



International
Labour
Organization



Regional Initiative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Free of Child Labour

GOOD PRACTICES TO END CHILD LABOUR

Digitalization for quality and coverage of statistical operations against child labour

Observatory of Child and Adolescent Labour (OTIA-its acronym in Spanish) and
Survey of Activities of Children and Adolescents (EANNA-its acronym in Spanish)



Country
Argentina



Creation year and validity

The Child and Adolescent Labour Observatory (OTIA) was put into operation in 2003, as part of one of the components of the “Child Labour Survey and Observatory Program”. Currently, it remains active. For 2016, it developed the Survey of Activities of Girls, Boys and Adolescents (EANNA).



Responsible institution(s)

The OTIA is attached to the Argentine Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, through its Government Secretariat of Labour and Employment. The development of its activities has been framed in successive agreements agreed with international organizations, such as UNICEF, with the agreement “Contribution to the Child and Adolescent Labour Observatory”; UNDP, with the agreement “Information system for evaluation and monitoring of employment, work and social inclusion”; and the ILO, UNDP and UNICEF interagency agreement “Joint Support Program for the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour”.



Child Labour and
Information and
Communications Technologies

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.

As social challenges continue, the differential value of the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), to innovate in actions aimed at development and social inclusion in the countries, grows. ICTs can improve and make more effective the responses of governments and organizations for the fulfillment of fundamental rights. Therefore, they have the potential to reduce gaps in education, economy, health, work, etc. They help to produce and process, organize and analyze information in a cost-efficient way to make evidence-based policy decisions and subsequently assess them.



Issue we proposed to address

For 2016, it was estimated that in Argentina 10% of boys and girls between 5 and 15 years old were engaged in productive activities, with a higher incidence in rural areas (19.8%). It had also been identified that 32% of adolescents between 16 and 17 years old performed at least one productive activity at the national level; while in rural areas 43.5% did so.

The results indicated that child and adolescent labour was more widespread in rural areas and in the agriculture sector. When it was focused on urban areas, there was a greater incidence in the commercial sector. Self-consumption activities were more relevant among rural adolescents in north-western Argentina and the Pampa region; and intensive domestic activities, with a female prevalence, gained relevance among those urban residents of Greater Buenos Aires, northwest Argentina and Cuyo, and the rural areas of the northwest and northeast.

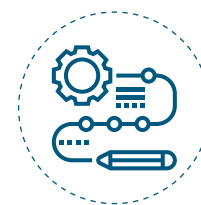
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Obtaining regular, reliable and quality information on child labour and its trend is essential for public and private entities, with competence in the subject, to guide strategies and define specific and effective public policies. In the same way, providing a baseline favours the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among which decent work is promoted and, in particular, the eradication of child labour in all its forms. For this reason, the Argentine State has committed to the development of information technologies to combat child labour through the OTIA and with the application of the EANNA.



Objectives of the practice

The OTIA laid out as its main objective to contribute to the generation of quality diagnoses on child labour that would allow the definition of policies and programs, as well as follow-up and redirecting actions. In the development of this objective, it implements the Survey of Activities of Girls, Boys and Adolescents (EANNA), in order to provide statistics on people between 5 and 17 years old involved in economic and non-economic activities, specifying general demographic, educational and socioeconomic characteristics of the households to which they belong, detailing the distinctive features of child labour and the main reasons that support it.



Methodology developed

The OTIA and the application of the EANNA were designed aiming to provide relevant information to public and private entities for the orientation of public policies and the development of awareness strategies aimed at the community in general.

For its part, the EANNA proposed as a target population children and adolescents between 5 and 17 years old. The sample was structured in such a way that it could provide reliable information for the analysis of the link to child labour in the population aged 5 to 15 years old, for whom work is prohibited, and for the group of adolescents aged 16 to 17, for whom the permitted work is established in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The survey was designed to be applied in urban areas for seven months, between November 2016 and May 2017. For its part, field work in rural areas was carried out between June and September 2017. The number of 26,115 effective surveys were applied in urban areas and 9,697 in rural areas. The sample design used was a complex type that comprises two stages of probabilistic selection, which involve stratification and a systematic sampling proportional to the size in each one of them.

Regarding the questionnaires, the conceptual design was agreed between the technical teams of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC

-its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. These were applied in paper format for urban areas and with digital devices for rural areas.

There were three booklets:

- 1 The first registered the characteristics of the house.
- 2 The second collected information on the basic sociodemographic aspects of the household members, as well as the educational, occupational and income characteristics of the members aged 18 years old and over, and data on the care and attention of children under 5 years old. These first two proposed an adult household member as an informant.
- 3 The third booklet was divided into three thematic blocks. In the first, questions regarding educational characteristics and paths were addressed; in the second, the questions were about the development of recreational, domestic and self-consumption activities; and in the third, questions were included about the performance of commercial-type work activities in different reference periods (week and year). This was answered directly by children and adolescents, which meant one of the greatest challenges of the EANNA investigation strategy.

The questionnaire aimed at minors and, although it did not constitute a block of questions, asked about wishes and expectations upon reaching the age of 18.



Expected Results

The main contribution of the OTIA and the application of the EANNA is specified in the provision of updated statistical information that provides knowledge for the design and planning of public policies aimed at the prevention and eradication of child labour. The information is available on a website with public access.



Economic, human resources and inputs required

The EANNA was financed with resources from the World Bank and with human and technical resources from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the INDEC, the public entities that participated in its development.

Likewise, the focus on the activities of boys, girls and adolescents, in particular, makes it the only statistical operation with national coverage that delves into these issues in depth.



Criteria that identify it as a good practice



Innovation

Compared with the 2004 survey, the EANNA applied in 2016 - 2017 innovated in coverage, expanding and complementing the national level with information disaggregated at the regional level. It included rural areas, both grouped and dispersed, in the measurement. In order to address the rural environment, innovations were made in the sampling frame and in field operations. Likewise, the focus on the activities of boys, girls and adolescents, in particular, makes it the only statistical operation with national coverage that delves into these issues in depth.



Relevance

The need for the sustained measurement of child labour in Argentina arises from the incidence that still exists in the country. In this measure, it is essential to maintain statistics and diagnoses with reliable and updated information that allow supporting each political decision on empirical evidence.



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