THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Child Labour Risk Index

Last Update
July 2026

Pakistan

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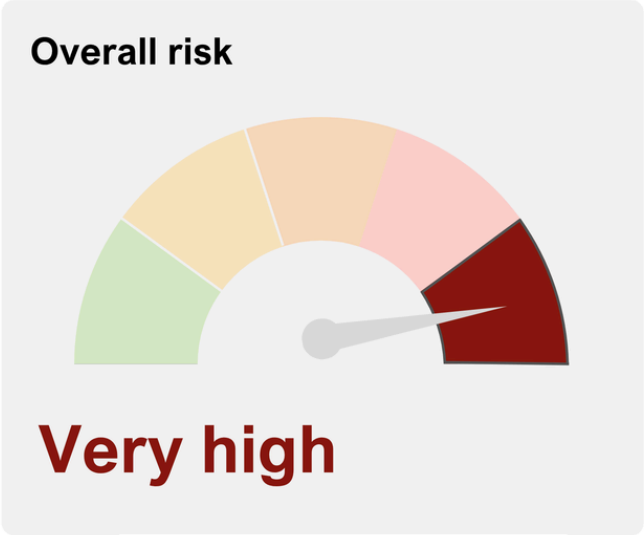
Overview



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

Child Labour in Pakistan

The very high child labour risk score in Pakistan reflects persistent poverty, education access challenges, and a large informal economy combined with governance constraints. Rising household economic pressures and limited livelihood opportunities can push children into work at an early age, particularly in households facing debt and income insecurity, reinforcing the need for enhanced due diligence across supply chains.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks are strongly associated with informal and labour-intensive sectors such as brick kilns and other debt-linked work. Home-based production, subcontracting, and informal recruitment reduce visibility, making age verification and effective remediation more difficult without targeted due diligence measures.

Enhanced due diligence is recommended in Pakistan. See page 3 for further guidance.

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Evidence Indications

Between January 2020 and July 2026, The Centre received reports of 13 cases of child labour in Pakistan, representing an average age of 15.9 years.

All the reported cases were from the garment sector. Please note that this case data is not representative of prevalence, but rather indicative of where The Centre and our clients work.

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

Credible Reports of Child Labour

Child labour in Pakistan was also documented in **12 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to July 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:

- Cotton (1)
- Leather (1)
- Multiple sectors (10)

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Next Steps

Recommended Due Diligence: **Enhanced**

Implement comprehensive measures: deep multi-tier tracing, in-depth assessments, structured remediation protocols and integration of findings into sourcing decisions.

Step 1: Commit

- Establish a clear CL policy outlining prevention and remediation commitments.
- Create a country-specific CL response plan referencing relevant national legal requirements and industry risks.
- Establish an ongoing partnership with a credible third-party child rights organisation to support case handling and expert guidance.
- Create a dedicated remediation budget or fund to cover remediation costs where needed.

Step 2: Build Capacity

- Train in-country staff and relevant third-party service providers on CL risk identification, escalation and response.
- Train business partners regularly on CL prevention and remediation expectations.
- Require completion of CL training prior to onboarding business partners in high-risk countries.

Step 3: Identify & Map Risks

- Conduct deeper research on CL risks in sourcing regions using credible country and industry reports.
- Assess relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) operating in or covering the country, including their effectiveness and suitability.
- Map supply chain links to informal settings and increase monitoring; consider formalisation where feasible.

Step 4: Conduct In-Depth Assessments

- Organise on-site risk assessments in high-risk countries, prioritised based on risk severity and company leverage over suppliers and intermediaries.

Step 5: Act on Drivers of Risk

- Assess how purchasing practices may contribute to CL risk and implement mitigating actions to avoid contributing to increased risk.

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