



Regional Initiative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Free of Child Labour



International
Labour
Organization

Latin America and the Caribbean:
**Towards the
first generation
FREE OF CHILD LABOUR**

.....
An integrated and interdependent analysis of
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
in relation to target 8.7



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PART 3

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**DECENT WORK
AND CHILD LABOUR
PREVENTION AND
ELIMINATION WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE 2030 AGENDA**

Given the many causes of child labour, multiple issues should be addressed in relation to its prevention and elimination. To achieve the target by 2025, it will be necessary, among other things, to reduce poverty, improve education, promote gender equity and implement social protection policies. Conversely, progress in reducing child labour will facilitate progress on each of these issues.

Given this relationship, this section analyzes target 8.7 (on ending child labour) within the broader framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, considering first its direct link with Goal 8 (on economic growth and the creation of decent work) of which it is part.

The section then goes on to analyze the links between the target to put an end to child labour and the other objectives through which direct links are identified from a thematic correlation analysis based on empirical evidence in each area. Each target identified as having a “direct effect” is considered to be an impact in the relationship between child labour and the goal that contains it, so that the total number of impacts on each target establishes an indicator of the degree of interdependence it has with child labour. The outcome of the analysis performed is illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 17

Interdependence of target 8.7 on ending child labour and other commitments adopted within the framework of the SDGs



By applying the described criteria, the analysis of the links between the target on ending child labour and the entire set of SDGs will focus on 8 goals and 35 specific targets, ordered by their degree of interdependence:

1. **SDG 4:** Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education
2. **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality
3. **SDG 1:** End poverty
4. **SDG 10:** Reduce inequality
5. **SDG 2:** End hunger
6. **SDG 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies
7. **SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives
8. **SDG 13:** Combat climate change

Source: Author's elaboration.

SDG 2: 'ZERO HUNGER' AND CHILD LABOUR

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture



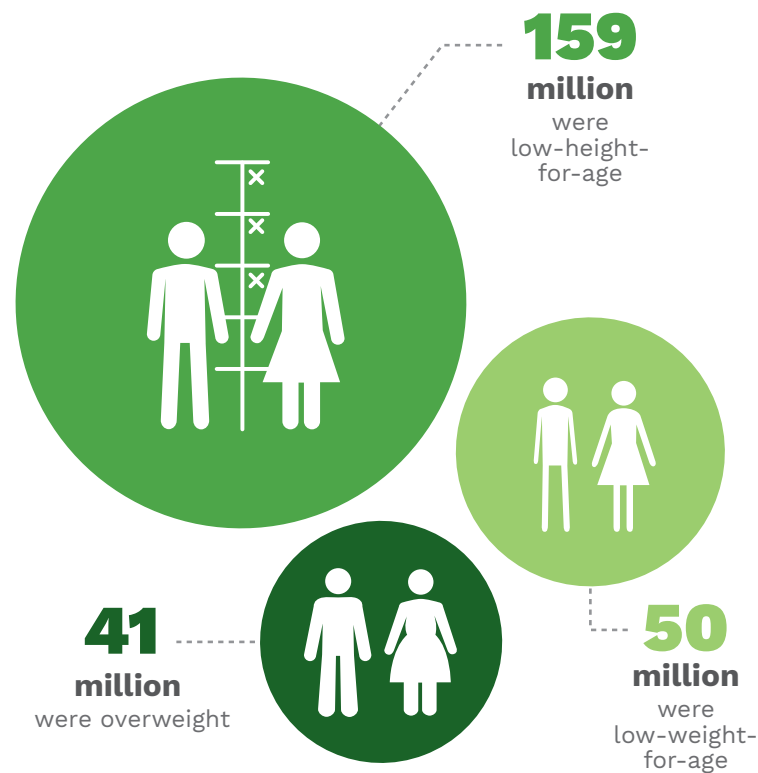
The first two targets of this objective are particularly important for this analysis.

Target 2.1 strives to, “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.” Moreover, **Target 2.2** calls on all States to, “By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

The lack of adequate food severely affects children’s height and weight, with scores either above or below the average range of growth for age.

Figure 36

In 2014 there were 667 million children in the world, of whom...



The poorest families are most affected by hunger. In these, the incentives to go into child labour are the strongest and the cycle of poverty is exacerbated by the burden of malnutrition. Therefore, progress in the fight against hunger brings with it political stability and general economic growth,⁶⁸ discouraging child labour.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, fourteen countries have child labour rates of less than 10 per cent and half of them demonstrate a percentage of undernourished population below 5 per cent. Of the remaining 9 countries in the region for which official data on child labour are available, only Peru has an undernourished population rate below 10 per cent.

