THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Child Labour Risk Index

Last Update
July 2026

Mexico

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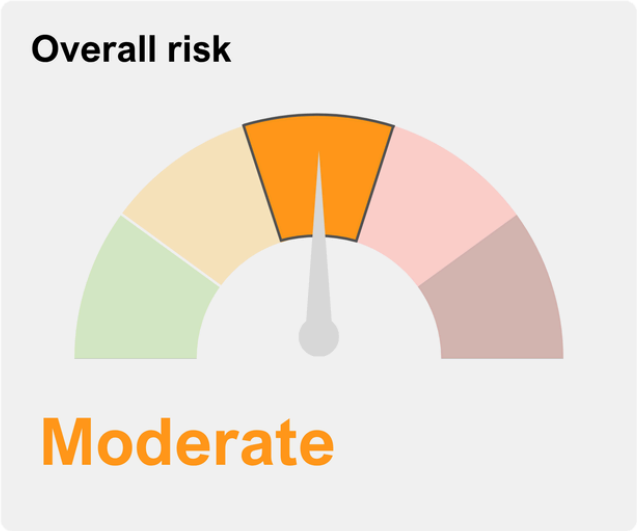
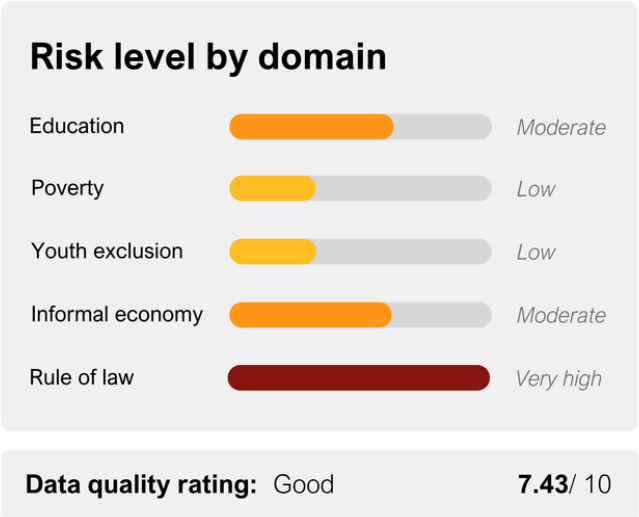
Overview





For detailed information including methodology, visit the Child Labour Risk Index website.

Child Labour in Mexico

The child labour risk profile in Mexico reflects moderate vulnerabilities linked to rural poverty, regional inequality, and informal employment despite a relatively strong legal framework and broad school participation. While education access and youth opportunities are comparatively stronger than in higher-risk contexts, gaps in enforcement, economic pressures in rural communities, and limited oversight in informal sectors continue to create conditions where child labour can occur. This is further exacerbated by a legal prohibition of anyone under the age of 18 working in agriculture, which is unfeasible in practice.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks are most commonly associated with agriculture and seasonal farm work, including crops such as coffee, sugarcane, chili peppers, tomatoes, and other labour-intensive produce, where family labour and informal recruitment are common. Risks also occur in small-scale manufacturing, construction, street vending, and service activities. Informal employment, subcontracting, and seasonal migration can increase the likelihood of child labour.

Targeted due diligence is recommended in Mexico. See page 3 for further guidance.

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Evidence Indications

Between the launch of the service in January 2022 and July 2026, The Centre's Child Labour Remediation Service did not receive child labour cases in Mexico.

Please note that this case data is not representative of prevalence, but rather indicative of where The Centre and our clients work.

Please explore Child Labour Alerts and Trends in the CRIB Members' Area for more details.

Credible Reports of Child Labour

Child labour in Mexico was documented in **13 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to July 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:

- Coffee (3)
- Multiple sectors (10)

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Next Steps

Recommended Due Diligence: **Targeted**

Strengthen oversight: expand supply chain mapping, conduct risk-based assessments, build supplier capacity, and review purchasing practices.

Step 1: Commit

- Establish a clear Child Labour (CL) policy outlining your prevention and remediation commitments.
- Create a country-specific CL response plan that clearly references the relevant legal requirements for that country and your industry.

Step 2: Build Capacity

- Train in-country staff and relevant third-party service providers on CL risk identification, escalation, and response in the specific country context.
- Train business partners (producers, intermediaries, agents) regularly on CL prevention and remediation expectations.

Step 3: Identify & Map Risks

- Conduct deeper research on CL risks in your sourcing regions, using credible and specific industry/country reports.
- Map supply chain links to informal settings (e.g., home-based work, informal subcontracting) and increase monitoring in these areas; consider formalization steps where feasible.

Step 4: Act on Drivers of Risk

- Assess how your purchasing practices may contribute to CL risk (e.g., pricing, lead times, last-minute changes). Where needed, take mitigating actions to avoid contributing to increased CL risk.

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