THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Child Labour Risk Index

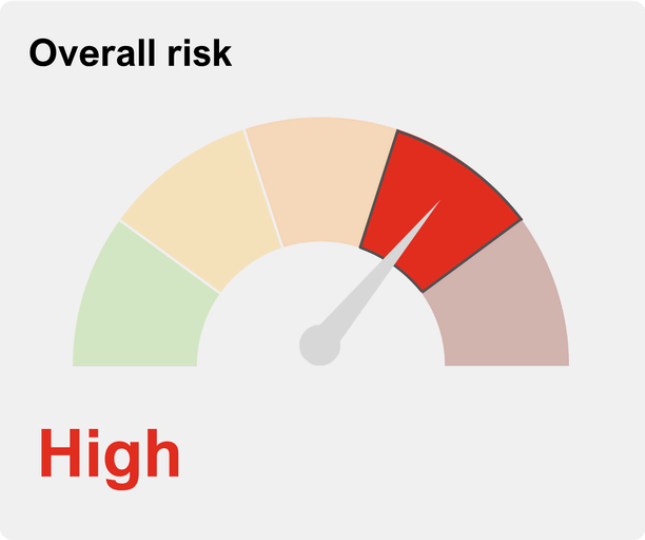
Last Update
July 2026

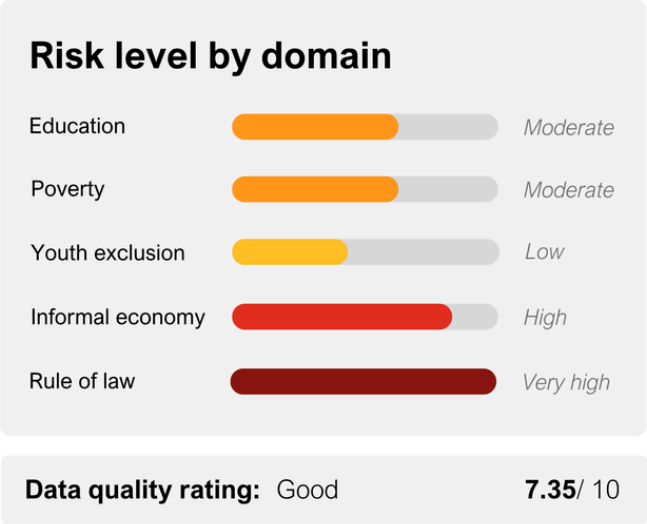
Sri Lanka

info@childrights-business.org

www.childrights-business.org

Overview





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

Child Labour in Sri Lanka

The child labour risk profile in Sri Lanka reflects increasing vulnerabilities linked to poverty pressures, uneven youth opportunities, and ongoing risks in informal and hidden work settings. While legal protections have improved, child labour can persist where household economic stress and school disengagement intersect, reinforcing the need for enhanced due diligence across supply chains.

Risk Factors

Risks include informal domestic work and other hard-to-monitor service activities, as well as situations involving coercion or commercial exploitation. Seasonal work, household economic pressures, and limited reach of protection services can increase children's exposure to child labour where informal employment and hidden work settings reduce visibility.

Enhanced due diligence is recommended in Sri Lanka. 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 Sri Lanka.

Through engagement with civil society and government partners, The Centre facilitated referrals of at least 15 child labour cases to the Government Child Rights Promotion Officer in 2024.

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 Sri Lanka was documented in **9 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to July 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:

- Coir (1)
- Fisheries & aquaculture (3)
- Plantations (5)

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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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