progress in Reducing Child Labor in Cocoa-Growing Areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (2015–2019) , \$3 million project implemented by NORC at the University of Chicago; and Mobilizing Community Action and Promoting Opportunities for Youth in Ghana's Cocoa-Growing Communities (MOCA) (2015–2019) , \$4.5 million project implemented by Winrock International. Projects that address child labor in other sectors include: Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues (2011–2017) , a global project implemented by the ILO which completed a report on child labor and youth employment in Ghana in 2016, and CARING Gold Mining Project (ASGM) , \$5 million project implemented by the ILO in Ghana and the Philippines.(118-123) Additional information is available on the USDOL Web site .
USG-Funded Projects	USG-funded projects aim to improve child protection measures in partnership with the host government. Includes: Child Protection Compact Partnership (2015–2020), \$5 million USDOS-funded project implemented by IOM and local NGO Free the Slaves; Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (2014–2019), \$24 million USAID-funded project implemented by CRC/URI which includes activities aimed at reducing child labor in the fishing sector; the Complementary Basic Education Program, a \$40 million joint contribution between USAID and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to support Ghana's Ministry of Education to educate and re-integrate out-of-school children into the basic school system; and the \$37 million USAID-UNICEF jointly funded Learning Support program, which helps increase inclusive education services to special needs children in primary schools.(84, 124-127)
Industry-Funded Projects	Industry-funded projects aim to increase sustainability in the cocoa sector, improve farmer livelihoods, improve access to education, and combat the worst forms of child labor in cocoa-growing areas. Some projects may be in support of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)'s CocoaAction (2014–2020) initiative and the 2010 Declaration .(108, 128)
Awareness Raising Activities*†	Large-scale events by MOGSP, AHTU, MOI, and MELR to raise awareness of child trafficking issues through radio and television broadcasts, public events, and community awareness activities.(76, 81)
Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)†	MOGSP-administered conditional cash transfer program that provides monetary grants to poor households with orphans and vulnerable children on the condition that children attend school, receive vaccinations, and regularly visit health care facilities. An original provision that children do not engage in child labor in order to receive benefits was removed in 2012.(25, 38, 75, 129, 130) In 2016, expanded into 28 additional districts with 43,368 new participants and increased the number of beneficiaries in existing districts.(40, 102)
Educational Programs†	The Ghana Cocoa Board's Child Education Support Program rehabilitates and builds schools in cocoa growing areas.(131, 132) Ministry of Education-funded programs under F-CUBE that aim to increase school attendance and enrollment.(38, 117, 129) Includes the Ghana School Feeding Program, which aims to reduce malnutrition and improve attendance among students; the Capitation Grant Scheme, which helps defray the cost of basic education for students in public primary schools; and the Ghana Education Service – Girls Education Unit, which places girls' education officers at the regional and district levels, and mobilizes communities to enroll more girls in school.(1, 38, 130, 133, 134) Includes the distribution of 400,000-500,000 free school uniforms and exercise books to districts with poor enrollment rates.(102, 130, 134)
Programs to Assist Kayayes†	MOGSP program that provides rehabilitation and reintegration support for <i>kayayes</i> . In 2016, provided training and small business opportunities to 400 <i>kayayes</i> .(102)
mBirths*	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development program, supported by UNICEF and Tigo, to transition from a manual birth registration process to automated birth registration.(58, 135)

Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor[‡] (cont)

Program	Description
From Street to School*†	MOGCSP program which aims to remove children from the street and reintegrate them into family and educational settings.(88)

* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Ghana.

‡ The Government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms.(40, 41, 136)

In 2016, the Government failed to allocate funding to the Human Trafficking Fund for victim support and the National Program for the Elimination of Child Labor in Cocoa (NPECLC), which ceased to function as a result.(14, 76, 96, 137, 138) The CLU, the AHTU, MOGCSP, and local NGOs cite the lack of funding as one of the primary obstacles in implementing programs to address child labor, including its worst forms.(40, 81, 85) In addition, Government-run shelters for child victims are poorly run and did not receive sufficient funding during the reporting period. Furthermore, a DSW-operated shelter for child trafficking victims and victims of other forms of abuse in Accra shares its space with a detention center for juvenile offenders, which presents safety concerns for victims of child trafficking.(4, 6, 40, 41, 44, 84, 136, 139)

Although the Government has worked closely with industry, NGOs, and international organizations to implement child labor programs in cocoa, fishing, and mining, the magnitude of these programs remains insufficient to address the scope of the problem.(66)

VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in Ghana (Table 11).

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Ratify the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.	2013 – 2016
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit the use of children in all illicit activities, including for the production and trafficking of drugs.	2009 – 2016
	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under 18 by non-state armed groups.	2016
	Ensure that the types of hazardous work prohibited for children are comprehensive.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that laws criminally prohibit all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children, including the use of a child in pornographic performances.	2014 – 2016
Enforcement	Ensure prosecutors who have received sufficient legal training oversee and lead the prosecution of cases of the worst forms of child labor, and that government officials, including judges, police, and labor inspectors, are familiar with the provisions of laws protecting children.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure agencies responsible for child labor laws coordinate effectively and improve the exchange of information.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that training is institutionalized for labor inspectors and publish information about the training system.	2013 – 2016
	Publish information on the amount of funding allocated to the labor inspectorate and ensure inspectorates have adequate resources, including office space, transportation, and supplies to effectively carry out their mandate.	2009 – 2016
	Strengthen the labor inspectorate by ensuring inspectors conduct routine and unannounced inspections, and are authorized to assess penalties for labor violations.	2014 – 2016
	Publish information on the number of child labor violations found, criminal violations found, penalties issued, penalties collected, and convictions made.	2010 – 2016
	Significantly increase the number of labor inspectors and investigators responsible for enforcing laws related to child labor in accordance with the ILO recommendation.	2010 – 2016

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

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Ensure victims are not required to incur the costs related to prosecuting offenders, and that there are sufficient social services available to support victims.	2016
	Establish a mechanism to log all calls to the child protection hotline and track cases of child labor for referral to law enforcement or social services providers.	2014 – 2016
Coordination	Ensure that all coordinating bodies receive adequate funding to convene on a regular basis and fulfill their respective coordinating roles.	2013 – 2016
Government Policies	Improve policy implementation by clarifying objectives and improving coordination.	2015 – 2016
	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into existing policies.	2013 – 2016
Social Programs	Improve access to education by eliminating school-related fees, permitting children without uniforms to attend class, increasing the number of classrooms, improving access to schools, and prohibiting sexual harassment in schools. Make additional efforts to ensure all children receive birth registration.	2010 – 2016
	Ensure that all social programs receive sufficient funding to carry out their objectives.	2014 – 2016
	Expand the availability of government-supported shelter services for child victims and ensure victims are not housed in the same facilities as juvenile offenders.	2016
	Create, replicate, and expand effective models for addressing exploitative child labor.	2009 – 2016

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