

GOOD PRACTICES TO END CHILD LABOUR

Organization and management models free of child labour and hazardous adolescent labour

Distinction Award Mexico without Child Labour (MEXSTI)



Country
Mexico



Creation year and validity
2014 – to date



Responsible institution(s)

The Distinction Award Mexico without Child Labour (MEXSTI) is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (STPS-its acronym in Spanish), action that it carries out together with the Inter-Secretarial Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Working Adolescents of Allowed Aged in Mexico (CITI).

The CITI, presided by the STPS, is made up by the of the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB), the Ministry of Foreign Relations (SRE), the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), the Ministry of Economy (SE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), the Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT), the Ministry of Public Education (SEP), the Ministry of Health (SS), the Ministry of Tourism (SECTUR), the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS), the National System for the Integral Development of the Family (SNDIF), the Office of the Presidency of the Republic, the Attorney General's Office (PGR), the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH), the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (CDI), the Agrarian Attorney's Office (PA), the Labour Congress through the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), the Confederation of Industrial Chambers of the



Within the framework of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, eight factors have been prioritized with the potential to accelerate the rate of reduction in child labour and advance towards the achievement of target 8.7 of the SDGs.

In today's globalized world, value chains, also called production or supply chains, are increasingly complex and span a myriad of sectors, countries and regions. While it must be recognized that these processes of globalization of the economy and production have contributed to generating quality job opportunities, improving productivity, competitiveness and developing local or regional markets, it must also be recognized that the more links in the value chain, less control over each one of them, more elements to monitor and greater risk of non-compliance with fundamental principles and rights at work and especially in situations such as child labour.

United Mexican States (CONCAMIN) and the National System of Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPINNA).

The main actions for which the STPS and the CITI are responsible are the management of applications, carrying out verification, reviewing, assessment, opinion and follow-up visits at the working centres that wish to obtain or renew the Distinction Award MEXSTI.



Background

The Mexico without Child Labour Distinction Award was designed based on the previous experience of the Agricultural Companies Free of Child Labour Award (DEALTI), created in 2010 in recognition of agricultural companies that meet various requirements, including the non-use of labour child, to promote the protection and development of migrant agricultural workers and their families.

The MEXSTI Distinction Award recognizes the private, public and social sectors committed to the application of actions for the prevention and eradication of child labour. In the first edition, held within the framework of the World Day against Child Labour 2014, the award was presented to 98 participants, of which 50 were from the private sector, 41 from the public sector, 6 from NGOs and 1 from a trade union organization.



Issue we proposed to address

The Mexican State recognizes child labour as a prohibited activity¹ that compromises the future of girls, boys and adolescents and that entails violations of their rights, putting their physical, emotional, social and moral integrity at risk.

In Mexico, according to the Child Labour Module, annexed to the National Survey of Occupation and Employment 2017, 2.1 million children and adolescents between 5 and 17 years old work in the country. Of this group, 1.2 million are adolescents who carry out hazardous activities, mainly in the agricultural sector.

Given the seriousness and complexity of this problem, the actions for its prevention and eradication take into account both economic, social, cultural and legal-regulatory factors. They also involve government entities, employers' and workers' organizations, as well as fathers and mothers and civil society.

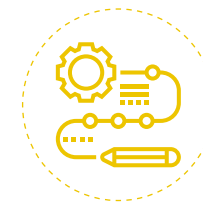
1 Fraction III of Article 123 section A of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States; in the general principles of the Federal Labour Law, as well as in the Fifth Title Bis on the Work of Minors.; Article 47, fractions V and VI of the General Law of the Rights of Children and Adolescents; 201 Bis of the Federal Criminal Code.



Objectives of the practice

The main objectives of the Distinction Award MEXSTI are:

- Disseminate management and organization models in the work centres for the generation and implementation of practices that avoid, in the centre itself or in its value chains, the use of child labour; and protect adolescent workers of allowed age by guaranteeing compliance with the current legal framework on the matter.
- Publicly acknowledge the work centres that reject the incorporation of children and adolescents into labour, both in their own processes and in the productive chains in which they participate; and protect adolescent workers of allowed age, proving that they have developed successful practices in the generation of adequate environments for the family, social and educational development of the child population.



Methodology developed

The Distinction Award MEXSTI was designed as a management model that helps work centres to harmonize their procedures with the regulations that prohibit child labour and protect the rights of adolescents in Jobs allowed.

The distinction is aimed at the following institutions:

- Private sector work centres: private capital work centres of any economic activity and sector can participate, with the exception of agricultural companies.
- Public sector institutions: agencies, autonomous entities and any entity of a public nature, whether at the Federal, state, municipal level, as well as of Mexico City and its 16 political delegations, can participate in carrying out more actions beyond those established in their Annual Operating Program or the regulations that apply to them.
- Civil society organizations: work centres of civil society organizations the purpose of which is related to the issue, can participate.
- Trade union organizations: unions, federations and trade union confederations that have orchestrated and implemented policies, programs and actions related to the issue, can participate.
- Confederations of chambers and employers' associations, business chambers, confederations of business chambers and employers' associations, which have facilitated and implemented policies, programs and actions related to the issue, can participate.

The requirements to apply for the MEXSTI Distinction are:

- Those work centres, entities of the public administration and the social sector that have developed practices (policies, programs, processes and actions) in the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of the rights of adolescents of allowed age to work can apply.
- The practice must have been implemented at least 12 months immediately prior to the registration without interruption and be in force at the time of application registration.

The work centre that participates should comply with six components that show the implementation of the actions:

Component 1 Policy for the prevention and eradication of child labour

It refers to actions that contribute to preventing and eradicating child labour. It is proposed that these go beyond the minimum obligations established by the national and international legal framework that apply to the matter and in accordance with their attributions and powers.

