

# Regional Initiative

**Latin America and the  
Caribbean free of child labour**

# Initiative



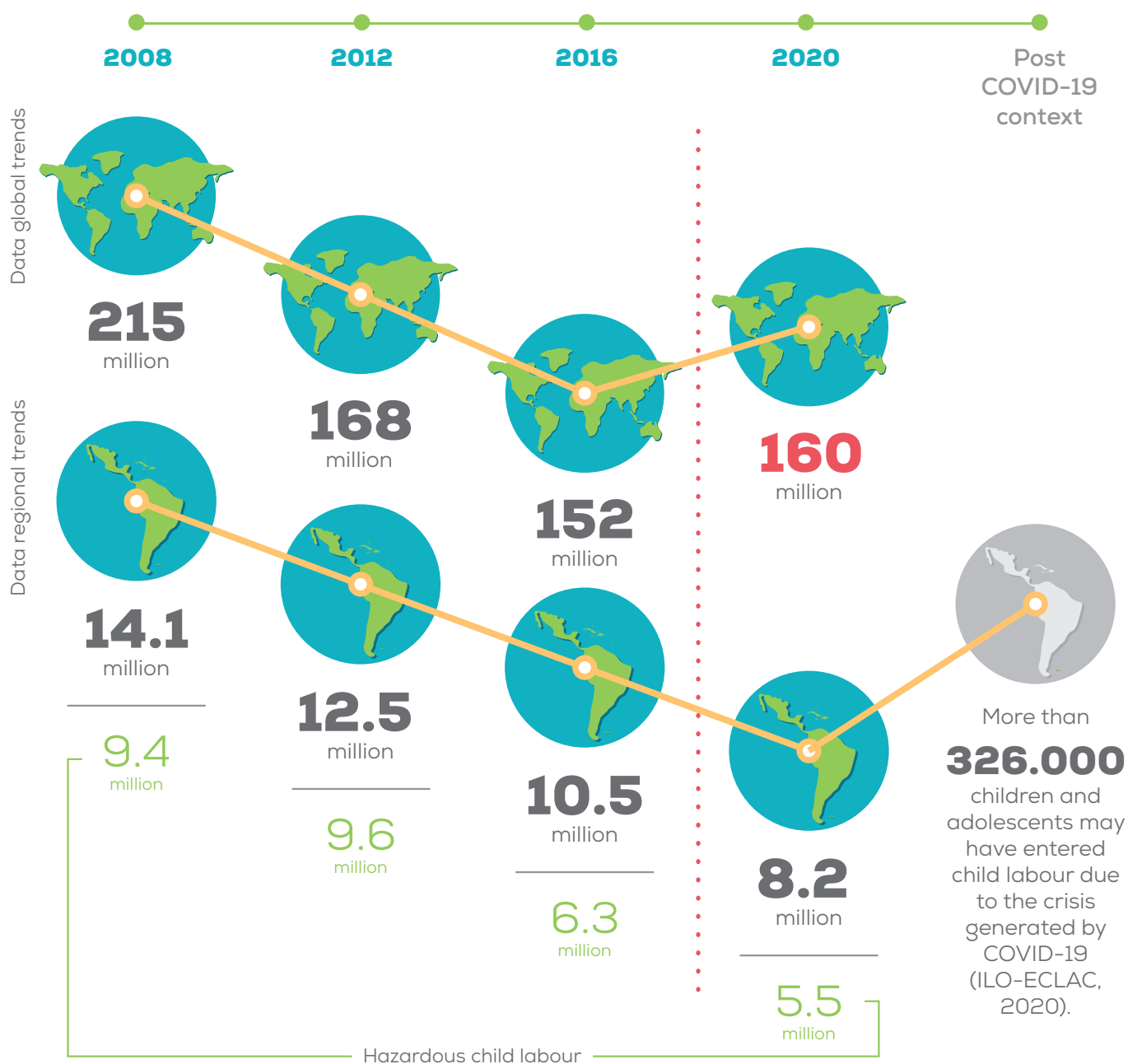
What is it? How does it work? What has it achieved?

# Child labour



is a reality for millions of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean. It leaves a sharp mark on their lives and constitutes a barrier to overcoming the persistent inequality in the region. Putting an end to child labour will make it possible to promote decent work trajectories, contribute to poverty reduction and build more equitable and inclusive societies.

## Child labour reduction



# Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour

## What is it?

It is an alliance led by 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the active participation of employers' and workers' organisations. Together they bring to life the commitment to prevent and eradicate child labour in the region through innovative and urgent policies, strategies and actions.

**30**  
countries

### High Level Authority

Made up of Ministers of Labour of the member countries. It meets within the framework of relevant international meetings.

- > Antigua and Barbuda
- > Argentina
- > Bahamas
- > Barbados
- > Bolivia
- > Brazil
- > Chile
- > Colombia
- > Costa Rica
- > Cuba
- > Dominican Republic
- > Ecuador
- > El Salvador
- > Grenada
- > Guatemala
- > Guyana
- > Haiti
- > Honduras
- > Jamaica
- > Mexico
- > Nicaragua
- > Panama
- > Paraguay
- > Peru
- > Saint Lucia
- > Saint Kitts and Nevis
- > Suriname
- > Trinidad and Tobago
- > Uruguay
- > Venezuela

**7** representatives  
of employers'  
organisations

**7** representatives  
of workers'  
organisations

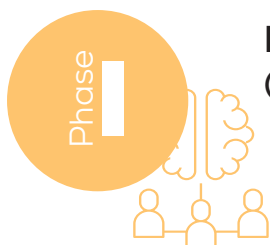
**Technical Secretariat**  
Responsibility of the ILO  
Regional Office for Latin  
America and the Caribbean.

