THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Child Labour Risk Index

Last Update
September 2026

The Philippines

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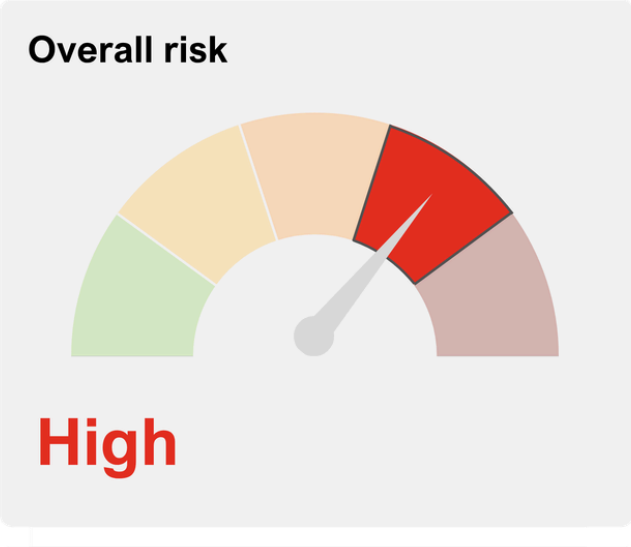
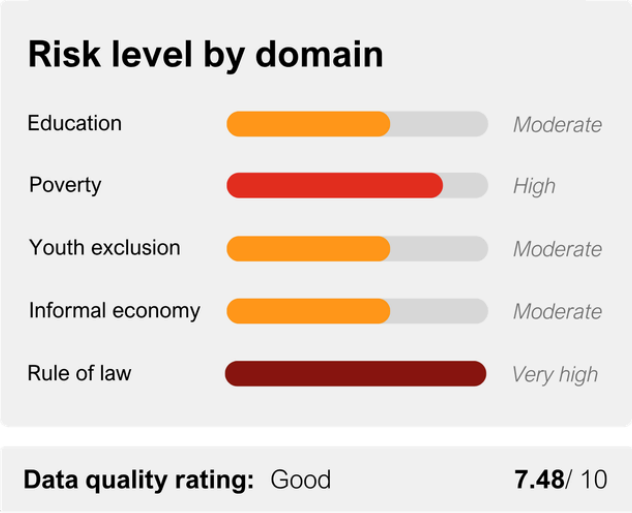
Overview





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

Child Labour in the Philippines

The high child labour risk score in the Philippines reflects persistent poverty-related pressures, limited access to education and livelihood opportunities, and vulnerabilities associated with informal employment. Although child labour has declined in recent years, economic insecurity, gaps in social protections and weakness in law enforcement continue to expose children to hazardous and exploitative forms of work. These persistent risks underscore the importance of robust human rights due diligence and enhanced due diligence across supply chains.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks in the Philippines are strongly associated with rural poverty, with agriculture accounting for the largest share of children in child labour. Children are involved in farming activities across crops such as sugarcane, coconut, rice and tobacco, where family-based and seasonal work make child labour difficult to identify and address. Children in hazardous work are documented in fishing, mining and other informal economic activities. Trafficking and forced labour are also documented, with children from rural, impoverished, conflict- and disaster-affected communities facing heightened risks of trafficking and exploitation.

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

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Evidence Indications

Between January 2020 and September 2026, The Centre did not receive reports of child labour cases in the Philippines.

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 the Philippines was also documented in **10 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to September 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:

- Fisheries & Aquaculture (1)
- Multiple sectors (7)
- Mining (1)
- Agriculture (1)

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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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