



International
Labour
Organization



Regional Initiative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Free of Child Labour



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Experience of the Child Labour Risk Identification Model

MEXICO



Mexico¹ was part of the group of pilot countries in the implementation of the Child Labour Risk Identification Model (CLRISK) and its experience has served as a reference for the rest of the countries of the Regional Initiative.



Motivations

The high prevalence of child labour in Mexico was one of the motivations for applying CLRISK. In 2017, the figures showed that 2.3 million children and adolescents were working in the country. In addition, there was already a consensus among the authorities and technicians on the need to articulate State services to face the challenge of reducing child labour.

The implementation of CLRISK was led and coordinated by the General Directorate of International Relations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (STPS-its acronym in Spanish), and also had the active participation of the General Directorate of Research and Labour Statistics of the same Secretariat and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI-its acronym in Spanish).

In 2017, the figures showed that 2.3 million children and adolescents were working in the country.



¹ The results of the model can be found at the following links: http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/ModeloRiesgoTI_FichaNacional_Mexico.pdf (national file); http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/ModeloRiesgoTI_FichasFederativas_Mexico.pdf (state record).



Facilitators

One of the main facilitators in the Mexican experience was the existence and operation of the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Workers (CITI- its acronym in Spanish)², with high political support and the presence of all relevant actors for a comprehensive approach to the subject. In fact, the Commission emerged in 2013 as a response to the need to articulate actions to confront the persistence of child labour, as a result of a previous diagnosis that confirmed the multiplicity of actions that existed in the country in a dispersed manner.



Coordination mechanisms

The Commission was the main inter-sectoral coordination mechanism for the implementation of CLRISK and participated throughout the entire process: from the decision to carry it out, the definition of variables, information management, discussion and analysis of results, as well as in the diffusion at the governmental and subnational level, since the CITI, as a space for articulation and deliberation, is replicated in each of the states of the country. The fact that an inter-sectoral body, with high-level



political support, is the one that has promoted the implementation of CLRISK gave legitimacy to the process and allowed it to advance within the established deadlines. The technical teams of the STPS were an important part in the success of the implementation in Mexico. The involvement of the labour statistics team of the Ministry of Labour was fundamental, and it actively participated as a technical counterpart in the statistical discussion and appropriated the tool, acquiring the ability to run it on its own. He also highlighted the dissemination and advocacy work carried out by the Focal Point of the Regional Initiative.

The participation and support of



stand out as a facilitating element for advocacy, associated with the legitimacy of both institutions that generated trust and adherence.



Difficulties

Among the difficulties, the change of government is identified, which implied, together with the changes in the authorities, modifications in the institutional architecture, budgets and availability of human resources. In practice, it meant carrying out intense advocacy actions with the new authorities, who were very receptive, since they recognized the importance of eradicating child labour in the country. Thus, despite delaying implementation, the change of authorities did not hinder the continuity of the project.

² The Commission is made up of the following institutions: Secretariat of Labour and Social Security, who will preside over it; Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Foreign Relations; Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; Ministry of Communications and Transportation; Ministry of Public Education; Health Secretariat; Ministry of Tourism; Mexican Institute of Social Security, and National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family. It also has the participation of employers' organizations and union organizations.



Good practices

As good practices, the collective implementation of CLRISK stands out, since the different sectors of the State that are part of the CITI were involved throughout all the stages. Thus, CLRISK had broad support and validity among the institutions, which makes it easier for the information to be used by the entities. It also highlights the process of focused dissemination that was carried out with each State Labour Department, to which the file and map were delivered in physical format, explaining the process and the results. In addition to this dissemination, the results are publicly available. Finally, the experience of Mexico served as a guide for other countries, sharing learnings and ways of doing things, motivating them to implement CLRISK.



Results

As a result, Mexico has the installed technical capacity to run the model on its own. In fact, the labour statistics team ran the model backwards, that is, with old data, and they are waiting for the new data from the Child Labour Survey to update it. This allows us to think about the sustainability of CLRISK in the country, considering the knowledge that exists about the model in various government sectors that are related to child labour. Along with this, CLRISK appears as one of the priority actions to continue being executed within the documents generated in the change of administration. Another result of the process is that a preventive look is established among the institutions for the approach to child labour.



Projection

Mexico has also been a pioneer in the execution of Phase II of CLRISK, which has already been implemented in the municipalities of Tuxtla Gutiérrez (State of Chiapas); Villa Victoria (State of Mexico) and, currently, in Tapachula (State of Chiapas), where a migration and child labour approach has been incorporated in alliance with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As a projection, it is noted that several states have shown their interest in implementing Phase II.

