



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Regional Initiative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Free of Child Labour



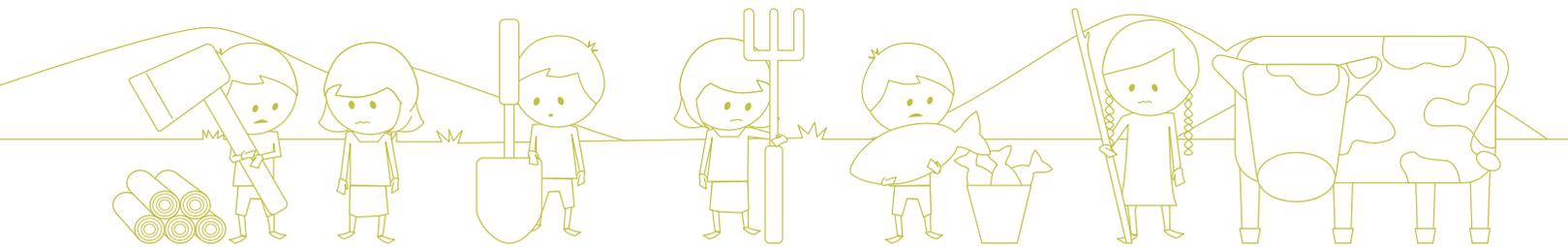
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1919-2019
SOCIAL JUSTICE
DECENT WORK

Viabile alternatives are available to rural children and youth

Let's eliminate child labour in agriculture



Findings of the regional study on child labour in
agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean



There are nearly
108 million
 children and adolescents

**IN CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE
 AROUND THE WORLD**



Worldwide



This represents **71%**
 of child labour in crop
 agriculture, fisheries,
 aquaculture, forestry and
 livestock raising.

Source: Global estimates of child labour:
 Results and trends 2012-2016 (ILO,
 2017).

**In the Americas
 (Canada and the United States are included)**



52% of child
 labour is found in
 agriculture.

Source: Global estimates of child
 labour: Results and trends
 2012-2016 (ILO, 2017).

**We must combat
 child labour in agriculture**
 Why?

This is how we
 will advance in the
**ACHIEVEMENT OF
 TARGET 8.7**
 of the Sustainable
 Development Agenda
**to eliminate child labour
 by 2025.**

Risk and danger

Agriculture is one of the most risky sectors to work in due to conditions associated with long working hours, exposure to extreme environmental conditions, use of and contact with chemicals such as pesticides, use of dangerous tools and machinery, etc. Hazardous work is one of the worst forms of child labour.

Informality

Much of the sector still operates in informal conditions. Therefore, children and adolescents working in agriculture are afforded the least protection by the law and policies. In addition, there is still low capacity to implement existing regulations and exceptions are made for workers in family enterprises and farms.

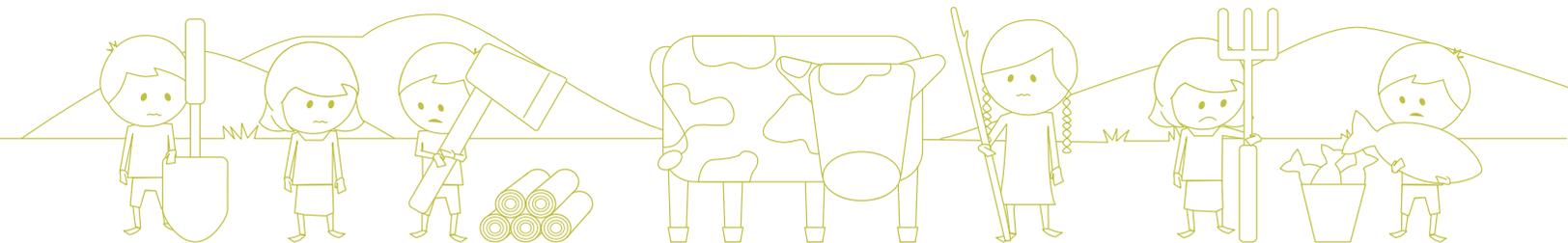
**Perpetuation
 of poverty**

Child labour in agriculture harms children's health and is an obstacle to children's education. As they grow into adulthood, child labourers are likely to continue to earn low incomes and resort to the labour of their own children. Human capital may not increase and, therefore, rural communities will not improve productivity nor benefit from innovation, impeding the development of the agriculture sector and the communities at large, thus perpetuating the cycle of rural poverty.

**A family
 cultural pattern**

Particular challenges in the sector include child labour in family farming. Cultural patterns persist that govern productive work and socially reproductive activities of the family nucleus, and include children. Family farmers lack the means and skills to implement alternatives.

Productive work includes subsistence and commercial agriculture. Socially reproductive activities include domestic chores and care for dependent members of the household and the labour force.



