



International  
Labour  
Organization



Regional Initiative  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Free of Child Labour

## GOOD PRACTICES TO END CHILD LABOUR

### Local evidence as differential value in the national measurements

Decent Work Municipal Indicator System (SIMTD-its acronym in Spanish)



**Country**  
Brazil



**Creation year and validity**  
2012 – to date



**Responsible institution(s)**

The Municipal Decent Work Indicators System (SIMTD-its acronym in Spanish) was developed jointly by the Brazilian Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Brazilian Government, within the framework of the Decent Work Monitoring and Progress Assessment Project (MAP), carried out with the collaboration of the European Community. The system is available at the page <http://simtd.oit.org.br/>.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MTE) participated, on the part of the Government, leading the initiative to compile a list of decent work indicators for Brazil. Likewise, employers' and workers' organizations were linked to the consolidation of the list. For their part, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) and academia provided technical assistance.



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.



## Background

Since 2006, the Brazilian Government has been working on the design and establishment of indicators that allow it to assess progress in meeting the goals of the Decent Work Agenda in the country. To this end, it has been framed within the concept of decent work proposed by the ILO in 1999 on “the opportunities for men and women to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.”<sup>1</sup>

In 2009, ILO organized a tripartite workshop in order to evaluate the indicators proposed by Brazil and analyze the possibility of expanding the measurements by including new indicators, such as child labour. The information that the country had available and the main indicators that the organization had already homologated were taken into account for the study.

The measurement of the variables on decent work has been developing since then and has become a fundamental source of information to establish the evolution of the variables that define decent work. Based on this, for 2012, ILO carried out a project with the Brazilian Government for the design and implementation of the System of Municipal Decent Work Indicators, taking a step forward in

measurement by gathering data that would allow identifying opportunities and challenges regarding the promotion of decent work, managing to disaggregate them at the municipal level. The system was launched in 2015.



## Issue we proposed to address

With the implementation of SIMTD, Brazil sought to generate indicators that address decent work and with it, the situation of child labour, disaggregating it at the municipal level. The measurements of these variables, from 1992 to 2007, made it possible to establish progress in the sustained reduction of child labour, as well as in the implementation of protection policies for children and adolescents.

However, for the same period of time, there was a worrying resistance to reducing the proportion of young people who neither study nor work. Regarding child labour, the measurements made it possible to reveal the ways in which it was concentrated: child labour in domestic work, in family farming and in informal activities of trade and urban service provision.

In 2012, the Decent Work Profile in Brazil was published<sup>2</sup> with the results for the period between 2004 and 2009. Here, it was found that the number of employed boys, girls and adolescents, between 5 and 17 years old, had decreased by 1.5 million, going from 5.30 million to 4.25 million in that five-year period. Looking in particular at the group of adolescents between 14 and 15 years old who worked, a decrease from 19.9% to 16.1% was observed in the same period. However, approximately 1.15 million people of these ages were still employed in 2009.



## Objectives of the practice

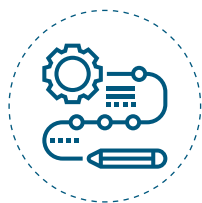
The SIMTD Brazil becomes a fundamental tool to follow-up on the compliance with the objectives that underlie decent work, that is:

- Regarding rights at work, especially those defined as fundamental (freedom of association, union freedom, and the right to collective negotiation; elimination of discrimination on matters of employment and occupation; elimination of forced or mandatory labour and abolition of child labour).
- The promotion of productive and quality employment.
- Expansion of social protection.
- Strengthening of social dialogue.

<sup>1</sup> Revista Internacional del Trabajo, vol. 122 (2003), no. 2 (no date). (see [https://guia.oitcinterfor.org/sites/default/files/experiencias/La\\_medicion\\_del\\_TD\\_con\\_indicadores\\_estadisticos.pdf](https://guia.oitcinterfor.org/sites/default/files/experiencias/La_medicion_del_TD_con_indicadores_estadisticos.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> See at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/---ilo-brasilia/documents/publication/wcms\\_234424.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/---ilo-brasilia/documents/publication/wcms_234424.pdf)

Likewise, it lays out among its objectives to become an annual monitoring and assessment instrument that allows to periodically survey the main advances and changes derived from the policies; and analyze the heterogeneity and diversity of situations in the country in all dimensions of decent work.



### Methodology developed

The SIMTD is made up of an information base that contains absolute data and decent work indicators. It has the capacity to disaggregate and provide information for the 5,565 municipalities in the country.

The SIMTD integrates the database available from the 2010 Census. Likewise, it uses other sources of information from the IBGE, such as the Municipal Basic Information Survey (MUNIC), the Gross Domestic Product of the municipalities and CEMPRE. It takes into account, in the same way, the administrative records and official statistics of the different institutions of the National Statistical System, such as the Annual Report on Social Information (RAIS), the labour inspection records of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MTE) and Social Security statistics and information on social assistance programs of the Ministry of Social Development (MDS). The data refer to different periods, according to the availability of information and the nature of the analysis, with a predominance of the period 2010 to 2013.

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SIMTD assesses 18 dimensions organized in four areas that include: employment, social security and protection, rights at work and social dialogue and gender and race equality, and serves government institutions, employers' and workers' organizations for decision-making on public policies.



### Economic, human resources and inputs required

In the framework of the Project "Monitoring and Assessment of Decent Work Advances" (MAP) of ILO and the European Commission (EC), the funding for the development of the decent work profile in Brazil was received.



### Criteria that identify it as a good practice



### Innovación

The SMIDT was constituted as the first international experience of measuring decent work at the subnational level, based on the recommendations of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the measurement of decent work (ILO, 2008).



### Relevance

The ILO agreed, in 2008, to carry out a pilot test in a certain number of countries to collect information on indicators that would show the evolution of the promotion of decent work. The Government of Brazil expressed interest in collaborating with the initiative, together with Austria, Malaysia, Tanzania and Ukraine.

The Brazilian Government raised the relevance of its inclusion in the project, taking into account that it had already been compiling a list of indicators to assess its progress in achieving the goals of the Decent Work Agenda in the country, implemented in 2006. Inclusion as the pilot country represented an opportunity to assess the progress made during the 2010s.



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