Table 5
Percentage of undernourished population in Latin American and Caribbean
countries with child labour rates below 10 per cent

		Child labour (%)	Total undernourished population (%)
1	Panama	2,9	9,5
2	Trinidad and Tobago	3,0	7,4
3	Costa Rica	4,0	<5,0
4	Belize	4,7	6,2
5	Argentina	5,3	<5,0
6	Ecuador	6,3	10,9
7	Suriname	6,4	8,0
8	Chile	6,6	<5,0
9	Brazil	7,5	<5,0
10	El Salvador	7,8	12,4
11	Jamaica	5,4	8,1
12	Mexico	8,6	<5,0
13	Colombia	9,3	8,8
14	Uruguay	9,9	<5,0

		Child labour (%)	Total undernourished population (%)
15	Dominican Republic	12,2	12,3
16	Nicaragua	13,2	16,6
17	Honduras	15,3	12,2
18	Guatemala	20,3	15,6
19	Paraguay	22,0	10,4
20	Peru	23,0	7,5
21	Guyana	23,0	10,6
22	Bolivia	28,0	15,9
23	Haiti	34,4	53,4
24	Venezuela	Not available	<5,0
25	Bahamas	Not available	Not available

Source: Compiled by the author based on national surveys (percentage of child labour), except for Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago whose data are from the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs (2015); and FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015) (percentage of total undernourished population).

Target 2.3 strives to, “By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.” Given the relationship between poverty and child labour, and the latter’s greater concentration in the agricultural sector, increasing the income of the people in the groups prioritized by this target should contribute to the elimination of child labour.

The reference to increased productivity in agriculture and to small food producers highlights the importance of considering the SDGs as an interdependent and indivisible whole.

As shown in Part 1 of this document, agricultural labour, especially in small family farms, accounts for most child and adolescent labour. Therefore, engaging more child labourers must be avoided when there are increases in productivity in these sectors.

The holistic vision of the 2030 Agenda seeks precisely to avoid these inconsistencies due to a lack of correlations and interdependence between actions and targets. Thus, attaining target 8.7 on ending child labour places a limit on actions to reach target 2.3.

Likewise, advances towards **Target 2.4**, which aims to, “By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production,” should help eliminate child labour as this impedes sustainability in production systems.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 48 per cent of child labour is concentrated in agriculture, one of the most hazardous and risky sectors to work in as it involves long working hours, exposure to extreme climates, use of and contact with chemicals and pesticides, and use of dangerous machinery and tools, among others.

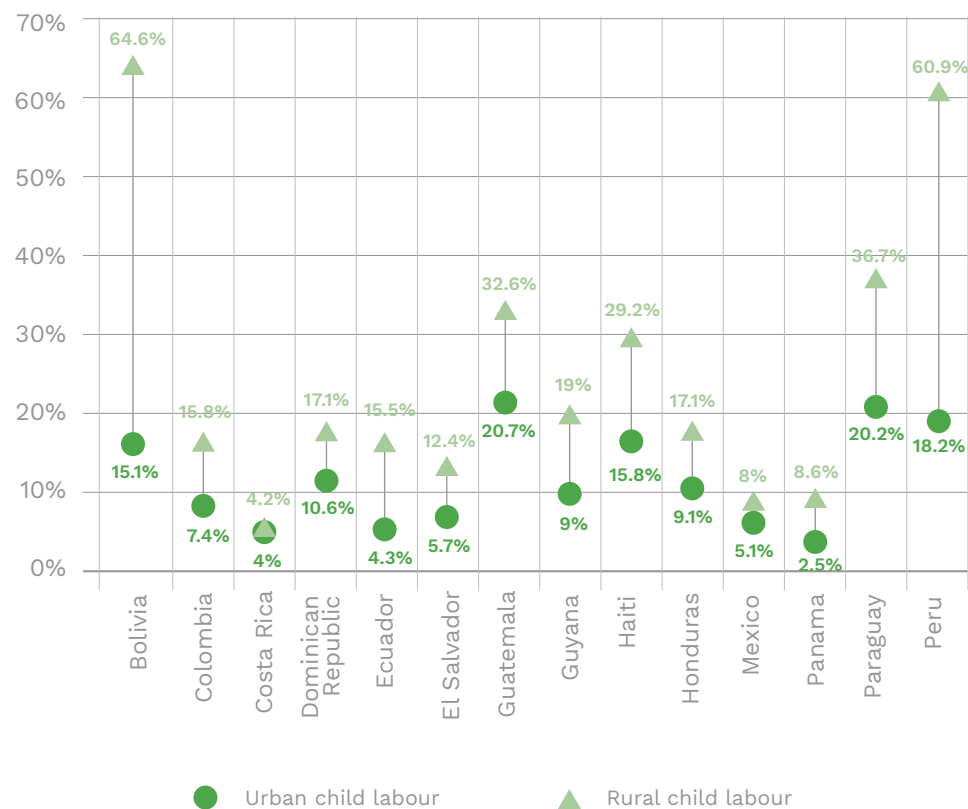
Most children and adolescents who work in this sector do so under the guise of (unpaid) family work. Much of the farming sector as a whole including crop agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock operates under informal conditions, which limit the ability to enforce current regulations. In addition to this, legislation in several countries provides for certain exceptions with respect to work in family businesses and/or agricultural activities.

The continual poverty in rural areas, the limited access to quality basic services, especially education, health and related services such as social protection, credit and appropriate technologies, the lack of means and skills to implement productive alternatives along with cultural patterns which encourage the engagement of children, are the prevailing factors that explain the widespread use of child labour in the agricultural sector.

Hence the importance of linking these targets with the reduction of child and adolescent labour adolescent in the rural areas.

Figure 37

Percentage of child labour by urban and rural distribution for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: Unicef Global Database (2014).



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