Component 2 Protection of the rights of adolescents in legal age to work

It takes into account the actions that promote and guarantee respect for the human and labour rights

of adolescents who are of working age. The same approach is maintained with actions beyond the minimum of the obligations established in the national and international legal framework that apply.

Component 3 Co-responsibility in the protection and guarantee of the human rights of children and adolescents

Values inter-sectoral actions focused on preventing, attending to and eradicating child labour and guaranteeing the enjoyment and restitution of human rights.

Component 4 Coordination strategies in the value chain

It is made up of actions that approach gender rights and perspective carried out in their value chain on the matter.

Component 5 Social responsibility in the community

It addresses the contributions made by the workplace, instance or organization in the field of its competences and capacities, to generate a positive impact in the locality in which it is established.

Component 6

Promotion of dignified or decent work

It alludes to actions for the generation of decent working conditions within work centres, instances or organizations, as well as the construction of value chains in the production process with zero tolerance for child labour.

The Mexican Government has an online page in which it provides the advice required for the application of the Distinction. The dependency that provides the care, the place, the hours of attention and other data for adequate orientation are specifically indicated. (See: <http://sistemas2.edomex.gob.mx/TramitesyServicios/Tramite?tram=4398&cont=0>)

On the other hand, at the time of the calls, detailed information on the bases, participation requirements, calendars and the required data are disclosed. (See: https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/255220/Convocatoria_DIMEXSTI_2017.pdf)

The application process takes into account several stages. First of all, the interested entity must manage its application in the **online registry**. Once the application is accepted, the participant must send the **supporting documents and evidence** to the address included in the page for their respective validation. When the General Head Department for Labour Inclusion and Work for Minors of the STPS receives the applications and documents, it assigns a specific registration number, notifies the participating entity and begins the verification process with visits to the centres' operating work areas and the preparation of the corresponding verification records.

The files are finally sent to the Judging Committee, which makes the assessment and issues the final opinion. The Distinction is awarded to those who meet the minimum score established and the distinction is widely publicized in the media established by the STPS. It is valid for three years, after which the renewal process must be carried out.



Expected results

Since its creation, the MEXSTI distinction has been regularly applied. By 2017, four editions had already been carried out: 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. By 2016, more than 445 work centres had registered to obtain the Distinction, and of these, 273 had obtained the award (136 public, 123 private, 12 civil society organizations and 2 unions). The recognized work centres had carried out actions beyond the purpose for which they were created and had contributed significantly to the prevention and eradication of child labour, as well as to the protection of adolescent workers of allowed age.

The Distinction, likewise, has had a high impact in the country. It has been established that 29 states had been targeted: Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Mexico City, Coahuila, Colima, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, Guerrero, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico State, Michoacán, Morelos, Nuevo León, Puebla, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Veracruz and Zacatecas.

However, the award application process is currently disabled. The official website of the Mexican Government contains a statement that informs work centres interested in obtaining the MEXSTI Distinction that, as a result of a maintenance and reorganization process, the registration system is offline until further notice; and invites you to consult the page regularly to learn about the new call that may be made.



Criteria that identify it as a good practice



Innovation

The MEXSTI Distinction gathers the experience that the Mexican Government had developed with the Agricultural Company Free of Child Labour Distinction (DEALTI) and redesigns it to expand its impact in the fight against child labour, incorporating, in addition to the private sector, the institutions of the three levels of government. In the same way, it now takes into account in the application the trade union and civil society organizations that also carry out actions on the subject.



Relevance

The STPS, who chairs the CITI, with competence to combat and eradicate child labour, develops the MEXSTI Distinction strategy as a mechanism to promote and strengthen the culture of social responsibility and the development of good practices of care and protection of the rights of the children and adolescents, contributing to actions in the fulfilment of targets linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The relevance of the management is based on the persistence of child labour in Mexico. By 2017, the country registered 2.1 million children and adolescents in illegal occupations, of which 73% were carried out by boys and male adolescents and 29% by girls and female adolescents.



Effectiveness

The strategy designed by the Mexican Government with the MEXSTI Distinction is reported to be effective in promoting the involvement and commitment of work centres, as well as public entities and civil society, with the application of policies, programs and actions in favour of the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of adolescent workers of legal age.

Since its creation in 2014 and until 2018, 380 distinctions had been awarded, benefiting 298,634 people (142,800 women and 155,834 men), which guarantees that this population knows what child labour is and the damage it causes, as well as hazardous occupations prohibited by law for those of legal age to work.



Replicability

The MEXSTI Distinction has developed a management model that has made social initiatives in the field visible and allows learning and the exchange of successful experiences, contributing to its sustainability and replication. It allows the strengthening of public policies and programs on child labour not only in the country, but also in other latitudes.



Sustainability

The benefits that the MEXSTI Distinction represents for companies has contributed to the sustainability of the strategy. It contributes to the public recognition of accredited companies and producers through the labelling that they insert in the packaging of their products. They thus guarantee their consumers and clients that they promote values and principles such as sustainability, the quality of work life of their workers and that they develop actions for the benefit of the communities and that promote the prevention

and eradication of child labour to break the cycle of poverty. Likewise, it reinforces their positioning before their investors, clients, suppliers and towards society in general by being recognized as a “No Child Labour” workplace.



Transfer of the practice among countries

The MEXSTI Distinction has been presented at several international events:

- Portfolio of programs of the Inter-American Network for Labour Administration (RIAL), of the Inter-American Conference of Labour Ministries (CIMT), of the Organization of American States (OAS).
- Meetings of the Work Groups of the CIMT of the OAS, which are held to comply with the mandates of the Ministerial Meetings. In this instance, technical officials of the Labour Ministries participate to approach the priority topics that were identified by titleholders of the labour portfolios.



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