Not all activities performed by minors are considered child labour. Some activities are very positive for children's own development, and also for their families and communities.

Activities carried out by children are considered child labour when they...

Employ children and adolescents who have not reached the minimum age established in the national legislation of each country for participation in economic activity.



Interfere with compulsory education, causing children to leave school prematurely or require them to combine school with heavy work.



Are dangerous and harmful to their physical, mental, social or moral well-being.



Involve activities such as slavery, human trafficking, debt bondage, forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation or pornography.



Child and adolescent labour in agriculture

To combat it, the labour and agriculture sectors must join efforts

Between 2014 and 2015, the ILO and FAO carried out a joint analysis of child and adolescent labour in agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, which provided an updated picture of the sector and its main characteristics. The study offered a series of recommendations to improve public and private responses to the persistence of use of children and adolescents in this productive sector, considered one of the most dangerous on a global level.

The study analysed **statistics and data** on child labour in agriculture, the national **legislations** in place to address the problem and the experience of **programmes** aimed at eliminating child labour.

A total of 17 countries in the region that had updated information available were analysed. It also focused on family farming, since much of child labour consists of unpaid family work.

This is a brief summary of the results.

Statistics and data

A look at child and adolescent labour in agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean

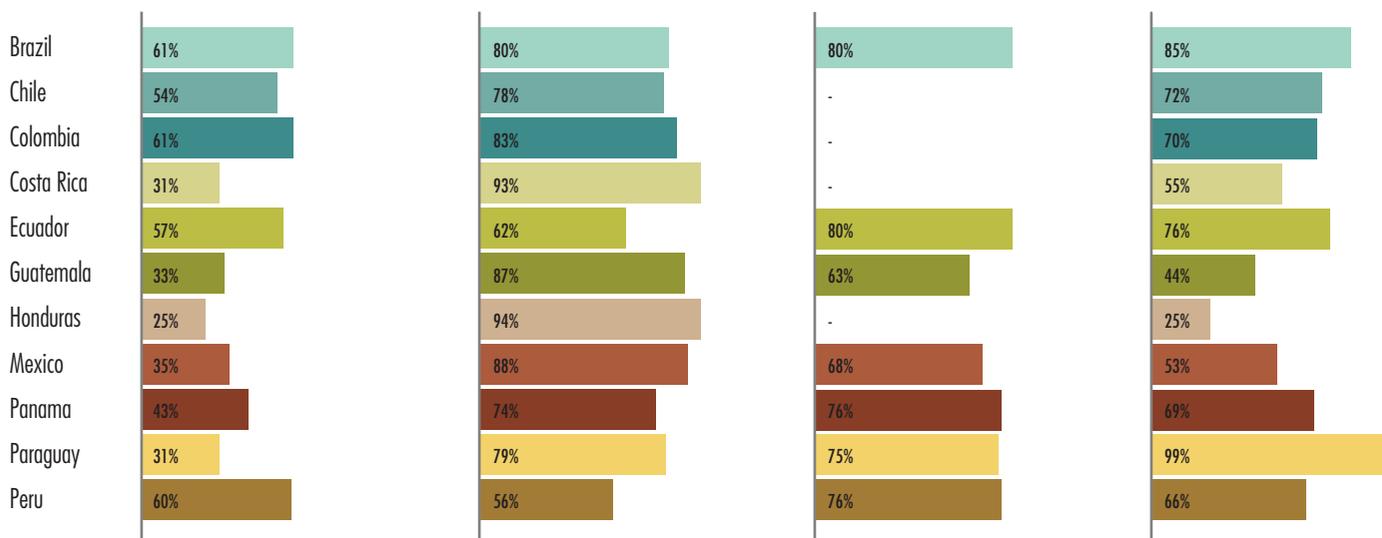
Children and adolescents (5-17) engaged in economic activity¹ (2012)²

Many are **below the legal age** to work in their country

Activities affect mostly boys and adolescent **men**

Most engage in **unpaid** family work

Most combine **work and school**



However, even when invisible in the data, girls are often involved in domestic work!

The supplementary percentage refers to children and adolescents who participate in agricultural activities and are not in school

Of children engaged in employment in this sector:

More than

39%

report working in inadequate environmental conditions.



15%

mentioned having had health problems associated with the activity, such as physical exhaustion or fatigue and minor injuries from cuts and burns.

30%

spend **more than 40 hours** a week on farm production activities, which is clearly not compatible with educational and recreational activities.

Even so, few countries report risks and health problems associated with farming activities.

The populations most vulnerable to trafficking, forced labour, bonded labour and other human rights violations are underage children and indigenous and migrant populations. However, very few statistics illustrate the problem situation.

