

Child labour in Central and South America



It is currently estimated that **10.5 million** children and adolescents from 5 to 17 years old are in child labour situation in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.



This represents a reduction of **1.5%** in the participation of minors in child labour



2 million children and adolescents withdrawn from child labour

2012



Participation of children and adolescents in child labour was **8.80%**



2016

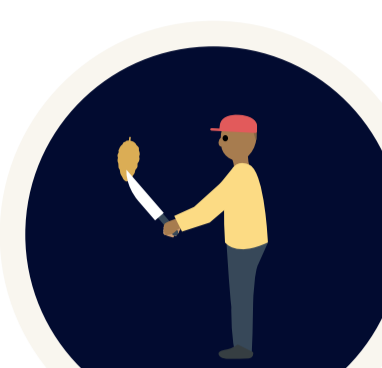


Participation of children and adolescents in child labour reduced to **7.30%**



Young children make up the largest group among children subjected to child labour.

→ **37%** group of 5 to 11 years old
28% group of 12 to 14 years old
35% group of 15 to 17 years old



Hazardous work

→ Higher prevalence in the group of 15 to 17 years old (**8%** of children in the relevant age group)

ILO Estimates (2016)
Source: Alliance 8.7. Regional data sheet of the Americas. Global Estimates on Child Labour and Modern Slavery, ILO, 2017

In 6 countries of Central America, an estimated of 1,969,112 children and adolescents from 5 to 17 years old are in child labour.

This represents an increase of **5.76%** of child labour instead of a reduction

107,268 children and adolescents have entered the labour force

Guatemala is the country with the highest incidence of child labour with 790,243 child labourers, followed by **Nicaragua** with 589,846, in third place is **Honduras** with a total of 404,642, **El Salvador** follows with 130,157, then **Costa Rica** with 30,369 and finally **Panama** is the country with the least child labourers with 23,855 minors

In 6 countries of South America, it is estimated that 5,903,579 children and adolescents from 5 to 17 years are in child labour.

This represents only a **slight decrease** despite the high rates of economic growth and poverty reduction in the subregion

Brazil is the country with the highest incidence of child labour with 2,391,000 children labourers, followed by **Peru** with 1,619,200; in third place is **Colombia** with a total of 644,000; **Argentina** follows with 613,630; then **Paraguay** with 416,425 and finally **Chile** is the country with the lowest number of children in child labour with 219,624 minors.

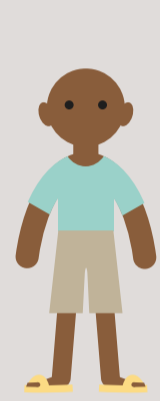
Source: Mapping on the problem of child labour and key actors in the Subregion of Central and South America.

Division of Child Labour by Sex

Child labour in the subregions involves mostly boys and adolescents



Central America



Boys and adolescents

The percentage of boys and adolescents working in **Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama** exceeds 70%, **Guatemala** follows with 67.7% and **Nicaragua** with 60.1%



Girls and adolescents

The percentage of girls and adolescents working in all the countries is less than 39%



South America



Boys and adolescents

The percentage of boys and adolescents in **Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay** exceeded 60%, **Peru** stood at 58.1%, **Argentina** at 56.6%



Girls and adolescents

The percentage of girls and young women working in all the countries is less than 43%

Source: Mapping on the problem of child labour and key actors in the Subregion of Central and South America.

Child Labour by Sector

Child labour in the subregions is predominantly rural



Central America

The percentage of child labour in the rural sector in **Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama** exceeds 60%

Only in **Costa Rica** the percentage is lower than the regional average with a 43.3%



South America

The percentage of child labour in the rural sector in **Paraguay, Peru and Colombia**, exceeds 50%

In the rest of the studied countries, the percentage is 41% in **Brazil**, 25% in **Argentina** and 19% in **Chile**

Source: Mapping on the problem of child labour and key actors in the Subregion of Central and South America.

Minimum Legal Age for Employment



Central America

For **5 countries** in the subregion, the minimum legal age to work is **14 years**

Only in **Costa Rica** the minimum age to work is **15 years**



In 6 countries of the subregion, **45.1%** of children work below the legal minimum age.
54.4% of child labourers are within the permissible age to work.



South America

In **Peru and Paraguay**, the minimum legal age to work is **14 years**.

In **Chile and Colombia**, the minimum legal age to work is **15 years**.

Argentina and Brazil raised the legal age to work up to **16 years**.



In 6 countries of the subregion, **49.6%** of children work below the legal minimum age.
50.4% of children labourers are within the permissible age to work.

Source: Mapping on the problem of child labour and key actors in the Subregion of Central and South America.

Children and Adolescents in Hazardous Work

Central America

Out of the total number of child labourers from 5 to 17 years old, **3 countries** in the subregion show more than 50% of children in hazardous work

Led by **Guatemala** with 88.4%, followed by **El Salvador** with 67.7%, and finally **Honduras** with 59.3%

Costa Rica and Nicaragua show percentages below 50%. **Costa Rica** with 42.82% and **Nicaragua** down to 3.6%

South America

In all countries, the percentage of hazardous work exceeds the regional average, which is 4.4%.

Led by **Paraguay** with 21.2%, **Peru** with 16.8%, down to **Argentina** with 6.0% and **Chile** with 5.9%

For **Brazil and Colombia** there is no information available



Source: Mapping on the problem of child labour and key actors in the Subregion of Central and South America.