



International  
Labour  
Organization



Regional Initiative  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Free of Child Labour



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Experience of the Child Labour  
Vulnerability Index

# COSTA RICA



Due to the low prevalence of child labour in Costa Rica<sup>1</sup>, it was unfeasible to apply CLRISK without a high margin of error, so the Child Labour Vulnerability Index (IVTI-its acronym in Spanish) was applied.



## Motivations

Along the same lines, one of the motivations for applying the index is related to the conviction, at the technical and authority levels, that there is a need for new strategies to move towards a country free of child labour. Thus, the idea of IVTI appears as the instrument that the country required to identify risk and work on a preventive strategy.

**The idea of IVTI appears as the instrument that the country required to identify risk and work on a preventive strategy.**

The implementation of the IVTI was led and coordinated by the Office of Attention and Eradication of Child Labour and Protection of the Adolescent Worker, of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The Index was prepared in conjunction with ILO and ECLAC, with the validation and support of the National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Workers<sup>2</sup> and its Technical Secretariat. The Ministry of Health, the Mixed Institute of Social Aid, the National Children's Trust, the Ministry of Education and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund participated directly by providing information.



<sup>1</sup> The results of the model can be found at the following links: [http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/ModeloVulnerabilidadTI\\_FichaNacional\\_CostaRica.pdf](http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/ModeloVulnerabilidadTI_FichaNacional_CostaRica.pdf) (national file); [http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/ModeloVulnerabilidadTI\\_FichasProvinciales\\_CostaRica.pdf](http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/ModeloVulnerabilidadTI_FichasProvinciales_CostaRica.pdf) (subnational file).



## Facilitators

One of the main facilitators in the Costa Rican experience was the country's institutional framework for child labour matters. On the one hand, Costa Rica has had a Child Labour Office since 1998, a specialized body on the subject, with high legitimacy and support to exercise leadership in the matter, and has management instruments that facilitate this leadership. Likewise, the Steering Committee is an effective coordination body, with a long history and high political support. The fact that it was the Committee who approved the implementation of the IVTI, facilitated the entire process, particularly information management, one of the main critical issues in all countries. Along with this, in each ministry there is a child labour liaison, who acts as a formal technical counterpart to the requirements of the Committee.

Along the same lines, the enthusiasm and availability of the different sectors for the development of this tool as an effective instrument to advance towards the eradication of child labour in the country is noted.

Finally, Costa Rica planned for the implementation of the IVTI in a consensual manner with all those involved, which, in addition to facilitating coordination, generated people's commitment to the process.



## Coordination mechanisms

In Costa Rica, the Steering Committee, made up of the authorities of the institutions that comprise it, approved the implementation of the IVTI in the country and acted as an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism. The process was also formalized at the level of each sector through the specific liaison for child labour issues and, along with this, the ministries committed their participation through a letter detailing what was required of each of them. Lastly, the execution of the IVTI was incorporated into the Road Map to make Costa Rica a country free of child labour and its worst forms, an instrument that is agreed upon and executed in an inter-sectoral manner.



## Difficulties

The difficulties faced are mainly related to the availability of information. Although the country has valuable information from administrative records, it is scattered across different ministries, and the registration form of each institution limited the use of the data. The public presentation of the IVTI results took place at the beginning of March 2020 and soon after the country declared a national emergency associated with COVID-19, which has limited the dissemination and transfer of the IVTI at the subnational level.

2 According to order 31461, the Steering Committee is made up of the following institutions: Ministry of Labour and Social Security; Ministry of Public Education; Ministry of Health; National Children's Trust; Costa Rican Social Security Fund; National Institute of Learning; National Insurance Institute; Mixed Institute of Social Assistance; Union of Chambers and Associations of Private Enterprise; Confederations of Workers; Non-Governmental Organizations for the Defense of the Rights and Care of Children; Union of Local Governments. It should be noted that this committee has been in operation since 1998.



## Good practices

As good practices, the collective development of the model stands out, since the State institutions that are part of the Committee were involved throughout all the stages. The IVTI has broad support and validity among institutions, which makes it easier for the information to be used by the entities in their actions. In the same way, the incorporation of the IVTI in the Roadmap formalizes the instrument and gives it sustainability, going beyond the scope of wills. The formalization of the participation of the institutions and the information required from each of them, through the trade, is undoubtedly a good practice that allowed progress in the execution of the model without major difficulties.



## Results

As a result, the IVTI is institutionalized in the country's Road Map. Phase II is being implemented in canton Limón, Valle La Estrella district, and canton Talamanca, Province of Limón. Both cantons are the ones with the highest risk of child labour according to the IVTI results. Currently, both cantons are being characterized and services are being mapped. In addition, awareness has already been raised with local authorities who have committed to participating in the development of a strategic plan.