Recommendations

- ✓ Process existing data that can generate figures and information on child labour in agriculture, disaggregated by gender, age and subsector.
- ✓ Analyse national surveys to determine specific situation of child labour in rural areas and incorporate child labour concerns into sector-specific measurement tools, such as censuses of agriculture.
- ✓ Conduct research on little explored topics such as child labour by subsector, types of crops, adolescent labour, hazardous work, migrant or indigenous children, domestic work in rural areas, and solutions to combat the child labour in family farming.
- ✓ Develop and implement instruments for identifying the risks child labourers are exposed to throughout the agricultural production chain, as well as alternatives for remediation.

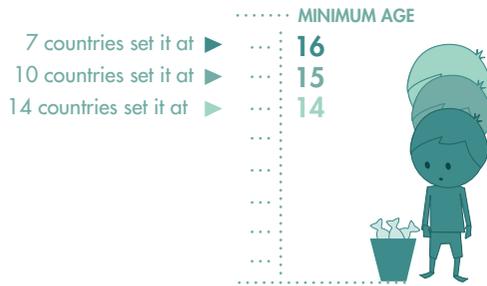
¹ Economic activity includes both the tasks that appropriate for children and adolescents and child labour and its worst forms.

² PNAD 2012, Brazil; ENANNA 2012, Chile; ENTI 2012, Colombia; ENTI 2012, Costa Rica; ENTI 2012, Ecuador; ENEI 2013, Guatemala; ENAHO 2011, Honduras; ENOE 2013, Mexico; EML 2012, Panama; EPH 2012, Paraguay; and ENAHO 2013, Peru.

Legislation

Although all countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 31 countries have ratified ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and 35 countries have ratified ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst forms of child labour, there is generally limited capacity to ensure adequate implementation of legislation in rural areas.

- All countries have set a minimum age:



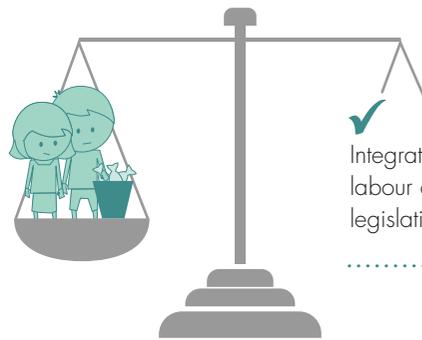
- Six of the countries³ allow exceptions (for ages 10, 12, 13 or 14) for family activities (2 countries), agricultural activities (2 countries) or training activities (2 countries).
- Eighteen countries in the region have drafted and approved lists of hazardous work at the national level that include certain farming activities that are prohibited.

- Hazardous work is prohibited for all minors, even in family farming.
- Legislations contain general provisions regarding working hours that vary with a person's age and the minimum wage established for each occupational category.
- Unfortunately, labour standards (minimum wage, working conditions, etc.) are often not applied adequately in the agriculture sector. Also, for the most part, child labour goes unpaid as is the case for most family work.
- If and when successfully implemented in the rural sector, labour inspection faces many constraints due to scarcity of personnel and resources to carry out inspections, problems to locate and access farms or workplaces, lack of support from the central inspection bureaus and lack of knowledge of applicable legislation.

Recommendations



Ensure protection of adolescent workers to improve their working conditions. In terms of safety and health at work, minimum wage and working hours, for example.



Integrate child and adolescent labour concerns into agricultural legislation.



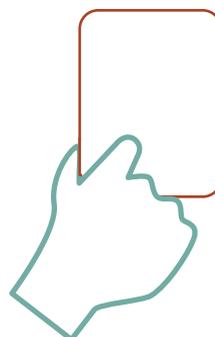
Decentralize and streamline enforcement mechanisms.



Encourage forums for dialogue on hazardous child labour to determine which activities are prohibited and which are accepted, and support efforts to update and implement the lists of hazardous child labour.



Review the system of penalties so as not to penalize poor families who resort to the use of child labour by necessity and not by choice.

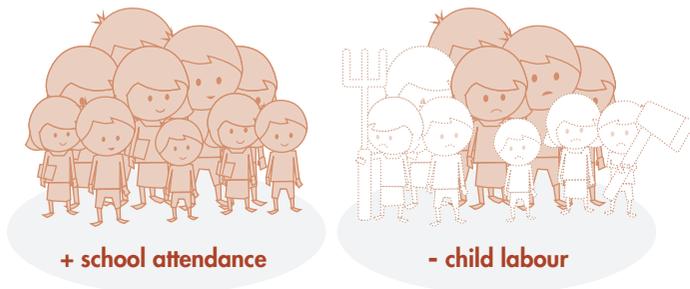


³ Legislative analyses for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

Policies and programmes

The main results of the analysis of **twenty-six programmes** and projects for eliminating child and adolescent labour in agriculture, implemented in sixteen Latin American and Caribbean countries,⁴ have been identified. Most interventions have focused on the main export crops, such as sugarcane from family or industrial farms.

