THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Child Labour Risk Index

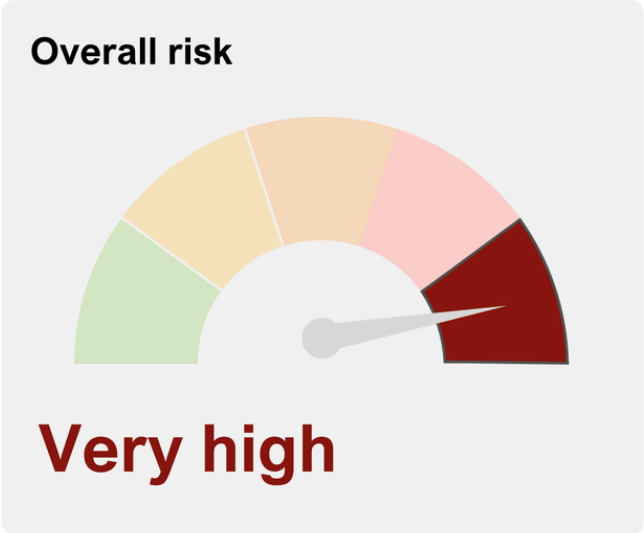
Last Update
July 2026

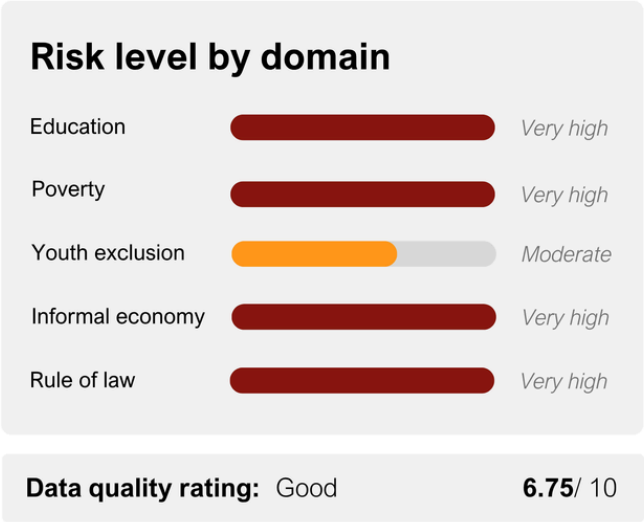
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

info@childrights-business.org

www.childrights-business.org

Overview





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

Child Labour in DRC

The very high child labour risk score in the DRC reflects deep education disruption, widespread poverty, and limited safe opportunities for young people, compounded by fragility and weak rule-of-law conditions. Conflict, displacement, and insecurity significantly increase children's vulnerability to hazardous and exploitative work.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks are strongly associated with artisanal and small-scale mining and related activities, including 3TG minerals, copper, and cobalt, where hazardous tasks and informal recruitment are common. Children affected by displacement or poverty may also be drawn into other informal survival work, increasing exposure to the worst forms of child labour where oversight and protection systems are weak.

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

This risk profile is for the exclusive use of The Centre CRIB Working Group members. Please do not share.

Evidence Indications

Between January 2020 and July 2026, The Centre received reports of 113 cases of child labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo, representing an average age of 13.2 years.

All the reported cases were from the mining sector. These cases highlight the ongoing risks faced by children under the minimum age engaged in informal or low-skilled work across DRC's mining sector.

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 DRC was also documented in **19 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to July 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:

- Mining (general) (7)
- 3TG minerals (2)
- Cobalt (8)
- Copper (1)
- Coltan (1)

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.

This risk profile is for the exclusive use of The Centre CRIB Working Group members. Please do not share.

THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

info@childrights-business.org
www.childrights-business.org