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Free of Child Labour



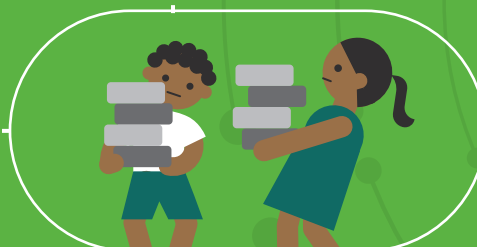
UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

# CHILD LABOUR RISK IDENTIFICATION MODEL

METHODOLOGY FOR DESIGNING  
PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES  
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

SECOND (REVISED) EDITION  
2022





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This document is part of the agreement signed between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on “Child Labour, Poverty and Inequality”, an inter-agency action promoted by the ILO in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour. This joint action seeks to generate knowledge to improve decision-making on policies aimed at the prevention and sustained eradication of child labour in the region.

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# INTRODUCTION

Child labour is a widespread and persistent phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its occurrence is directly linked to the violation of the fundamental rights of boys, girls and adolescents, and generates profound and lasting negative impacts throughout life (ECLAC, 2017). In recognition of these profound negative consequences, for more than 20 years, the countries of the region have been making great efforts to eradicate this scourge. These include the ratification of international instruments—especially the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the International Labour Organization (ILO)—, the materialization of important advances in legislative matters at the national level, the development of a knowledge base on the subject and the promotion of prevention and eradication policies and programs. This has led to a significant reduction in the incidence of child labour<sup>1</sup>, which places Latin America and the Caribbean in a privileged position to become the first developing region free of child labour (ILO, 2013).

According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2017), 10.5 million children and adolescents were in child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean, corresponding to 5.3% of the regional population of 5 to 17 years old. Although there is a downward trend when comparing these results with those of 2008—in this period, child labour was reduced by approximately 4 million—, it is also verifiable that progress is slow, and it is expected that child labour may increase significantly due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (ECLAC-ILO, 2020), which calls for redoubling efforts to avoid a setback.

The complexity of the phenomenon, combined with a complex economic scenario for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>2</sup>, calls not only to redouble efforts to avoid a setback, but also to take action to accelerate the rate of reduction in child labour. In this context, 30 countries in the region, together with employers' and workers' organizations, carry out the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, which seeks to accelerate the pace of eradication of this serious problem to achieve compliance with Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda.

To achieve the ambitious goal of eliminating all forms of child labour by 2025, the Regional Initiative has developed a Policy Accelerator Framework<sup>3</sup>. This includes a series of strategies that seeks to maximize the scope and effectiveness of social protection and education systems in the prevention and eradication of child labour, under the coordination of the respective Ministries of Labour (ILO, 2017). The Accelerating Policy Framework is based on the combination of two approaches: on the

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1 "It is probable that these advances have also been driven, in greater part, by more extensive economic and demographic forces that accompanied the government efforts" (ILO, 2017:3).

2 See: ECLAC (2017). Brechas, ejes y desafíos en el vínculo entre lo social y lo productivo.

3 See: <https://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/acceleration-framework-RI.pdf>

one hand, a protection approach for the withdrawal of child labour and the restoration of rights, and on the other, a preventive approach, which includes actions designed to timely identify and intervene boys and girls who are on a path towards child labour, to prevent their early entry into the labour market.

Within these actions, and considering that it is imperative to provide reliable, comprehensive and timely data that serve as a basis to determine the priorities of national and sub-national action aimed at the prevention and elimination of child labour, the ILO Regional Office for the Americas, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, promoted an alliance with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in order to jointly generate tools and knowledge that enable the timely identification of children and adolescents who are on the path towards child labour.

From this alliance, a tool with two methodologies emerged: *the Child Labour Risk Identification Model and the Child Labour Vulnerability Index*, which, although with differences, allow —based on the statistical information existing in the countries— to identify the territories in which there is greater probability or vulnerability of child labour and estimate the weight of various risk indicators in the territories, in order to define which multi-sectoral actions are most relevant in them to interrupt the development of child labour. This would enable countries, both at the national and sub-national levels, to have reliable information to design focused and articulated responses, improve the performance and effectiveness of public policies, advance in the achievement of national goals, and contribute to achievement of the global commitments assumed.

The document is divided into five sections. The first examines, based on the available information, the current context of child labour in the region, analysing its prevalence in the countries and looking for common characteristics among them. The second reviews different studies in order to develop an analytical body that accounts for the factors associated with child labour. This section is divided into two parts, on the one hand, the factors associated with the context are analysed and, on the other hand, evidence is provided about the factors of the home and of the child himself. The third section

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