**1** Technical  
Secretariat

**Network of Focal Points**  
Made up of representatives of the  
member countries and of employers'  
and workers' organisations.

# How does it work?

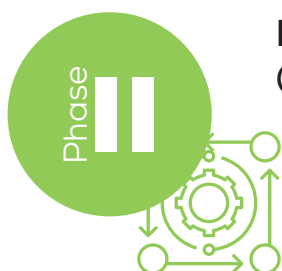
The actions of the Regional Initiative have been projected for the period **2014-2030** and are in line with the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development which, through **Target 8.7**, calls to “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 **end child labour in all its forms**”.



## **Institutionalisation**

**(2014-2017):**

Creation of the platform, its management and governance mechanisms in order to have a participatory and strategic organisation and working system.



## **National response**

**(2018-2021):**

Territorial application of instruments and tools to strengthen and improve the performance of national policies, programmes and services aimed at the prevention and eradication of child labour.



## **Acceleration and sustainability**

**(2022-2025):**

Acceleration of actions to prevent and eradicate child labour and protect permitted adolescent labour, promoting articulation between public and private actors and services (Accelerated Country Action Plans) in the context of socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **Consolidation and ownership**

**(2026-2030):**

Implementation, with efficient results, of national policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the full exercise of the rights of children and adolescents.

# What has it achieved?

## **Political institutionalisation:**

The eradication of child labour has been maintained as a **political priority**, which is reflected in a reduction of 2.3 million children and adolescents in this situation in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period 2016–2020. A joint response is provided with **a strategic plan to prevent and mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic** that have increased the risk of exposure to child labour and which jeopardize the progress made in the region.

## **Intergovernmental and tripartite consensus:**

The **joint work of government representatives, employers' and workers' organisations** has been consolidated, with an outstanding presence in national, regional and international advocacy spaces. The people who act as focal points have strengthened their capacities and act as spokespersons in events on the issue.

## **Cooperation and strategic alliances:**

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation** has been strengthened, demonstrating that the region and the social partners have the capacity, knowledge and experience to achieve Target 8.7. In this framework, interregional exchange between Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa has been initiated to accelerate the eradication of child labour in a coordinated manner.

## **Early response to the occurrence of child labour:**

In conjunction with ECLAC, the **Child Labour Risk Identification Model (CLRISK)** was created to interrupt the trajectory of child labour in vulnerable territories and productive sectors. This preventive model is based on the provision of public services and the promotion of public-private partnerships, especially in contexts of crisis and fragility such as that generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 10 countries in the region have implemented the CLRISK in their territories to prioritize their interventions within the framework of national public policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour, which allows for the maximization of resources.

## **Leaving no one behind:**

The gender strategy of the Regional Initiative has been defined, promoting the visibility, recognition and a **gender-sensitive approach** to the inequalities that affect children and adolescents in the area of child labour.

# What to focus on?



To reach Target 8.7 in terms of child labour requires that the countries of the region strategically concentrate their efforts on:

- i) **prevention** to interrupt the trajectory that pushes people into child labour;
- ii) promotion of **decent work**;
- iii) **supply chains** of productive sectors exposed to child labour;
- iv) education and **technical and vocational training**;
- v) targeting **population groups at special risk** (girls and female teenagers; migrants; indigenous and Afro-descendants/tribal peoples; and youths of both genders).



For this, Latin America and the Caribbean needs to:



**Strengthen the preventive approach to child labour**, promoting risk identification methodologies, such as the CLRISK and others, and with a gender focus.

**Increase the budget and capacity of child labour removal services**, within the framework of the implementation and territorialisation of the prevention model.



**Designing responses to hazardous child labour**, as well as promoting alternatives – such as job training – for adolescents of working age to enable them to enter decent work trajectories.

**Strengthen the effective implementation of national and subnational plans, policies and programmes for the prevention and eradication of child labour** with a gender perspective, providing them with budgets and improving coordination with social protection services.



**Continue to improve the knowledge base on emerging forms of child labour, especially hazardous child labour**, highlighting the particular vulnerability of some groups such as girls and female teenagers, migrants, indigenous and Afro-descendants/tribal peoples.

**Consolidate the action of the Regional Initiative** as a platform capable of energising tripartite action in decision-making, representation and direct co-responsibility towards the achievement of Target 8.7 of the SDGs.



**Continue to measure the effective progress of the countries of the region towards the elimination of child labour** in order to recognise progress and achievements, as well as gaps and areas for improvement.

**Share the experience of the Regional Initiative** with other geographical areas of the world.



# Sustainability is key to ending child labour for good

The Regional Initiative has designed the Regional Programme for Accelerating the Elimination of Child Labour in Latin America and the Caribbean (PRAETI, by its acronym in Spanish) as an operational instrument focused on strengthening national action plans through concrete targets, impactful activities and sufficient budget to accelerate the prevention and elimination of child labour. Through the PRAETI, the Regional Initiative seeks to achieve the first generation free of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus contributing to the promotion of decent work, social justice and the achievement of the SDGs.



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