

FEATURES OF CHILD LABOR IN UKRAINE

In 2016, Ukraine made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Despite new initiatives to address child labor, Ukraine is receiving this assessment because it continued to implement a law that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor. Ukraine enacted legislation in 2014 that effectively imposed a moratorium on labor inspections.

Otherwise, the Government made efforts by enacting legislation criminally prohibiting the use of children in armed conflict and approving a new concept for a National Action Plan on child protection that includes a component on the worst forms of child labor.

Children in Ukraine perform dangerous tasks in street work and engage in the worst forms of child labor including in the production of pornography. The age of consent for sexual relationships is not clearly defined, and law enforcement officials lack training on the treatment of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, which puts child victims at risk of prosecution.

In addition, national policies related to child labor lack sufficient funding for effective implementation. Ukraine's armed conflict with Russian-backed separatists in the east of the country continued, which negatively impacted the Government's ability to address the worst forms of 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.

Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor:

- Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues Project (USDOL-funded project that aims to improve the evidence base on child labor and forced labor through data collection and research in Ukraine)

- Shelters and Centers for Socio-Psychological Rehabilitation of Children (MSP-operated program to provide protection in 10 short-term shelters and 76 long-term rehabilitation centers for children in need, including street children. Short-term shelters provide accommodation for up to 90 days, and rehabilitation centers offer accommodation for up to 12 months. The rehabilitation centers also provide regular social, medical, psychological, and other types of services for non-residents. In 2016, shelters and centers provided services to 5,762 children.)

- Centers for Social Services for Family, Youth, and Children (Government-run program to provide services for victims of human trafficking, among other populations in need. In 2016, the number of shelters available to assess victims' needs and draft rehabilitation plans increased from 656 to 692.)

- Multiplication of the Anti-Trafficking National Referral Mechanism in Ukraine (joint program by the MSP and the OSCE to train officials in several regions of Ukraine to identify and provide services to trafficking victims. Involves collaborative work among local agencies and non-governmental partners. During the reporting period, the Government took steps to build the capacity of the NRM, including training more than 1,000 local officials.)

- Countering Trafficking in Persons Project (2004–2018) (USAID-funded project implemented by the IOM; aims to reduce trafficking in persons by building the capacity of Ukrainian institutions to address the problem by strengthening the NRM and increasing government funding for counter-trafficking efforts. Through the NRM, the Government granted victim status to 110 individuals during the reporting period.)

- UNICEF Country Program (2012–2016) (Aims to decrease social exclusion and disparities affecting children and ensure that socially excluded children benefit from quality health care and social services.)

Program is funded by the Government of Ukraine.

Ukraine has a variety of service providers for victims of human trafficking; however, the MSP must confer the official status of "victim of trafficking" on child trafficking victims in order for them to access available government services. Research found that delays in this practice often result from the insufficient provision of documentation to the MSP by local administrations.

Although the MSP provides services for children in shelters and social-psychological rehabilitation centers, the current availability of shelters and trained personnel is insufficient to fully address the extent of the child labor problem. The Centers for Social Services for Family, Youth, and Children have historically experienced a large turnover of staff due to an excessive workload and low pay.

In addition, the centers remain understaffed after budget cuts enacted in 2014 resulted in the layoff of 12,000 social workers. This continued to restrict the centers in their ability to efficiently address the main needs of human trafficking victims in 2016. Likewise, high turnover in the regions, where local agencies

are responsible for identifying trafficking victims under the NRM, has hampered the provision of services to victims.

Список використаних джерел

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