

Child labor in Mexico, part of a stolen childhood

More than three million children in Mexico perform dangerous jobs, and they are exposed to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; or they also do activities where their lives are at risk

Through strategies to allow boys, girls, and teenagers to have access to a balanced diet, to go to school, and to allow their parents to have incomes. Along with the networks related to food, education and financial inclusion, CMT develops welfare as a solution to prevent children from the necessity of working.

One out of 10 children in Mexico in age of between 5 to 17 perform forbidden jobs, which represents 3.3 million or 11.5 percent of the population in that age, as showed on the National Survey on Child Labor (ENTI) 2019, developed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) declared June 12 as the World Day Against Child Labour. By doing that, the different risks that children and teenagers face at work will be exposed.

Starting work at an early age may have consequences that affect the development of boys, girls, and teenagers. If a minor has to work, on the one hand, he/she does not spend enough time on studying or doing other activities that encourage his/her growth; and on the other hand, he/she is exposed to physical or psychological problems due to the performance of inadequate activities.



In numbers

52.1 percent of working children are between 15 to 17 years old (they fit in a group where they are allowed to work legally, but they are in this category because they do activities or household chores that may be considered as dangerous).



37.2 percent are between 10 to 14 years old.

10.7 percent are between 5 to 9 years old.



Among the total amount of girls, boys, and teenagers that work; 1.8 million have to perform tasks that are not allowed for them, 262 thousand perform tasks that are not allowed as well as household chores under inadequate conditions, and 1.3 million children develop only household chores under inadequate conditions, as revealed on the survey performed by INEGI.

For your consideration



INEGI considers that in Mexico, 3.3 million children between 5 to 17 years old are in conditions of child labour, which represents a rate of 11.5 percent.



ENTI 2019 highlights the fact that 2.2 million children between 5 to 17 years old perform any economic activity, a number that represents 7.5 percent of the total population of children in those ages.



In the population between 5 to 17 years old, 73 percent (20.8 millions) perform household chores, and 5.3 percent (1.5 millions) perform household chores under inadequate conditions.



Successful case

In the Welfare Ecosystem, through the Network of Education; CMT develops strategies for children and teenagers:

One of the most recent examples was the delivery of technology devices in the municipality of Durango, Durango, a total of 176 devices.



Millions of children develop dangerous jobs

The Federal Labour Law states 15 years old as the minimum age for work, so any work performed by people under the age of 15 is forbidden; additionally, jobs considered as dangerous should not be performed by any person under the age of 18. Considering that, jobs for people between 5 to 17 years old are classified in two categories: allowed and disallowed.

Thus, 93.8 percent (2 million people) of the population between 5 to 17 years that work are developing disallowed activities. By gender, this situation occurs in 96.1 percent (1.4 millions) of men in employment, and 88.6 (0.6 millions) of women in employment.

Jobs considered as dangerous are those jobs that expose minors to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; they are performed underground or in water, at high or closed areas; with dangerous machines, equipment, or tools; in dirty environments; in potentially harmful temperatures, noise, or vibrations; for long periods or overnight, or they are jobs that make children staying for a long time with no specific reason.

CMT finds solutions

Most working children have to do it to help their families to have basic products at home so, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria A.C. (CMT) looks for integral solutions from different perspectives like education, food, or financial systems.

In the Welfare Ecosystem, through the Network of Education; CMT develops strategies for children and teenagers to prevent them from dropping their studies.

One of the most recent examples was the delivery of technology devices in the municipality of Durango, Durango. In the second stage, 75 computers were delivered as part of the program "Conéctate" organized by the local municipality and CMT. That is to say, a total of 176 devices were delivered in that area.

Moreover, as part of the CMT Network of Food, and thanks to the collaboration with governments, civil societies and leaders, it was possible to provide vulnerable families with liquid milk, milk formula, vegetables and proteins in order to combat the lack of food and to prevent children from working to contribute to buy food at home.

As part of the Network of Financial Inclusion, CMT promotes partnerships with financial institutions to have credits and preferential rates available for people in order to create jobs and more opportunities to invest and then, offer a better quality of life for children. Some of this agreements were established with companies like "Caja Popular Cristóbal Colón", in Jalisco; "Caja Solidaria San Dionisio Ocotepéc", in Oaxaca; or "Caja Popular de Apaseo el Alto", in Guanajuato.