

# GUIDELINES ON PREVENTION OF CHILD LABOUR IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTEXT



## What is the minimum age for work in Brazil?

Brazilian law prohibits night, dangerous or unhealthy work for minors under 18 (eighteen) years old and **any type of work for children under 16 (sixteen) years old**, except as an apprentice from the age of 14.

## What is the definition of child labour in Brazil?

The term “child labour”, according to the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and Protection of Adolescent Workers, “refers to economic activities or survival activities with or without profit, whether paid or not, carried out by children or adolescents under the age of 16 (sixteen), except for the condition of apprentice from the age of 14 (fourteen), regardless of their occupational condition. It is noteworthy that any activity carried out by adolescent workers, which by its nature, or by the circumstances in which it is performed, may harm the physical, psychological, social and moral development, falls within the definition of child labour and is prohibited for people under the age of 18 (eighteen)”.

## What activities are prohibited to workers under the age of 18?

Unhealthy activities are prohibited to workers under the age of 18 (eighteen) years old; dangerous; nocturnal; painful; hard; harmful to morality; harmful to school attendance; harmful to physical, psychological, moral and social development; as well as those listed among the worst forms of child labour.

## What are the worst forms of child labour?

The expression “worst forms of child labour” includes the following:

- all forms of slavery or similar practices, such as sale or trafficking, captivity or debt bondage, servitude, forced or compulsory labour;
- use, demand, offer, trafficking or solicitation for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, production of pornography or pornographic performances;

- use, recruitment and offer of adolescents for other illicit activities, particularly for the production or trafficking of drugs;
- forced or compulsory recruitment of adolescents to be used in armed conflicts;
- the 89 (eighty-nine) work activities listed as harmful to health and safety, and the 04

(four) work activities listed as harmful to morality are described in the list of The Worst Forms of Child Labor (TIP list) and can be consulted on the website:

[http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2007-2010/2008/decreto/d6481.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2007-2010/2008/decreto/d6481.htm)



## What are the consequences of child labour?

Child labour can have serious implications for the physical, the psychological, the moral, the social as well as the health development of children and adolescents. In addition, child labour impairs learning and contributes to school dropout.

Early work is a decisive factor for the reproduction of the cycle of poverty, in which children without a prospect of improving their lives, end up reproducing the situation of misery that their parents have experienced.

Child labour can expose children and adolescents to violence, sexual harassment, intense physical efforts, intoxication, and accidents at work.

## What are the risks of the Covid-19 pandemic for child labour?

Despite the reduction observed in recent years, 2016 data from the IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) show that child labour affects at least 2.4 million children and adolescents in Brazil. According to data from the Notifiable Diseases Information System (Sinan), between 2007 and 2019, more than 46 thousand children and adolescents suffered some type of work-related injury and 279 out of this total died.

This situation tends to worsen due to the socio-economic vulnerability of children, adolescents and their families caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is important to note that the decrease in livelihoods has a huge impact on people's lives and can lead thousands of children and adolescents to early and dangerous work activities, including sexual exploitation, domestic work and drug trafficking.

With schools closed, many children and adolescents are at risk of engaging in early labour and not returning to school.



## During the Covid-19 pandemic, what are the actions of labour inspection in the fight against child labour?

During the period of public calamity, recognized by Legislative Decree No. 6 of March 20, 2020, inspections involving relevant evidence of child labour are classified as URGENT.



## How to report child labour?

To report child labour cases, you can call free of charge to “Disque 100” (Dial 100), the channel for reporting human rights violations or access the labour complaints website:

<https://www.gov.br/pt-br/servicos/realizar-denuncia-trabalhista>.