- Expanded baselines, rapid assessments and research, including using gender-disaggregated data.
- Involvement of business associations that bring together large producers.
- Increased school attendance and reduction of child labour among children and adolescents under the minimum age of admission to employment.
- Preparing and updating the lists of hazardous child labour and national strategies to combat child labour that include components focusing on agriculture.
- Improved infrastructure and provision of school equipment.
- Strategies to ensure primary education.
- Vocational training aimed at adolescents to improve access to decent employment in appropriate safety and health conditions.
- Improving access to and strengthening of education and health services in migrant destination areas, with special regard to indigenous peoples.
- Limited impact on increasing the income of rural households, despite training support and access to credit.

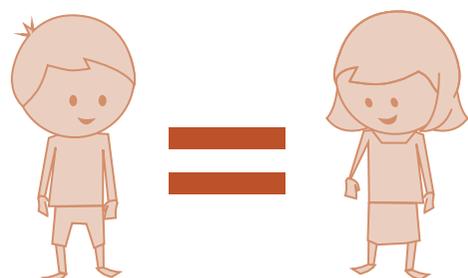


Recommendations

- ✓ Sensitize and raise awareness among agriculture-sector stakeholders, including the sector's ministries, to the importance of putting child labour concerns on their agendas.
- ✓ Design strategies to address the structural problems of the agriculture sector affecting the persistence of child labour, such as improving productivity, increasing income and reducing vulnerability in the sector through more efficient agricultural practices and improved access to domestic and international markets, inter alia.
- ✓ Mainstream agricultural child labour issues in the activities of the Ministries of Labour.
- ✓ Build the institutional capacities of and promote joint actions by the agriculture and labour sectors at all levels.
- ✓ Transform child labour into decent work for adolescents engaged in hazardous work (aged between the minimum age of admission to employment and 17 years), by improving working conditions through risk assessments, for example.
- ✓ Coordinate private initiatives by employers, producers and workers with public institutions, and consider the entire value chain in combating child labour in agriculture.
- ✓ Implement actions against agricultural child labour in areas of origin of migration.
- ✓ Develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes on child labour.



- ✓ Improve access to education in rural areas through vocational training opportunities and school curricula adapted to the needs of the agriculture sector.



⁴ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

How can we help REDUCE CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE?

Ministry of
LABOUR

Ministry of
AGRICULTURE

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Ensure** agricultural production free from child labour
- 2 Transform** hazardous agricultural activities into adequate alternatives, according to the law
- 3 Provide** quality education for children in rural areas
- 4 Eliminate** the worst forms of child labour

ADAPT THE
NATIONAL
LABOUR
SURVEYS



Agriculture
sector

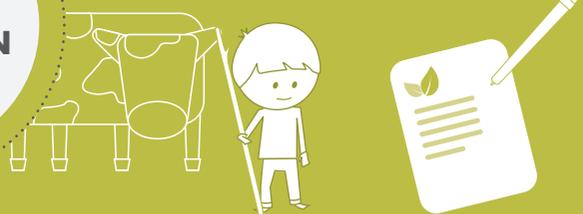


DATA
COLLECTION

Integrate
child labour
concerns



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
SURVEYS



INSPECTION



HARMONISE
LAWS



IMPROVE
IMPLEMENTATION



ENSURE
COMPLIANCE

Engage stakeholders
in dialogue on child labour.

Adapt school curricula for use in
rural communities and provide
vocational training for adolescents.

Provide financial support to families
who cannot afford to send their
children to school.

Extend social protection to rural
areas and small farmers.

**POLICIES AND
PROGRAMMES**

Train agriculture sector stakeholders
about child labour and harmful and
hazardous agricultural activities.

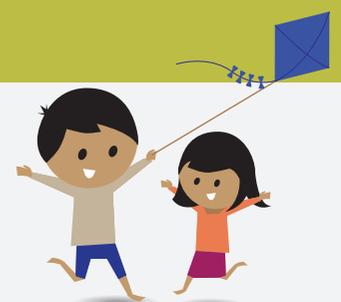
Improve agricultural practices and the
provision of resources to address the
challenges facing small farmers.

Monitor and evaluate agricultural
programmes to study their impacts.

Ensure adolescents' access to
protected employment opportunities.

REDUCING CHILD LABOUR

To build a sound future and sustainable agricultural development





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For further information please visit the following websites:

ILO

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>
sirti_oit@ilo.org

Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour

www.iniciativa2025alc.org/en
iniciativaregional@ilo.org

FAO

<http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/work-areas/child-labour/en/>
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